

How He Changed It

Here it is. This is what will make the difference. This short part of a verse has usually been understood like this. God sent Jesus into the world. Jesus was part man and part God. He did all the right things and said all the right words. Then he went to the cross to take the punishment that sinners deserve so that they could claim his free gift of salvation. This would mean that God would accept the sacrifice of Jesus to pay for their sins. Then God would love the sinner and grant him forgiveness of sins and eternal life. After physical death he will go to heaven to be with Jesus and God the Father.

Now much of this is correct. But not all of it. God did send Jesus, but he also agreed to come. Jesus was not part man and part God. He was entirely man and entirely God. This is important because it is not a 50/50 split; he is 100% God and 100% man. He did say all the right words and do all the right things. He did make the sacrifice so that we could claim the gift by faith. But this did not make God love us. God loved us from the start. (John 3:16) We are forgiven and we do have eternal life. However, this life starts now. It starts now in the inner life, the feelings and the thoughts and the will, and even spills over into the body for healthier living. Later we will get a new body that will not grow old or get sick or ever die. But this is still not all.

Jesus said that his body was food indeed and his blood was drink indeed. When he tells us to eat and to remember, he wants us to remember that he has fixed his flesh. His flesh, his thoughts, his feelings, his will are in agreement with God. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (Ro 8:3)

You are free to be as human as he was. The thing is, how human was he? He was really human as we have seen in our previous discussions. You live in His flesh. He says to you, "Are you having trouble with your flesh? Here, have some of mine. I have fixed mine. And I did it so that I could give it to you." This is the real meaning of communion with Jesus. Although bread and wine are really helpful, once understood they are not always necessary. But do not forget that they are helpful. You should take communion frequently with an honest heart.

Here is an illustration. When a person has leukemia, which is a blood disease, the doctors often give them a bone marrow transplant to combat the disease. The blood cells are made inside the bones of the body, in the marrow. With leukemia a person has unhealthy blood cells. This will kill them physically if something is not done. God can and does heal people by prayer and the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. But sometimes he uses the doctors too. Now, to give a bone marrow transplant they take some healthy marrow from a compatible person with a large needle that they push clear into a bone, into the marrow. They usually use the pelvis for this. Then they put this marrow into the person with the leukemia and a lot of the time the healthy marrow dominates the unhealthy marrow and healthy blood cells are produced. Spiritually, this is what Jesus does when he gives us his flesh. His flesh, which is healthy because he has subdued it, takes over in us. When we partake of his flesh in faith, we receive it by the Holy Spirit. Now, another thing that is interesting about the bone marrow is this. When they put the marrow into the person who is receiving it, they do not inject it into the bone like they got it out. They just inject it into the flesh and it knows where to go. It goes straight to the marrow and does its work. Now if God can design a physical procedure that works like this, can he not also design a spiritual procedure to get the changed flesh of Jesus into our inner lives?

Jesus' flesh is changed because he changed it. He wrestled it to the ground over a period of 33 years so that he could say at the end, "the prince of this world comes, but he has nothing in me." (Jn 14:30) He could not say this when he was twelve. He did not even say this when he was thirty years old. But at the end he did say it and it was true. There was nothing left in his flesh that the devil could use. He had won. Now we can win.