

Restored

By Jenny Dees

"I woke up this way" has become a statement that people use to explain or justify their current status. It's also a statement that has been used as an excuse to say, "I am what I am, take it or leave it". The problem with these statements is that they don't address how we were designed to be in the first place, instead, focusing on our present stagnant condition.

I find it pleasing to create a good meal for my family to partake in. When it is initially prepared, it is fresh, warm, nutritious, and ready to add value to those that are supposed to partake in it. However, if the meal goes uneaten for days, it slowly loses its intended purpose that not even a microwave, or placing it back in the oven, can fully restore. If I make the meal and toss it onto the ground of my backyard, without a doubt, it will be picked apart by birds of the air, animals, insects, and eventually the soil. Whatever remains will decay, a shadow of its former self. What remains of the untouched food inside, and the leftovers of the discarded meal out back, is now a distorted version of my original creation. It would be inappropriate for the meal to proclaim, "I was intended to be this way".

The results of living in this world, outside of God's intended purpose, is like the untouched meal or the fragmented plate that was neglected or apportioned to various unintended recipients. Our gifts are not meant to be misused by people or places where we were never meant to be. We would be amiss if we accepted the notion that the way we have become, due to the effects of this world, is how we were meant to be all along.

When God created us, He did so with purpose. When we are out of alignment with that purpose, we tend to look drastically different than the initial creation... but God! God is so wonderful that He restores us back to the valued creation He originally designed. Our distinct combination of who God made us specifically to be, provides nutrients to the kingdom of God and members of the body of Christ.

When God created us, He said that it was good. Creation, fresh from the Father's hands and breath, was good. The abuse and tainting of this world look for opportunities to distort or neglect our purpose, but God in His love, grace, and mercy, seeks to restore us.

We don't have to accept where we are in life or what we have become with a heavy heart. It is not the end of your story or mine. Our Father in Heaven will refine us back to what He intended in our initial creation, carefully removing the debris of this world and

polishing us back to being His version of beautiful and good, not the world's. Turn to Him, let the Holy Spirit guide you and walk with you, as you journey back to being fearfully made. Through Jesus we are fearfully and wonderfully restored. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning -the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31 NIV)

"He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, he shall see His face with joy, for He restores to man His righteousness. (Job 33:26 NKJV)

"I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." (Psalms 139:14 NKJV)

Be Blessed!

