

166 – Reckless Abandon

We've been studying the old humanity-new humanity phenomenon from Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3 over the past few weeks, and I continue to run into current examples of how these two natures seem to co-exist and also conflict within us on a daily basis.

If we think that stripping off the Old humanity “**together with its practices** (Col. 3:9) ... “**which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires**” (Eph. 4:22), and putting on the New humanity, “**the young, which is being renewed into recognition, to accord with the Image of the One Who creates it**” (Col. 3:10) ... “**which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth**” (Eph. 4:24), is a once-and-for-all action on our part, we will find ourselves feeling very disappointed. I know that for myself, and much to my chagrin, I find that although I know that I died with Yeshua and that my life is hid with Him in the Father, I still see evidence of my dead, old humanity seemingly alive and functioning.

I've had occasion in the last week to talk about this with others who are part of the ecclesia, and the whole subject continues to be front and center in all our lives. I can only conclude that the Father would like us to have it front and center in our awareness also.

Barbara and I have been working on her story for an event coming up in a week in L.A., and which could form the basis for the message that she will be heralding to the world. One of the parts of the story deals with the essential action of recklessly abandoning our rights to ourselves in order to even hear the Father's voice, let alone obey His instruction or leading. Let me read this part of Barbara's message:

Years ago, Stanford U did a study of human thinking, and they found that about 3/4 of **all** our thinking is habitually negative, and over 60% of **that** is self-**referring**, meaning that more than 1/2 of all thinking is negative about

ourselves. So, more than 1/2 the time, people are thinking about what they don't like, don't want, or don't have.

Think of how many people are working really hard to make the world a better place, but can anyone succeed when over 1/2 of their thinking is negative? Maybe that's **why** people **HAVE** to work so hard!

Either we've **forgotten** who we are, or we've never been **taught** that we are God's **kids** and He **loves** us so much that Jesus died so we would **know** how much He loves us!

The real question is what does **GOD** want for and from your life and mine? *Write this down:* What does God want FOR my life and what does He want FROM my life? Those are the only two questions we need answers to, really ... In other words, why am I here? What is my purpose for living? Only God can answer those questions, and only He can point us and lead us down the path to finding and fulfilling our purpose.

The Bible says, "*You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.*"

When we give God **all** rights to ourselves and our lives, and stop thinking **WE** own them, then the world **will** be a better place **automatically**, simply by **HIS** character working itself out in **US!**

Let me give you an example of someone who held onto her rights to herself:

What follows is a story of a woman, named Peggy, to whom Barbara ministered during her early sojourn in southern California. I'd like her to tell the story, since she was there and now she's here!

Peggy sums up the old humanity to me. Her example is the epitome of being "**corrupted in accord with its seductive desires,**" which Paul stated in Ephesians 4:22. Her story also epitomizes the inevitable outcome of clinging to the old humanity, which is really **sa-tan** – opposition to the Father's word and purpose. No other outcome but dying in the bitterness and misery of stubbornness and rebellion is possible, it seems to me.

Our examples of living in the new humanity, "**the young, which is being renewed into recognition, to accord with the Image of the One Who creates it**" (Col.

3:10), and “**which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth**” (Eph. 4:24), are limited to Yeshua and the Apostle Paul; and even Paul struggled with his own old humanity in **Romans 7:15**:

For what I am effecting I know not, for not what I will, this I am putting into practice, but what I am hating, this I am doing.

So, we have human blood coursing through our veins and arteries, and we have flesh that is yet perishable; clearly, then, a part of us is still IN the old humanity. I do not see this fact changing ahead of the Lord’s shout of command and the trumpet blast that Paul wrote about in **1 Thessalonians 4**. Perhaps this is why we must be “**stripping [it] off together with its practices.**” **Stripping off** is an ongoing process, which starts over every day, and is an activity as essential to our mental, emotional, and especially our spiritual well-being as stripping of dirt is in a shower for our physical well-being.

“**Putting on [our] new humanity,**” is also an ongoing, day-to-day action that we take for our well-being. Stripping off the old humanity is not enough by itself; we must follow that action up with putting on the new humanity.

This begs the question, then: How do we strip off the old and put on the new efficiently throughout the day? Oswald Chambers answered the question, at least in part, in today’s entry in, “*My Utmost For His Highest.*”

From O.C. on June 18, 2013:

We step right out with recognition of God in some things, then self-consideration enters our lives and down we go. If you are truly recognizing your Lord, you have no business being concerned about how and where He engineers your circumstances. The things surrounding you are real, but when you look at them you are immediately overwhelmed, and even unable to recognize Jesus. Then comes His rebuke, “. . . why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:31). Let your

actual circumstances be what they may, but keep recognizing Jesus, maintaining complete reliance upon Him.

If you debate for even one second when God has spoken, it is all over for you. Never start to say, “Well, I wonder if He really did speak to me?” Be reckless immediately— totally unrestrained and willing to risk everything— by casting your all upon Him. You do not know when His voice will come to you, but whenever the realization of God comes, even in the faintest way imaginable, be determined to recklessly abandon yourself, surrendering everything to Him. It is only through abandonment of yourself and your circumstances that you will recognize Him. You will only recognize His voice more clearly through recklessness— being willing to risk your all.

I love the image of “reckless abandon” that O.C. wrote about. His life was certainly an example of that.

Let me insert here, that the recklessness is compared to what old humanity calls common sense or conventional wisdom. The truth is, there’s nothing reckless about total surrender in strict obedience, which is actually divine, spiritual wisdom.

Yeshua defined this so-called reckless abandon this way:

John 5:30

I can not do anything of Myself. According as I am hearing am I judging; and My judging is just, for I am not seeking My will, but the will of Him Who sends Me.

Yeshua did not say, “I [will] not do anything of myself”; He said, “I CANNOT.” The literal translation is, “I can do nothing from myself.”

At first glance, Yeshua’s statement looks like one that conveys an inability on His part, as if He just didn’t have it in Him to do something from Himself. If that were true, however, I do not believe that His struggle in the garden of

Gethsemane would have occurred. He would not have fought within Himself to surrender His will to the Father's. I believe that Yeshua's statement was a declaration and a determination He made. He spoke truly, out of a deliberate decision not to do anything from Himself, and He worded it as if He were not even capable of doing anything of His own, outside of His Father's direct instruction to Him. I'm basing my belief on the last part of John 5:30:

For [or because] I am not seeking My will, but the will of Him Who sends Me.

That is an almost identical statement to, "**Not My will, but yours be done,**" which Yeshua prayed in Gethsemane. Would that we all might make the same determination and declaration today:

*I can do nothing from **myself**, because I am not seeking **my** will, but the will of Him who sends me – or we might say the will of my Father in Heaven Who **created** me, Who **loves** me and sent His **only** begotten Son to die for me, and Who today calls ME "Son" or "daughter."*

Our personal will comes strictly out of our *old* humanity. There we exercise our rights to ourselves and Edge God Out (Edge God Out is the long form of the term, EGO). Seeking only **His** will, and then doing **nothing** from ourselves but from His will alone, comes strictly from the **new** humanity.

This to me is the definition of what Paul meant when he wrote, "**We have the mind of Christ**" in 1 Cor.2:16, and "**Living in me is Christ,**" in Gal.2:20.

Now let's see if this section from Ephesians 2 will mean a great deal more to us:

13 Yet now, in the Anointed One Yeshua, you, who once are far off, are become near by the blood of the Messiah.

14 For He is our Peace, Who makes both one, and razes the central wall of the barrier

15 (the enmity in His flesh), nullifying the law of precepts in decrees, that He

should be creating the two, in Himself, into one new humanity, making peace;
16 and should be reconciling both in one body to God through the cross, killing the enmity in it.
17 And, coming, He brings the evangel of peace to you, those afar, and peace to those near,
18 for through Him we both have had the access, in one spirit, to the Father.
19 Consequently, then, no longer are you guests and sojourners, but are fellow-citizens of the saints and belong to the Father's family,
20 being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the capstone of the corner being the Anointed One Yeshua Himself,
21 in Whom the entire building, being connected together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord:
22 in Whom you, also, are being built together for the Father's dwelling place, in spirit.

It seems to me that we are journeying together tonight deep into the attitudes, postures, and positions we must take to sink roots into this fertile soil, and to grow tall, spreading our leaves in the sunshine of the Father's love, grace, mercy, faithfulness, AND His fondness for us as His sons and daughters in Yeshua. With our roots firm, we may be certain to be well above and beyond Paul's concern in Ephesians 4:14:

“surging hither and thither, and being carried about by every wind of teaching, by human caprice, by craftiness with a view to the systematizing of the deception.”

We cannot, I believe, successfully “**be stripping off the old**” and “**putting on the new**” humanities when we are exercising **our** wills. In this position, we are doing **all** from ourselves instead of doing nothing from ourselves. We have actually usurped the Father's authority since the Scriptures, through the Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 6:20**, declare, “**You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.**”

Another question came to mind as I studied this: How can we guard against doing anything from ourselves and be always subject to the Father's will, direction and leading? Where is our help with what even Paul had his struggles?

The answer came in a friend's email today, which quoted one of the beatitudes:

Matthew 5:6

Happy are those who are *hungering and thirsting for righteousness*, for they shall be satisfied.

It is as important to notice what Yeshua did NOT say, but is implied in what He DID say: *"Miserable, cranky, irritated and agitated are those who are NOT hungering and thirsting for righteousness, for they shall not be satisfied in any area of their lives for the eon."*

Taken one more step, and we can find a landmark to measure how well we're doing at any given time: *If you or I are at any time and in any way dissatisfied, or striving toward satisfaction, in any area of our life, we are hungering and thirsting for the opposite of righteousness, which is wickedness among other things.* May it not be coming to that, Paul would say!

The literal posture that indicates where we are is whether we are bowing in submission or standing in pride before the Elohim, Whose title means *"Subjector-to."* The only appropriate posture to take, according to **Ephesians 3:14-15**:

On this behalf am I bowing my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 after Whom every kindred in the heavens and on earth is being named

Another Scripture comes to mind:

Matthew 6:33

Yet seek first the kingdom and its righteousness, and these all shall be added to you.

Again, what we are seeking determines whether our needs are met or not.

It's not that we are operating in some kind of reward or punishment relationship with the Father. What we are exploring tonight is an extension or another perspective on the 4-step process we have studied many times before:

Revelation, when met with Obedience, is followed up by confirmation, and the blessing flows.

When we give up our rights to ourselves, choosing not our wills but the Father's, we are in a correct position of obedience to the revelation of Himself to us. The Father confirms the correctness in specific areas of our lives, and the blessing flows throughout our days and nights.

I don't often do this, but I want to read something I stumbled on when searching a reference in the Concordant Publishing body of literature:

A mere knowledge of the secret is not sufficient or satisfactory to God unless it includes a heart-hungry occupation and enjoyment of the surpassing love of Christ. Even before this secret was made known, the apostle could say, "If I . . . should be perceiving all secrets . . . yet have no love, I am nothing" (1 Cor. 3:2). Nothing has any vital value unless it leads to love. It is the glory of God's wisdom that all things in the universe, including sin and hate, shall be lured into the livery of love. All that is in Him, should find a response in His creatures. There should be such mutual reciprocation in every relationship of life as will be most delightful to both. As Creator we should take our place as His creatures. As Father we should be His beloved sons: He the Reconciler, we the reconciled; He the Deliverer, we the delivered. But, more than this, we are accorded a place with Christ in His work of revealing Him to the celestial hosts. It is only as we ourselves are filled with His affection that it can overflow to others.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:7-16

"Now we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the transcendence of the power may be of God and not of us. ... [jump to verse 10] always

carrying about in the body the deadening of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our body. ... [now jump to verse 15-16] that the grace should be superabounding in thanksgiving to the glory of God. Wherefore we are not despondent, but even if our outward man is decaying, nevertheless that within us is being renewed day by day."

Paul also wrote in **Romans 12:1-2**

1 I am entreating you, then, brethren, by the pities of God, to present your bodies a sacrifice, living, holy, well pleasing to God, your logical divine service,

2 and not to be configured to this eon, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, for you to be testing what is the will of God, good and well pleasing and perfect.

These are great "How-To" texts from which we can draw understanding, strength and instruction for living in the New Humanity; and we can also draw insight into what the old human looks like and feels like – if we ever sink into it – because we can count on these landmarks of the New Humanity being twisted toward our self-interest and, therefore denying His interests.

I'm reminded of Yeshua's abrupt and entirely correct rebuke of the sa-tan coming out of Peter when Yeshua told the boys what would be happening to Him, and Peter said, "no Lord, not to you!" Let's look at it, because it is what Yeshua said after He called out the sa-tan that shows us where the old humanity resides:

Matthew 16:23-27

*Now, being turned, He said to Peter, "Go away behind Me, satan! A snare are you to Me, for **you are not disposed to that which is of God, but that which is of men.**" [there's the landmark]*

*24 Then Jesus said to His disciples: "If anyone is wanting to **come after Me,** [well, do we want to come after Him? Yes? OK, well here's what to do:] **let him renounce himself [or herself] and pick up his cross and follow Me.***

In other words, the only way you and I can follow the Galilean with nail-scarred hands is by renouncing, or, as O.C. would say, by giving but all rights to, ourselves. Wherever and whenever we AREN'T doing that, we are, by definition NOT coming after Him. We AREN'T the least bit sincere, and there are no half-measures where picking up the cross is concerned. It's an all-out, never-looking-back decision and commitment.

25 For whosoever may be wanting to save his soul shall be destroying it. Yet whoever should be destroying his soul on My account shall be finding it.

26 For what will a man be benefited, if he should ever be gaining the whole world, yet be forfeiting his soul? Or what will a man be giving in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of Mankind is about to be coming in the glory of His Father, with His messengers, and then He will be paying each in accord with his practice.

This last statement is I believe a reference to the “*Dais of Christ*,” where Paul wrote, in **2 Timothy 4:7-8**:

I have contended the ideal contest. I have finished my career. I have kept the faith.

8 Furthermore, there is reserved for me the wreath of righteousness, which the Lord, the just Judge, will be paying to me in that day; yet not to me only, but also to all who love His advent.

Yeshua told us how we would know if we are “loving” Him – which assumes that we are also coming after Him:

John 14:23

If anyone should be loving Me, he will be keeping My word, and My Father will be loving him, and we shall be coming to him and making an abode with him.

Paul repeats the Lord's words similarly in **Romans 8:5-11**:

5 For those who are in accord with flesh [flesh = old humanity] are disposed to that which is of the flesh, yet those who are in accord with

spirit to that which is of the spirit.

6 For the disposition of the flesh is death, yet the disposition of the spirit is life and peace,

7 because the disposition of the flesh [old humanity] is enmity [open hostility and hatred] to[ward] God, for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither is it able.

8 Now those who are in flesh are not able to please God.

9 Yet you are not in flesh, but in spirit, IF so be that God's spirit is making its home in you.

We have to stop here and take in the landmark fully that Paul just gave us: “you are not in flesh, but in spirit, IF so be that God's spirit is making its home in you.” I’m treading carefully here, but this says to me that if the Spirit of God is NOT making its home in me then I am not in spirit, but in flesh. I also see that if I am in flesh and not in spirit, the Father’s Spirit is not making its home in me – He has left the building! Now that is no place for a child of YaHoVeH to find himself or herself!

But wait! It gets even worse:

Romans 8:5-11:

Now if anyone has not Christ's spirit, this one is not His.

10 Now if Christ is in you, the body, indeed, is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 Now if the spirit of Him Who rouses Jesus from among the dead is making its home in you, He Who rouses Christ Jesus from among the dead will also be vivifying your mortal bodies because of His spirit making its home in you.

Paul also writes in Ephesians 3:16-19

that He may be giving you, in accord with the riches of His glory, to be made staunch with power, through His spirit, in the man within, [New Humanity]

17 Christ to dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, having been rooted and grounded in love,

18 should be strong to grasp, together with all the saints, what is the

*breadth and length and depth and height --
19 to know the love of Christ as well which transcends knowledge -- that
you may be completed for the entire complement of God.*

The Concordant study added this insight that I found helpful:

*Thus God's spirit (or the transcendence of His power) gives us power over
our dead bodies, while Christ's spirit gives us communion with Him.*

Father, give us ears to hear Your voice, eyes to see Your face, and hearts to know You. Father, I say and I pray that all listening to me now will say with me, I renounce myself and in every area of my life, both outwardly and inwardly, I pick up my cross and come after Yeshua.

Father, not our will be done, but Yours. We subject our wills to Yours, and we renounce and surrender all rights to ourselves; that we not be found in flesh but in Spirit, and that we find You at home in us; because otherwise we find no peace, no rest; without You at home in us, there is only striving and death. Oh, Father, I pray we remain always in spirit and worshipping You in spirit and in truth, as we strip off the old humanity and put on – and keep on – our new humanity, which is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth.