

JESUS REVEALS OUR INCLUSION

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With the coming of Jesus through the incarnation, God accomplished something that was never done before. No pagan god, no mythological god of any description had ever appeared to man and established a RELATIONSHIP with humans. Obviously so, because pagan gods and mythological gods do NOT exist! Those gods always remained distant, disconnected and while they were worshipped they were never nor ever became relational and in relationship with man.

But Jesus was different. John says it this way in John 1:14, “the word was made flesh and DWELT among us!” I Peter 1:20 says that “...This Jesus was chosen before the creation of the world, but was REVEALED in these last times for your sake”.

When God chose this Jesus before the creation of the world, He also chose US IN Him before the creation of the world and ADOPTED us into His very life blameless and holy (Ephesians 1:4-6).

Paul says it this way in Colossians 1:26-27, that the MYSTERY OF THE AGES is revealed to the saints, “Christ IN you the hope of glory.”

Some have thought that this ‘Adoption’ and ‘Inclusion’ theology originated with Paul since he states it in a number of places. Some have even thought that it was invented by modern day theologians. But the purpose here is to go back to the source of this theology and show that it did NOT originate with Paul, but with Jesus Christ.

Many churches have used John 14 through John 17 in conducting Passover services or Lord’s Supper services and used these verses to echo the very LAST prayer of Jesus Christ before he was taken and killed the next day. And this is not a wrong use of these scriptures. But if we are not careful, we will look at them with the wrong glasses on or from old paradigms and miss the concept of INCLUSION which Jesus states clearly in these chapters.

Let’s focus on a verse in the middle of John 14, verse 20. Jesus here makes a statement for all people. He says, “...On that day(or we would say in time, or sooner or later) you WILL realize that I am IN my Father, and you are IN me and I am IN you.” He introduces the concept of INCLUSION here but this is not all in this passage.

At the very end of this prayer in John 17:20 – 26, Jesus states this concept of INCLUSION in the life of God and it is nearly impossible to overlook it, although many people have over the ages. Jesus prays here for those who carry the message of this truth to ensuing generations for all time.

Verse 20...“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message

Verse 21... “That ALL of them may be ONE, Father, JUST AS you are IN me and I am IN you. May they also be IN US...notice that again, IN US, that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

Verse 22...“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one AS we are one.”

Verse 23...“I IN them and you IN me. May they be brought to COMPLETE UNITY to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them EVEN AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME”—(Just the same !!!)

Verse 26...“I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be IN them and that I MYSELF may be IN them.

The word inclusion means ‘to be made part of the whole’. What we see God the Father doing from before the creation of the world is working out His eternal plan in its complete fullness with Jesus being chosen (I Peter 1:20) and slain (Revelation 13:8) and our being chosen in Jesus, adopted and included in the life of the Great Triune God before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4-6).

All of this is by God’s purpose, plan, declaration, act of God, will and for His pleasure. He is the potter. He is the Master Builder. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the perfecter of our faith. His Wrath is opposed to anything that would attempt to thwart the purpose of His plan. He has the power to see His plan accomplished in Jesus. And it is!!! Jesus said, “It is finished!” (John 19:30).

Let’s never forget that we serve, worship and love an awesome God. An all-powerful God. An all loving Father. Our God thought this plan out before time and named Jesus as the Captain of the salvation of humanity, and named us PERSONALLY AND INDIVIDUALLY in His great purpose and INCLUDED us IN His life.