

From the May 4, 2008, Issue

Counseling With Others in the Good News

Have you ever wondered how the Gospel of Humanity and Creation's Inclusion in Christ might impact how you now counsel others? Because we are all included in the Life of God in Jesus, no matter what, it **MUST** impact our counseling! But how do we wrestle with our union in Christ alongside the transgressions and incongruent living that still arise in our lives because of participating in the lie? How do we wrestle with those incongruences in such a way that we firmly uphold the Gospel without affirming the transgressions? And how do we discuss the transgressions without dumping a lot of guilt, shame, fear and more religion back on the one we are trying to help?

Rather than elaborating on godly principles (which I will do more specifically in the next issue), see if you can discover what they are by reading this real counseling interaction I had with someone. Names, terms, events and sentences have been changed to protect the innocent. Nothing that would breach confidentiality is noted, **AND** the person I counseled with has given me express permission to write this article and has read and verified it before publishing!

Those necessary bases covered; here are the basics of how our correspondence went:

Dear Pastor Tim:

Hello. I thought that you might understand me better than some people I know. But I think that you can help me out with this. See I am stuck between some obstacles right now.

One of the obstacles is religion. I don't know where I am and I sure don't want to be like my friend Sylvester. I know when I first talked to you I told you that I wanted to be like Sylvester, but now I don't. I need my own direction in life. I think that being in WCG was actually good for me...even though I did get confused some times.

Another obstacle is a relationship I am having. My ex-girlfriend, Sheila, called and said she was thinking about getting back together with me. Why would I want to do that?! I mean she hurt me way too many times. The first time that she and I were going out she went "slap off" and struck me with an object on my face, literally drawing blood. We broke up because on top of that she started dating another guy. So I said okay and then I split and decided we would stop living together. I saw her in a local YMCA and we started talking and decided that we should try it again. Well she started to stress me out all over again, and I got so depressed I started treating my body bad (and god please forgive me for that) to relieve the stress. When she found out about my attempts to hurt and punish myself, she kicked me in my shin, which hurt because I had just injured it in another accident! Can you believe it? That is the second time she struck me in her anger!

The third obstacle has to do with Sheila, also. Recently I was thinking about going to stay with my uncle in another state, maybe attend college for a few more years and open up a branch of our family business there. I called my uncle and began to work out the arrangements to move in with him. When I told Sheila what I had done, she got all defensive saying that I should have talked to her first.

Now I really don't know what to do, I really don't. I think I need to re-evaluate my life and give it

back to God. What do you think? Can you help me or give me some advice?”

Here is how I responded out of the Truth of the Gospel of our Adoption:

Hello My Friend!!

I appreciate you writing me and updating me on your life! It has been awhile. Please try to write or call me anytime! I appreciate your openness and realness with me and continue to admire your humility and vision for a more happy and liberated life!

Here is my response to your three obstacles, in the Light of the Good News of Jesus Christ:

1.) First, the reason you do not want to be like Sylvester is because Jesus has made you distinct. He has created you to be your own distinct person in union with him and creation. He has also created you to be FREE from any type of religion!! Jesus is NOT religious in any way, and he does not want you to be religious either. Religion binds you, it does not free you! Following Sylvester's way is just another form of religion, rules and rituals designed to make you appear better than or superior to others. In the Father's eye's, we are all equal and should share in His love for everyone and everything in creation. WCG was good for you because Jesus was using WCG to help you see the truth of your inclusion; to embrace it, and be free in it. Now that you have gotten a taste of it, you only want more of it. Going to WCG was like sitting at Jesus' buffet table and eating some of every good thing. Taking in religion is like eating sand with no water around! Yucky!! Relating with others as you REALLY are in Jesus is what frees you!

Please keep up with me so that I can help you remain free in God's grace!

2.) Because you come from Jesus, and Jesus is always with you, you are not meant to be abused or beat up in relationships! You aren't meant to hurt your own self or to be hurt by others! Deep in your heart Jesus is sharing this truth with you so that you can experience yourself and others in his pleasure, avoiding the pain of abuse. In one sense, your decision is an easy one to make! For now, you should stay away from Sheila and pray for her! After counseling with other people you trust, and who REALLY look out and care for your well being, you might even consider reporting Sheila to the police!

The Father does not abuse his children and he does not want us to abuse each other! The Father also does not want us to live in the kind of stress you are experiencing with Sheila, and right now, that is all that Sheila is causing you, STRESS!! True Love is never FORCED upon or overly domineering on anyone, and Sheila is using a lot of force and domination. That kind of behavior is provoked by the evil creatures and you need to avoid it like the plague! Three forms of abuse is three times too much abuse!!! We are the Father's children and none of us are made to engage in hurting ourselves, hurting others, or being hurt by others without serious, negative consequences! Continue to embrace your whole and healed self in Jesus!

The thing that makes this “easy” decision difficult for you is the closeness you have experienced with Sheila! We were all made for relationship with others and, ultimately, you and Sheila were driven to each other because of your share in the relationship and passion of the Father, Son and Spirit. However, we were meant to share in relationship just like God does, with harmony and self-giving, NOT disharmony and selfishness! You can escape the temptation of getting back with Sheila

because Jesus has suffered all of our temptations and overcome them for us. He shares with you RIGHT NOW His wisdom, boldness and strength to escape this situation with Sheila. Please call on some close friends to pray with you and support you in your desire to avoid her for now!! I will pray for you, and you should pray to Jesus for yourself, because he is with you and has never left you for one second in this situation, and he never will!!

3.) I believe you are making a good decision to start afresh and continue your schooling! I've witnessed wonderful attributes in you that can only come from the Holy Spirit Who has embraced you! Schooling can often supply the positive, focused and disciplined structure we need in a field of study to reach out in more effective service toward others. Moving to a new state may also keep you from some of the negative forces of your current culture that the fallen creatures are using to try and discourage you.

I, personally, do not believe that you need to re-evaluate your life, because you are already engaged in re-evaluating it!! :-) That is why you wrote me! Also, there is no need for you to give your life back to God because God the Father, Son and Spirit have always had your life in his very capable hands! You cannot go anywhere and flee your union with God in Jesus! You are already so included in His life that he is, even now, helping you to re-evaluate things in the light of Who you REALLY are in Jesus! I believe he inspired you to write me for further affirmation and encouragement in your permanent relationship with Him in Jesus!

Finally, right now, you are not bound in marriage or engagement to anyone except God in Jesus Christ!! :-) This means that you do not owe Sheila any explanation as to why you are going to proceed in your current direction. You should concentrate on being bound to God in Jesus Christ and ask him to help you see how secure you are in Him! This godly assurance will give you the courage to face everything else in life with more stability and wisdom, and you can make your decisions about relationships and other things in life with more of Jesus' actual peace and joy!

I hope this letter has helped you. If I have been unclear in anyway, ask the Holy Spirit to clarify His Truth and make it plainer to you! Triune God loves you more than he loves himself, and He likes you very, very much!

Continued Peace, Love and Blessings to You in Jesus, Who has already helped you to overcome all of this in a victorious way in his own human life!

~ Tim Brassell