

From the October 4, 2009 Issue

## Jesus Has Put The Church on Your Agenda

If you are a believer, Jesus has put the Church on your agenda. And in some cases, Jesus has put the Church on the agenda for those of you who do not believe, so that you can participate with him in that special way too! So no more of these silly questions such as “Do I have to go to Church?” or “Should I go to Church?”

Now for the kicker – I AM NOT EVEN GOING TO TURN TO ANY SCRIPTURES TO PROVE THIS, but I am going to follow the lead of scripture by reasoning out this subject in the Person of Jesus, Who relates with His Father in the Communion of the Holy Spirit! That is really all the lens you need, in the grace of the Spirit, to begin to see such a topic and such questions clearly.

Seeing Jesus clearly always points me to two things: The Son of God in his full humanity AND the Son of God in his full divinity, all in the same Person! That tells me a couple of very important things. First, it tells me that the Son of God shares himself fully as a distinct human being with his Father, in the Communion of the Spirit. Second, it tells me that the Son of God shares his exact being with humanity and creation (I mean the Son of God lives forever as a real human being within creation! Wow!)

So let's see, Jesus not only relates with His Father in the Spirit in his distinct humanity, but also shares this relationship with other distinct human beings within creation as he was called out to do in the relationship of the Trinity. Obviously then, Jesus is a believer in his Father and the Spirit AND a believer in sharing this relationship with others of like mind and those not of like mind. However, it is only those who believe who would experience this relationship in a distinct and special way, right? In other words, even though Jesus gives himself to all (believer/unbeliever, Jews/Gentiles, etc.), we can observe in His distinct humanity that because he is *faithful* to His Father in his human body, there is a sense in which Jesus only gives himself to the faithful (believers who embrace him in his faithfulness)!

Are you trackin' with my reasoning out of Christ himself?!

From this Christological and Trinitarian reasoning, we now already have a basic doctrine of the Church (or called-out ones living in a distinct way, together with Jesus, in his relationship with His Father, in the Spirit, right in the middle of creation!) I just said A LOT right there! Please read and re-read and see if you can match it up with the prior thoughts about Jesus in the above paragraphs, and...

...keep trackin' with me as I make it even plainer! ☺

Not only do we have a basic doctrine of the Church in the literal humanity of Jesus, but we can also see (if we observe carefully our shared life with Jesus as believers), a reason for:

**Gathering distinctly as the “called out ones” together.** (In his humanity, Jesus the Son of God gathers uniquely with the “called-out ones” who especially believe because he is *the* called-out One who believes in our place and shares his life with us!)

**Gathering as the “called-out ones” from within creation and not apart from it.** (In his humanity, Jesus the Son of God is permanently with humanity and creation and will never leave it, and

he shares his life with us!)

**Sharing our distinct relationship with those who do not believe, so that they might believe.** (In his humanity, Jesus the Son of God permanently shares his SHARED LIFE and faith with us in our unbelief so that we can believe!)

But do we HAVE to gather and SHOULD we gather? Can't we just be the Church at home by ourselves, making our own decisions about everything like humans (Americans in particular) are supposed to do? Aren't you using legalistic terms that mess up the grace of God and my ability to live in "freedom" and do what I want to do?

Aaaaarrrrrghhhhh! It makes me want to scream!! Why can't we hear what **The Word** is saying to us? **The Word** is telling us about the Terrific Beauty of the Relationship in which we are included and adopted in **The Word made flesh!!!!!!** Alright, I guess these questions compel me to make it a little more plain!

**Do we HAVE to gather? OF COURSE, we HAVE to gather!!!** Don't we believe that Jesus has the most important and significant human life going? And don't we believe that Jesus shares his life with us??? Of course we believers do! And if Jesus gathers with adopted human beings who have like minds with the Trinity (and he does in his own human body!), and if Jesus meets with the Trinity (as He does in his own human body) then can't we too say that we HAVE do the same?

Isn't asking "Do we HAVE to gather regularly with the like-minded 'called out ones?'" equivalent to asking and saying, "Do we HAVE to gather in and around the most happening, life-giving, and cool relationship in the universe? I really want to do something more meaningful than that!"

Isn't that absurd?! I mean, who in the *right and relational mind of Jesus* would ever ask such a dumb question?!

**But SHOULD we gather? OF COURSE, we SHOULD gather (and all the more as we see the day approaching)!!** (Dawg, I said I wasn't going to use scripture! Ha-ha!) Again, don't we as believers believe that Jesus has the most important and significant human life going? And don't we believe that Jesus shares his life with us?? Of course we believers do! And if Jesus gathers permanently with adopted human beings who have like minds with the Trinity (and he does in his own human body!), then can't we too say that we SHOULD do the same?

Isn't asking, "SHOULD we gather regularly with the like-minded called out ones?" equivalent to asking and saying, "SHOULD we gather in and around the most happening, life-giving, and cool relationship in the universe? I really want to do something way more valuable than that!"

Isn't that absurd?! I mean, who in the *right and relational mind of Jesus* would ever ask such a dumb question?!

Asking "Do we HAVE to gather with the Church?" and "SHOULD we gather with the Church?" is REALLY like asking "SHOULD I still keep eating regularly? With all my body, mind and soul I really hate all this nourishment stuff!" Ha-Ha!

I am most happy and excited to tell you that in Jesus Christ's shared relationship with you (*Good Gravy, did you really grasp that "Jesus Christ's shared relationship with you" part?!*), God the Father, Son and Spirit has put the "The Church" on your agenda! Wow! And because it is somehow TRULY, yet mysteriously, the literal Body of Christ being shared with all of humanity and creation *on earth*, we are

compelled to BE a part of it, and we MUST and SHOULD gather with it as often as we can! Even more plainly, because it is somehow TRULY yet mysteriously the literal Body of Christ being shared with YOU, YOU are compelled to BE a part of it, and you MUST and SHOULD gather with it as often as YOU can!

I use the word “agenda” because I think there is a great deal of liberty as to where Church (or gathering with the “called out ones”) might specifically fit into our schedules at any given time in the Trinity’s grace! You should work that out with Jesus! But let there be no doubts, the Church CAN and WILL fit into your schedule!!! How do I know? (Because of all **The Word** has led us to think about in this article!)

**Because God the Trinity is FOREVER AND PERMANENTLY BOUND UP IN TIME AND SPACE in the “called out One”, Jesus Christ!** How much more can humanity (YOU!) get scheduled in time and space as the “called out ones” than that? Plus, so many of you have already agreed with me that wherever Jesus is, and wherever he is embraced, we find the most happening, life-giving, and cool relationship in the universe! Ha-Ha!

*~ Tim Brassell*