

From the March 4, 2010 Issue

## **Being Adopted Means War!**

I'm tired! How about you? I'm sure you are! How do I know that? Because we are compelled, presently, to embrace this Good News of our Adoption into the Life of the Trinity, in Jesus, in this "present evil age" (Gal 1:4).

I am not being pessimistic and forgetting to remember that the Light shines in the darkness and that Jesus has set us free from the present age! Rather, I am simply admitting that the Light is shining, right now, IN THE DARKNESS of the present age.

Through the experience of living, it becomes clearer to me each day that the only hope for the kind of world we're actually wired to live in is Jesus Christ Himself. There may come a day when a bulk of fallen humanity begins to embrace the Gospel and things greatly improve in every arena of life, but such a time will only fail again and again until it is broken in on by the literal return of the Son of Man and we share in incorruptible bodies. After all, the nature of sin is the nature of sin and therefore, in the end, can still only be the nature of sin.

I am writing this way because I need to be reminded from time to time that to embrace humanity's sonship in Jesus, in our present darkness, is to suffer! To embrace our adoption in Christ is to ache and agonize (and even be terrorized!). Talk about the Person and Message that hits at the "root" of the core issues in our life and the lives of all others—it's Jesus!

The reality of the Jesus Who is in relationship with all people and things means that at some point, he is coming to address each of us personally in our darkness (as any truly loving Person would!), and this will necessitate a profound crisis. This crisis will come because the Triune God, in Jesus, has undone every part of our brokenness. In the passion of the Father and Spirit, he will not be satisfied with our being and believing anything less than the Truth of who we are in Him!

By every part of our brokenness being addressed and undone, I mean EVERYTHING! Every idol we have—including money, sex and power—must go! Every stable thing we center on—including jobs, homes, computers, governments, and even families—must sometimes be exposed as the fragile things they really are apart from Him. Our dependence upon self, smarts, race, doctrines and even the scriptures must be exposed (the scriptures are a window designed to lead us to see and depend on Jesus, as my friend Jonathan Stepp might say!)

In part, this is a major part of the problem with lack of Church growth as typically defined in terms of attendance! In calling people to truly "pick up their cross and follow Jesus"—by embracing the union of all in Jesus, solely on the basis of grace rather than works, law, or individualism—brings a radical change of mind and naturally transformed lifestyle! Good gravy! Pulling off a change like that is like trying to get most of us to start eating right and exercising! It's simply not going to happen until we suffer the proverbial or literal crisis of having a "heart attack"—a heart attack we hope to survive so that we can eat right, get some exercise and live really healthy! Ha-Ha! For God to be with us and in us as we are—it means war! It means war because in the end God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself. There simply is no such thing! There is nothing else! And the Father will fight for what is His! He will fight for you! The Holy Spirit will fight in you!

Thought provokingly, and in conclusion, if the Triune God goes to war for something, what do you suspect will be the likely outcome of that war?!

*~ Tim Brassell*