

Caught up!

I've been sharing the book He Loves Me by Wayne Jacobsen, the subtitle of which is "Learning to Live in the Father's Affection." Because I'm leading a discussion on this book with two different groups, I read and re-read the short little chapters a lot. Obviously, the theme of the Father's affection for us is rooted deeply in the Scriptures. It's a truth that most of us know; but for a lot of us, for a long time, this knowing has been cerebral more than experienced. Should that make a difference? I think so. Why?

Because God has always planned to share with us His eternal affection for us. Always. My own relationship with Him is deeply rooted in the bridal paradigm, so this is familiar to me, and I am quite comfortable with it. But as I read a portion of Jacobsen's book, I was simply arrested by, if you will, a rhema moment with the Lord. The revelation came while considering these words:

"On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in Me, and I am in You." Jesus John 14:20b

When is "on that day?" When the Holy Spirit would flood them on Pentecost. And though Pentecost released the power of God that launched the church into its last days ministry, for many, Holy Spirit awakenings, empowerings and rhema moments continue as hungry souls seek for the heart of the God who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.....

The thing I am unable to let go of just now, actually, is the rest of that remark by Jesus. This was spoken just hours before He was going to die. His disciples really liked Him, loved Him, believed in Him, but still didn't understand who in heaven He really was.....

If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also;....." Jesus John 14:7a

Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?

He who sees Me has seen the Father;.....Do you not believe that I am IN My Father, and the Father is in Me? Jesus John 14:9,10

Jacobsen points out something I simply had not considered before, namely that Jesus, nearly the end of his pre-death time with the disciples, had cultivated a relationship with them such that He could enjoy them, knowing who they really were, and the disciples loved and enjoyed Him, **but they even at this ever so late hour in Jesus' life, didn't really have a clue that He was very plainly God Almighty with skin on!** Why did this matter? Because the next time they would see Him *after* He is resurrected, there could no longer be any doubt that He was absolutely fully and entirely God.

And what kind of relationship had God had with the objects of His love, His people, from the day man and woman sinned until Jesus became incarnate in the flesh? Basically one of that of a people who feared Him, who hid from him, who were so horrified at His holiness contrasted with their sinfulness that they simply kept Him at arm's length.

On that night before He died, He was really planting something new in the incredible story of relationship between God and man. He wants us to not just feel comfortable with Jesus, He wants us to be at home with, if you will, His Dad, our Papa. He tells them this ahead of time, so that in time, they can absorb and be absorbed in the most miraculous event in all the history of God's salvation: God wants to "catch us up" IN Himself. And this is what I am simply amazing at right now.

***On that day, you will know that I am IN my Father,
and YOU are IN me,
and I am IN YOU.***

One of the members of my class is a beautiful sister in the Lord and was sitting just to my left. I had her hold up her right hand and said to her, "Bettye, your hand represents Jesus – trying that night to explain to His disciples about our real place in God. My left hand was God the Father – and my right hand the group, (and you, dear reader!) Think of it as you will, but if you don't get this personally, you surely will not absorb it corporately. So - - - - we "acted out" Jesus words.

Here's a picture similar to our actions. Left Hand = God the Father, Right equals us, Hand in Middle equals Jesus.

***"On that day, you will comprehend I AM IN my Father,
(our hands met and became one)
and you are IN Me, (my right hand fused with Bettye's
hand that was fused to Papa's hand)
and I am IN you.***

It has struck me. If I am really and truly "IN" Jesus, then as Jesus is IN the Father, I am caught up into the very Godhead Himself.

Oh my goodness. What wondrous love is this, oh my soul? What wondrous love is this? Let's worship our incomprehensibly awesome God.

