



“We are as He is”... Is this too good to be true?

This phrase, which is found in I Jn 4:17 is so powerful and so huge that it almost sounds unbelievable. So the question is “How much like God do we become?” Do we become a little bit like Him... do we get a part of Him... do we get almost all of Him... or are we “as He is”? Let’s search the matter out... like kings do.

Gal 4:19, *“My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you...”*

Somewhere in Paul’s vision and faith for the future, he can see Jesus being fully formed in us. If you just take this verse at face value, it indicates that Jesus is forming Himself inside of us... or allowing Himself to be formed... INTO us. Jesus is making His abode in us until He looks like us and we look like Him. (Could that be like wax being poured into a mold?)

Amazing... let’s look further:

Eph 4:13, *“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:”*

Did you notice that we will grow up unto the “*perfect man*”, even “*unto the measure of the stature of the FULLNESS of Jesus*”? I’m sure that this grandiose language stretches us. So how do I respond to it? Should I just relegate it to common clergy-speak, or colorful religious fluff?? But then, what if it really means what it says... that WE WILL BE TOTALLY LIKE JESUS... so much so that you can’t tell us and Jesus apart. (Remember: “*unto the measure of the stature of... Christ*”)

Let’s take another look at this “fullness” idea...

Eph 3:17-19, *“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

Doesn’t this sound like a romance passage with ‘love’ woven throughout? So much so, that being “*rooted and grounded*” in love seems to be vital before we can even comprehend the deeper meanings of love. And just think of this phrase for a moment, “To know more than I can know.” I’m not sure my mind understands this. . As much as I’ve come to love the way that He loves me, evidently there is more love that I don’t know yet... and He wants me to know that love that I haven’t experienced yet. Wow, this only gets better.

It just seems that Jesus must really be in love with us. I remember in Lk 9:58 Jesus didn’t have a place to rest His head(ship)... until now... and now it’s (or He is) resting on us. (“*grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ*” - Eph 4:15) Now He’s as ‘One as can be’ with His bride... completely filling ALL of Himself into us. You talk about a consummation! What a marriage plan! It turns out that we were His whole focus and passion all along. His joy was, and is... fulfilled in us. No wonder He was slain for us from before the foundations of the earth... because He was utterly love-struck and knew that ultimately He would get to pour Himself into us and live through us!!! So according to this passage we’re not just MORE like Him... not just partially like Him... not even almost like Him... but we are filled to ALL the FULLNESS of Him.

So how much like God do we become? It looks like love has compelled Jesus to give ALL of Himself to us to the point that we are made perfectly equal and fully like Him.

Well, if you're like me, even though I'm pretty excited right now, I also know that this is impossible in my own strength. For me to 'get there', it'll take more than just your ordinary garden variety mercy drops... or osmosis assimilation from a well-crafted sermon... or even a liberal dose of heavy-duty goose-bumps. It'll take an empowering personal revelation and an epic outpouring, something on the order of Pentecost. Yes, a revelation that will transform my understanding which will in turn transfigure me into just exactly what the Word says. But the good thing is that this is where God wants to take us. And since God has never lied to us before, I think we can believe that He really will fulfill all of His over-the-top good intentions in us. This is good news!

This is light-years better than what I used to believe when I wondered if Jesus even liked me enough to tolerate letting me into His Heaven. This is so much better and so much more victorious and frankly... it promises to be lots more fun. It makes me more eager to face my future... and more happy and in-faith for my world. And it makes me want to fall madly in love with my huge-hearted and gracious Jesus, even more.

No, this isn't a fairy tale. This is the real thing. This is an outrageously wonderful love story about a King in Heaven who gives all that He is to His bride-to-be so that she is equal to Him in every way. Then they get married and happily co-rule and co-reign together... forever... and there is no end to this story.

Matt 25:34, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'"

Any takers...?

-- MLH

Published at: <http://wp.me/p23r7p-3a>