

Wisdom and Knowledge (and “The Schemes of All Women”)

Ecclesiastes 7:24-8:1

#8 in our series from Ecclesiastes

November 20, 2016

Peter Hiatt

The worship band sings “(What a) Wonderful World” by Sam Cooke

Don't know much about history
Don't know much biology
Don't know much about a science book,
Don't know much about the French I took.

But I do know that I love you,
And I know that if you love me, too,
What a wonderful world this would be.

Don't know much about geography,
Don't know much trigonometry.
Don't know much about algebra,
Don't know what a slide rule is for.

But I do know that one and one is two,
And if this one could be with you,
What a wonderful world this would be.

Now, I don't claim to be an "A" student,
But I'm tryin' to be.
For maybe by being an "A" student, baby,
I can win your love for me.

Don't know much about history,
Don't know much biology.
Don't know much about a science book,
Don't know much about the French I took.

But I do know that I love you,
And I know that if you love me, too,
What a wonderful world this would be.

History
Biology
Science book
French I took.
But I do know that I love you,
And I know that if you love me, too,
What a wonderful world this would be.

Message

I don't know if you should've voted for Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, that Gary Johnson guy, somebody else or even no one at all. I don't know much about the tax codes, business, economics or health care systems. I don't know what immigration legislation should be passed or not passed.

I know that civil governments have been given the sword . . . And I know that I am commanded to love my neighbor and even my enemies. But I don't know what legislation the principalities and powers of this world should adopt. I don't know.

I know that God intimately cares about your sexuality, about marriage, and covenants, and babies—both born and unborn. But I don't know what laws should be passed in that regard.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| If you ask me, | “What would Jesus do if He were king?” |
| I'd say, | “Jesus is King.” |
| And if you said, | “No, I mean king of a country... what would He do?” |
| I'd say, | “Pretty hard to tell, since once they tried to make Him king of the country . . . and he ran away.” |

So, I don't know much about legislation in civil society . . . or even a church. I don't know what classes we should offer, groups that we should provide or missions that we should support. I don't know how much you should give. I don't know much about legislation in civil society, a church, or even in my own heart—the garden that is my heart.

I don't know which beer is one too many beers.

I don't know if I should watch certain TV shows on HBO.

I don't know how much I should give to charity, to the church and to my family.

I don't know . . . and I have trouble sorting it out.

I don't know, and I used to know, before I got to know the Word of God as well as I know it now. I don't know, but I'd like to know. I don't know, and you'd probably also like me to know . . . because you call me your pastor. I don't know and we'd all really like to know we think we're saved by our knowledge of Good and evil . . .

I don't know and some of you must be thinking, “*Gosh you're not very wise, are you...?*”

To be honest . . . I really don't know.

But Solomon was wise. Let's find out what he knows.

Ecclesiastes 7:23-24 (where we left of last time)

All this (As he puts it in chapter 2, verse 3, he's asking “What is good for the children of Adam to do under heaven the few days of their life?”) All this (knowledge of the good) I have tested by wisdom. I said, “I will be wise,” but it

was far from me. That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?

Solomon didn't know . . . and yet the Bible claims that He was very wise.

Which reminds me of the book of Job, which is also classified as "wisdom literature."

- God allows Satan to test Job, but Job doesn't know why.
- He has friends that show up and tell him that they know why for thirty-five chapters.
- But Job still complains that He doesn't know.

In Chapter 38 God shows up in a tornado and, for four chapters, he lets Job know that he doesn't know. And then in the last chapter, God informs Job's friends that they don't know . . . but that Job has spoken what is "right about Him."

Job doesn't know stuff, but Job does know God. Job has Wisdom.

Don't know much about history
Don't know much biology
Don't know much about a science book,
Don't know much about the French I took.
But I do know . . .

Something . . . or Someone . . .

In 2 Chronicles 1 and 1 Kings 3, the Bible describes how Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge—the ability *"to discern between Good and evil."* So God gave Solomon Wisdom. It must've been Wisdom that taught Solomon that he couldn't make himself wise . . . and yet, He is wise.

In 1 Kings 3, right after Scripture says that God gave Solomon Wisdom, it cites a famous example: Two prostitutes come before his throne, each claiming that a particular child is her own. So, Solomon says cut the baby in half. One woman agrees, while the other says, "No, just give the baby to her." And so the Wisdom of Solomon, judged between the false mother—who acted out of envy—and the true mother—who acted out of love.

That was Wisdom, but if you turned it into law, you would only create more evil.

For what would the law be?

"In all custody battles cut the child in half?"

That's a bad law!

Wisdom is like the knowledge of Good and evil for a particular moment in time.

In Ecclesiastes 3 Solomon wrote,

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die...

A time to kill, and a time to heal...

*A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance...
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time for war, and a time for peace.*

So how do you know what time it is?

In a symphony, you can play the right note, but play it at the wrong time and it won't be beautiful; it will be profoundly ugly.

Religious folks seem to do that all the time. "I found the right note!" they say... and then they play it all the time. They even judge all the other notes as wrong notes, cause they're sure they have the right note... for the symphony (*symphonia* in Greek—meaning "many notes together.").

"...At the right time Christ died for the ungodly," writes Paul.

- ✓ Wisdom is like the knowledge of Good and evil for a particular moment in time.
- ✓ Wisdom is like knowledge that's alive or perhaps dead, but rises from the dead.

"The knowledge of Good and evil" is like dead wisdom—with which you could do as you pleased.

But actual Wisdom is like living knowledge—that may do with you as it pleases.

Scripture is clear that Jesus is Wisdom, and Wisdom is Jesus.

So let's read these verses again substituting the word "Jesus" for the word "Wisdom."

All this (the Good, and God is Good) I have tested by Jesus. I said, "I will be Jesus," but it was far from me. That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep [like the foundation of all things]; who can find it out?

—Ecclesiastes 7:23-24

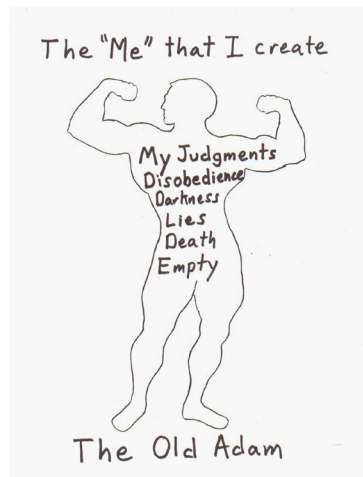
Humanity took the life of Jesus on a tree in a garden (testing God), and gained knowledge that we weren't wise, and we just killed wisdom.

Eve and that first Adam took knowledge from the tree in the garden and learned they were evil and God is Good, but now he seemed to be . . . far from them.

Solomon says, “I will be wise.” It’s like he takes the life of Wisdom and gains knowledge that:

- No man does good (that’s what he says in verse 20)
- And he learns that man is like a shadow (that’s what he says in 6:12)

Last week, we talked about the shadow—that is the “me” that “I” create. And I showed you this picture.

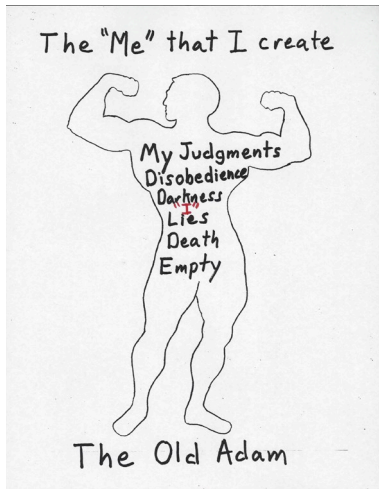


Saint Paul refers to this, as the “old Adam,” “old man,” or “false man.” This shadow self is the self that I construct with my judgments.

Listen closely:

- I take “knowledge of good and evil” in order to make choices and create my self in the image of God and that’s called sin.
- All sin is the crucifixion of the Christ and the creation of an imitation Christ, that I think is “me.”
- All sin is the judgment, “I am salvation,” which is the denial of “God is salvation” – which is literally the name of Jesus: *ye-ho-shua* or *yeshua*.

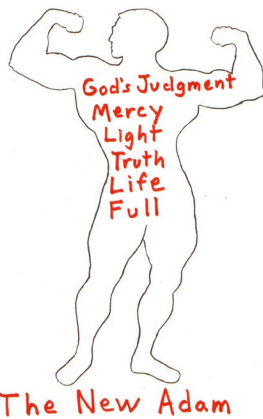
In other words: “I take the law” in order to justify myself, but in fact, I condemn myself, crucify Christ, and create a false self in which I am imprisoned.



—I am the breath of God trapped in the “me” that “I” create.
—But there is also a new and eternal “me” that God creates.

I create the old by taking the life of Wisdom on the tree in the garden.
And God creates the new, by giving the life of Wisdom on a tree in the garden.

The "Me" that GOD creates



I create my old false self with sin.
And God creates my new true self with Grace.

That is His Judgment—*“Let us make man [The Adam—ha adam] in our own image.”*

My old adam is constructed of my bad judgments and evil choices, sometimes called Pride, Shame and Fear.

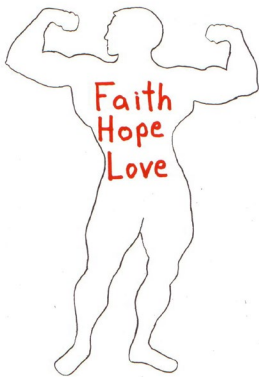
The "Me" that I create



The Old Adam

And my New Adam is constructed of God's Judgment, which is good choices often called Faith, Hope and Love.

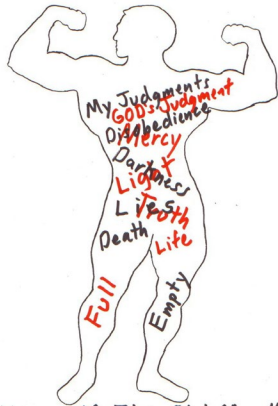
The "Me" that GOD creates



The New Adam

Right now, I'm a mixture of both

Me being created
in Space and Time



"Putting Off The Old Man"
and "Putting On The New Man"

Last week, we talked about how Solomon would go to the temple and that house of mourning would turn into a house of mirth, for the Judgment of God would destroy the old man and set the New Man free.

We read Romans 12: *"Present yourselves a living sacrifice and be transformed by the renewing of your minds."*

I shared a story of how I once walked into the fire in prayer and my old man was burned up and my new man was set free.

Paul writes that we are to put off the old man and put on the New Man.

- Well we put off the old man by exposing him to the Judgment of God.
- But how do we put on the New Man, who is the judgment of God?

The Devil would like you to think that you can create the New Man the way you created the old man, so the New Man is just more old man that you now call the New Man.

He'd like you to think that self-righteousness is God's righteousness, when in fact it's anti-righteousness . . . actually it's anti-Christ, which means "imitation Christ," . . . like a white washed tomb.

You can't create the New Man.

And now I know, that's frustrating, and I expect you to be frustrated.
Your old self is frustrated by the Wisdom of God.
But maybe your New Self longs to express the Wisdom of God.

So you're rightfully wondering:

"How can I do the Good?"

"How can I be Good?"

"What can I do?"

"Should I even try?"

Hold that thought... and let's keep reading:

In Ecclesiastes 7:23-29, *Solomon* can't find Wisdom

I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God (literally: is "good before God") escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her. Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things—which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found. See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

Man upright and all women scheming . . . sounds about right. [Laughter!]

Next verse

Ecclesiastes 8:1

Who is like the wise (man)? And who knows the interpretation (meaning) of a thing (dabar—word)? A man's wisdom (literally: "the wisdom of Adam") makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed.

- ✓ So, Solomon says that he can't find Wisdom and he doesn't "know" in 7:23-24
- ✓ But then in 8:1, It's like Wisdom found Solomon and knew Solomon—and now, Solomon is wise with a face that glows.

So what happened between 7:24 and 8:1? Well either:

A) Nothing happened, except Solomon spewing some of the most misogynistic and self-contradictory rhetoric found in ancient literature.

OR

B) Solomon just reported seeing something, which we find too good to be true...and maybe Solomon did as well.

Just entertain the idea that Solomon sees Wisdom, and struggles to explain who He or She is (in Proverbs wisdom is female, and in the Old Testament the Spirit of God is female) and what He or She does.

Let's read it again:

Behold (Meaning: Look—See!), this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things (that is “the logos of things.”) — which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man (One Adam, who is “good before God”) among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found.

Ecclesiastes 7:27-28

We should note that Solomon had a thousand women as brides.

We should also note that the term “thousand” is used figuratively in Scripture for “all.” (“God owns the cattle on a thousand hills,” which means all hills.) You got a cow on any hill? God owns it!

So, “among all,” Solomon sees “One Adam” who is good before God, yet he just told us in verse 20 that, “*there is not a righteous adam on earth who does good.*” So, he's not seeing himself . . . or is he seeing himself . . . a different self?

See, this alone I found (Solomon knows nothing but this. At this point, this is the only thing that Solomon knows), that God made (the) man (ha Adam, singular) upright, but they (plural) have sought out many schemes.

—Ecclesiastes 7:29

“They have sought out many schemes,” just as Solomon has many times sought out the scheme of things... *as if* Solomon is one of the women. *And yet*, Solomon is the Prince of Peace and Son of David

See a lot more is going on here than a bit of ancient misogynistic babble.

Hopefully you remember (and it's deep, very deep) that God's commandment to “*ha Adam*” is stated in Genesis chapter one: “*Be fruitful and multiply.*”

In Genesis chapter two, Scripture begins to describe how God makes man on the sixth day of creation. And God says, "It's not good that the Adam is alone."

- ✓ As we noted, "Adam is alone in the presence of God—who is love and is good, and is Adam's helper—but Adam doesn't recognize his helper."
- ✓ Over and over in the Old Testament, God is said to be our helper...
- ✓ But *ha adam* (humanity) is alone.

See the problem? You can't "*be fruitful and multiply*" without a Helper.

So, God makes a woman from Adam's side:

- She really isn't Adam's helper because She is simply more of He and He is more of She.
- Yet He and She are made male and female as a reference to Christ and His Church.

Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God.

And those bound to Him by covenant are His Bride... and become His Mother.

So we were just asking,

"What can I do?"

"How can I do the good and actually be good?"

I think we could ask the question this way:

"How can I love, for love fulfills the entire law."

"How can I bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faith, and self-control?"

"How can I be fruitful and multiply, and exercise loving dominion over all creation thereby changing the world and fulfilling my purpose? What can I do?"

LISTEN TO ME!

I understand the question, for I have asked this very question a billion times.

But now I want to be very clear with my answer: Actually, several years ago, I made an instructional video to show you how. You see, my bride and I have been fruitful and multiplied. And so we made this home movie to show you how to be fruitful and multiply:

Clip from *Young Frankenstein*

[Standing in a laboratory, wearing a white coat and a stethoscope.]

Dr. Frankenstein: *This is the moment. Well dear, are you ready?*

Inga (lab assistant): *Yes, Doctor.*

Dr. Frankenstein: *Elevate me!*

Inga: *Now? Right Here?*

Dr. Frankenstein: *Yes! Yes, raise the platform!*

Inga: *Oh! The Platform! Oh that, yes.*

[Dr. Frankenstein's assistants begin to intensely prepare.]

Dr. Frankenstein: *From that fateful day when stinking bits of slime first crawled from the sea and shouted to the cold stars, "I am man!," our greatest dread has always been the knowledge of our mortality. But tonight, we shall hurl the gauntlet of science into the frightful face of death itself.*

[The platform ascends, with Dr. Frankenstein standing on it, to the top of the laboratory, and into the sky.]

Dr. Frankenstein: *Tonight we shall ascend into the heavens. We shall mock the earthquake. We shall command the thunders and penetrate into the very womb of impervious nature herself.*

Dr. Frankenstein: *Get ready! Get set! Go!*

[Dr. Frankenstein puts on goggles and watches his monster closely. An assistant in the laboratory below pulls a large lever.]

Dr. Frankenstein: *Throw the second switch! Throw the third switch!*

Assistant: *Not the third switch!*

Dr. Frankenstein: *Throw it, I say! Throw it!*

[The third switch is thrown: Lightning. Thunder. Glass breaking].

Dr. Frankenstein: *Life! Life, do you hear me? Give my creation life!*

[The camera zooms in, onto the creation's face, anticipating life.]

It

kind of reminds you of church, the preacher beating on you and yelling, "*Life! Life... Give my creation life!*"

That's not actually how you make a person.
That's how you make a monster.

That's not how you make the New Adam.
It's how you make the old adam—the false adam.

I'm trying to say that you can't make good choices, and if you think you do, you make yourself a monster.

Likewise, you can't make good people with legislation, policies, programs and your knowledge of good and evil. And if you think you do, you are making monsters, dictators, and Pharisees.

Understand? Explaining how it is that we are to live the Christian life and where it is that good deeds come from is almost exactly like explaining to a five-year-old where it is that babies come from...

You actually cannot make good choices, but you can and will give birth to good choices . . . called Wisdom.

I couldn't actually show you how Susan and I made fruit because it happened in private—in the sanctuary of our covenant—where we celebrate communion.

And I actually can't show you how Jesus produces a good choice in you because it happens in private—in the garden of your heart—when you surrender to Him, The Word of God, who is the Promised Seed (*sperma* in Greek).

Jesus said, *"Apart from me you can do nothing."* And He is Wisdom.

Saint Paul wrote, *"Don't you know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For as it is written, 'the two shall become one flesh.' But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him"* (1 Cor. 6:16-17)

That's "him" who is Wisdom—*Yeshua*, which is Aramaic for *Joshua*, which in English is *Jesus*, which in all languages means, *"Yahweh is Helper... or Savior."*

In Joshua 24:15, Joshua gathers all Israel at Shechem and says, *"Choose this day whom you will serve...As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."* They all say, *"We will also serve the Lord."* (verse 18) And Joshua says, *"You are not able to serve the Lord."* (verse 19)

- ✓ So logically, the only way you can choose to serve the Lord, who is the Good, is to become part of Joshua's house...
- ✓ Which means becoming his very own body and blood,
- ✓ Which means becoming Joshua's bride...

- ✓ Or it means being adopted or maybe born again as his brother, sister, son of daughter . . . or maybe mother.

Jesus said, “*The one who does the will of my father in heaven is my brother sister and mother.*”

When you do the will of God, you have been like impregnated by Jesus and give birth to Jesus—God’s Will in flesh, Christ’s Spirit (the Spirit of *God*) in flesh, the Body of Christ.

I’m saying that the Word of God, which is the Will of God, which is the Wisdom of God, is living and active.

There have been a few times in prayer, praying for someone when an idea—a *logos*—has popped into my head, I’ve spoken it and realize it was the Word of God because it cut like a knife or made demons flee.

- And I’ve had the distinct impression that I didn’t make that Word, but that that Word made me.
- I didn’t speak that Word as much as God spoke the Word that manifested as me, me speaking Wisdom.

And I bet you speak wisdom everyday . . .
It’s not only when a miracle happens.
It’s anytime you speak in faith, hope and love.

And I bet you speak the good, and do the good, everyday, but you probably don’t remember doing the good, cause you weren’t trying to be good.

On Judgment day, Jesus will say, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink.” “I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”
You’ll say, “Lord when did I do that? I don’t remember that?”

Well, maybe you don’t remember cause you weren’t trying to be good?
You just were good.

In the language of Ecclesiastes, God gave you the power to *enjoy the good*.

If you must try to be good, because you don’t *enjoy the good*, it means that you fake the good in order to gain the bad, which is very, very not good.

So last week a few people asked me, “Should I even try to do the good?”

LISTEN CLOSELY:

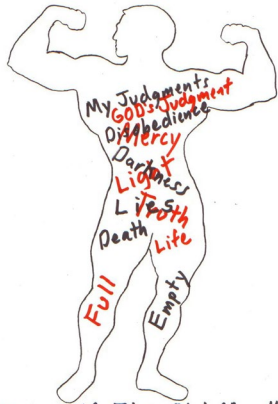
YES!!! You should try to do the good the way a two-year-old tries to dance . . . because they want to dance and they enjoy dancing.

YES!!! You should try to do the good the way a mother tries to push out that baby . . . She wants that baby . . . but she alone cannot make a baby!

YES!!! Six days you shall labor and one day you shall not labor . . . You shall stop, *shabbat*, and sit before the Judgment of God.

Get the picture?

Me being created
in Space and Time



"Putting Off The Old Man"
and "Putting On The New Man"

We're all a mixed bag:

Some New Man and some old man; Some good will and some bad will;

And like Jesus said, we can't "*separate the wheat from the tares*,"

. . . even in the field that is our own heart.

Well, if you *want* to be good, if nothing in you wants to be good, you're entirely lost, you don't even want to be good. But if you want to be good at all, then, *try* to be good, *willing* the good with whatever good will you've got—even if it's the size of a seed.

In other words: labor—The Good in you is struggling against the evil in you.

Labor, then sit before the Judgment of God.

That means expose your mixed-up self to the Light that is Jesus.

Say something like: "*Jesus I'm a mess, and I can't sort it out!*"

"You're faithful to your bride, but I'm thinking about being unfaithful to mine."

"You love your neighbor, but my neighbor got a promotion and I'm envious."

"You're humble, but this criticism is really bothering me—I can't sort it out."

"You speak Truth in Love—I need wisdom, because it seems I don't know how."

“God I confess ‘me’—and I need you. And I need you.”

SEE?

The Judgment of God is the Light that exposes the old man and the fire that burns him away. Grace does not validate your old man; Grace destroys your old man. And the Judgment of God is Jesus who meets His Bride in her place of shame, as if it were a womb, and impregnates that empty place with Himself. And He is the Promised Seed. He is Wisdom.

All I’m saying is labor . . . stop . . . and confess your sin . . . and receive God’s Grace. Then labor, stop, and confess your sin, and receive God’s grace.
Then labor, stop, and confess your sin, and receive God’s grace.
And you will give birth to love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faith and self-control.

And you will give birth to more and more good choices.
You will give birth to the Will of God, which is the Judgment of God.
You will give birth to Love in Flesh, and God is Love.
You will give birth to Wisdom in flesh—the very Body of Christ...

In other words,
You will know because you’ve been known.
You will know not because you took knowledge in fear trying to create yourself, justify yourself, and save yourself.
You will know because Wisdom gave you Himself in your place of shame.
You will know because you’ve been known by Love.

*Don’t know much about history
Don’t know much biology
Don’t know much about a science book,
Don’t know much about the French I took.
But I do know that I love you and I know that if you loved me to, what a wonderful world this would be.*

And Wisdom responds,

“I have loved you since before the world began, and I have arranged everything that you would sing me that song to me. You can’t win my Love, for I have always given you my love, you just couldn’t yet receive my love. I consigned all to disobedience, that I might have mercy on all . . . that all might see my Judgment of Love, and desire my Love . . . and surrender to my Love, and bear my Life, which is more Love.”

Wisdom is Jesus, and Jesus is the *Eschatos* Adam—the ultimate man, whom God made a “life giving spirit.”

You see?

If Jesus is the *Eschatos* Adam, I think that makes all of us the *Eschatos* Eve.
In the Old Testament, Yahweh is the husband and Jerusalem is His bride.

(Actually... a harlot, whom Yahweh makes his bride.)

In the New Testament Jesus is the bridegroom and we are His Bride.

(All of us sinners, that He makes saints)

He makes His Bride at His bleeding side.

If Jesus is the *Eschatos* Adam, I think that makes all of us the *Eschatos* Eve.

In the garden, Eve schemed to take the knowledge of the Good—in order to make herself good, in the image of God.

You see?

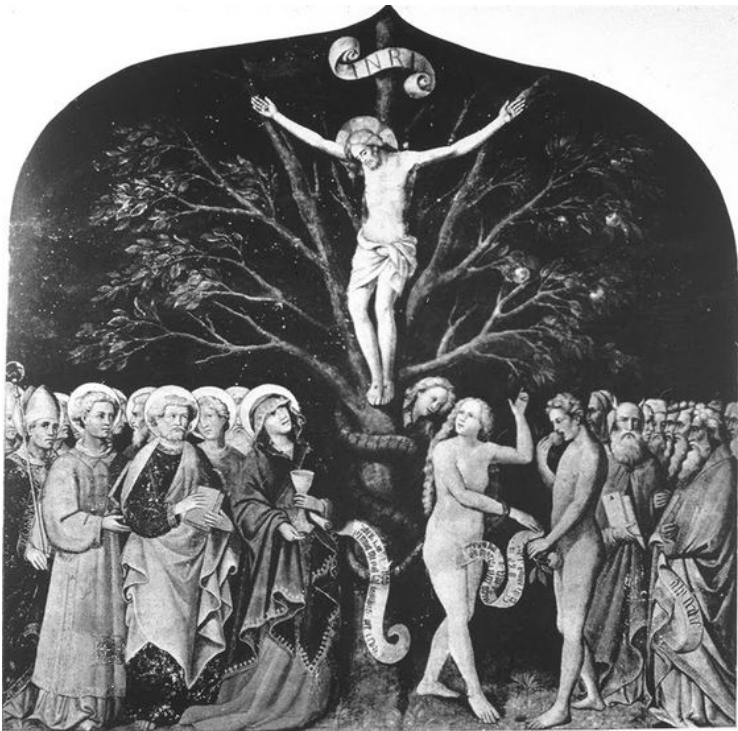


Figure 1 "The Fall and Redemption of Man" by Giovanni da Modena

In some profound way, the Good—in flesh—must've been hanging on that tree.

That is, Wisdom in flesh must've been hanging on that tree.

Jesus, our husband and our helper, must've been hanging on that tree in the garden.

And, like a harlot, she took his life to make her own life.

And that describes you, and me, and all of humanity.

And that describes all our sin . . .

For on a tree in a garden, in perhaps the very same spot according to Orthodox Jews...

- On a tree in a garden we took the Life of Wisdom, lusting for knowledge that we could control.
- And there, God gave the Life of Wisdom, so we would surrender control.

And that describes all our sin and all God's Grace.

- It is there we consume His body broken and blood shed, like a seed.
- And it is there in the garden that is our heart that the Seed comes to life and rises from the dead in the womb that is your soul.

Wisdom in us, is God's Life rising from the dead in us.
It's knowledge of evil and Good, that's no longer dead, but now alive.

We are the Bride of Wisdom and the Mother of wisdom.
And we are giving birth to the Body of Christ.

A believer doesn't just have knowledge of the Good. They are the living presence of the Good. And they speak the Good and do the Good at the right time in the right place, for they are surrendered to the Good—the living Good—He is Wisdom.

In other words, we know because we've first been known. We love because He first loved us. And love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things.

So what can you do? Nothing.
And what does love do in you? Everything.
And all things are possible for him who trusts Love. And God is Love (Mark 9).

You know this already:
It's not a government program that changes the world.
It's not some legislation passed by the House or the Senate.
It's not some knowledge of Good that could be written down in a book.
It's a Word of Love spoken from a dying man, hanging on a tree . . .
 To the ones who nailed Him to that tree.
It's the Word of Love then spoken, or shared, in a hug or a glance . . .
 That you just can't fake.
It's the Logos of Love, who is the Living Wisdom of God that animates you . . .
 When you believe.

If people think you give them a hug as part of a church program, you won't be a witness to Love. But if you give them a hug, because you enjoy the Good, they just might encounter the Good and then seek the Good, and surrender to the Good—who is Wisdom.

I'm grateful for C.S. Lewis and Karl Barth and Billy Graham, because they explain love. But I have met Love in people like my Dad, and my youth pastor, and people like you.

I hope you realize that you are the church missions program.
Sometimes people will ask, *"How can I help the church?"*
And this is my best answer: "Come to the Sanctuary, and let yourself be judged by Jesus, then commune with Jesus, and be known by Jesus (period)!"

If you trust His Love, then you will love... and Love does everything.

And if you say, *"How does that look?"*
I will say, *"I have ideas, but I don't know—YOU are the Body of Wisdom."*

So let me sum up:

- You can't make good choices, but you can give birth to good choices.
- You can't build the Body of Christ, but you can give birth to the Body of Christ.
- And you can't create yourself, but you are giving birth to yourself—your true and eternal self.

So, Solomon couldn't find wisdom or comprehend wisdom, but Wisdom found Solomon, and Solomon became Wisdom.

Solomon means Prince of Peace...

So, that old Solomon was a shadow of the true Solomon, the Prince of Peace and Son of David.

And Solomon built a temple, which was a shadow of the Body of Christ.

And Solomon had a thousand scheming wives, a shadow of the Bride of Christ.

Solomon is like a womb in which the true Solomon is revealed.

Solomon couldn't find Wisdom, but Wisdom found Solomon.

Solomon said, "I will be wise," that's Solomon's Judgment.

And Wisdom said, "I will be Solomon," that's God's judgment.

Solomon had one other name given to him by Nathan the prophet.

It is Jedidiah, and it means, "Beloved of the Lord."

You may not know about much,

But if you know you are beloved of the Lord, you are wise.

You no longer judge, and yet you are God's Judgment.

You are the living Body of Wisdom walking through a fallen world.

I don't know who you should've voted for.

And I don't know what legislation should be passed.

And I actually don't think it matters.

Wisdom was born into the worst political environment you could ever imagine.

- They wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and placed Him in a manger.
- The principalities and powers of this world opposed Him His entire life.
- And at the end of His life, the legislature—political and religious legislature—schemed together and nailed Him to a tree in a garden.

And that was the end . . .

But the End is simply the Beginning...

Communion

For on the sixth day, He took bread and broke it saying, “This is my Body given to you. Take and Eat.” And He took the cup saying, “This is the covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it, all of you.”

You’re not saved by your *“knowledge of the Good.”*
You’re saved by the Good, and now you know Him.

He is Wisdom.

So come to the table and communion with Him, and then let’s sing His praises and never stop. Amen doesn’t mean this is the end. Amen means “for sure.” Amen. Amen

Benediction

Do you know what holy means? (Response from congregation) “Set apart.” Yes, “set apart,” “strange,” “weird,” and God is holy; He’s different than you. He’s absolute love, and yet He’s making you in His image.

The way He does it is a little freaky, and scary, but absolutely wonderful because right now you are pregnant with holiness. Isn’t that amazing? In fact, God allows you to have a bad week. Do you know why? I can’t totally explain, but I think this could be a reason. So that you would come to Him and say, “I need Wisdom; I need you Jesus.” And He has waited since the foundation of the world to hear you say that. In this world we’re learning to say that. We’re learning to depend on Him as He transforms us from one degree of glory to another.

“We love because He first loved us,” since the foundation of the world. So, you see? It’s not OK for you to think, “God doesn’t love me.” Did you get that? It’s not OK. That’s something I learned when praying through weird demonic stuff. It is not OK for you to think that God doesn’t love you, that God hasn’t forgiven you, that God is not attracted to you.

This is amazing! At communion the night that Jesus was betrayed, the night of the last supper He says this in the Gospel of Luke (and this is all about language) the word that gets translated as love is *epithumeo*. It means intense desire. *“In lust I have lusted to eat this meal with you.”* That’s nuts! That’s holy! And that’s how God feels

about you. All I'm saying is believe the Gospel; it means good news: God is nuts about you. You have been known by Love, and you will love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Disclaimer: This document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.