

Seeing things in context

2 Corinthians 5:13-17

¹³ *If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.* ¹⁴ *For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.* ¹⁵ *And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.* ¹⁶ *So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.* ¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

NOTICE THE SEQUENCE OF THOUGHT:

1. *We may appear to be crazy..... but*
2. *The love of Christ is compelling us in how we think and act*
3. *Because we are convinced that He died for all*
4. *And now we who live should no longer be living for ourselves but for Him [and the others for whom He died]*
5. *Therefore we look at people and situations differently*
 - a. *Not according to the natural way of thinking*
 - b. *But according to the heart-cry of God*
6. *Because we are new creations in Christ – we supernaturally see things differently*

Verse 16 above is translated in the following ways ... “from now on we *recognize, regard, evaluate, judge, or know* no one according to the *flesh, worldly, or human point of view*...”

If we are not “evaluating” people according to the “*human point of view*” then how DO we evaluate or judge them??!?! Jesus said concerning Himself, “I can do nothing on My own initiative. *As I hear, I judge*; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” [John 5:30]

In following Jesus – in living in and according to Jesus – we no longer see people through natural eyes..... but – instead, through HIS EYES, spiritual eyes. Of course we see them with love - for HE LOVED them to the point that He died for them [*as well as for us*]. He continues to love them now and desires to love them through us. That certainly gives to us different view-point than the one of the natural-man.

In seeing others as God sees them we also realize that each man is a spiritual creature as well as a physical-mental-emotional entity. We ‘see’ the spirit man of others by the spirit, not just by the intellect or whatever is in the natural man. In seeing them by the Spirit we begin to know the love of God and the purposes of God for them. We set aside our natural-man views, by the Spirit, and embrace the God-view of the other. In that moment we become the heart and hand of God reaching for someone whether saved or unsaved, rich or poor, sick or well, happy or hurting. Just as Jesus once reached, He now reaches through you and through me as we yield to His call and purpose.

So.....whenever we attempt to know or understand or minister to a person, that SPIRITUAL understanding is essential. What is God seeing and saying? How can we minister to him if we have no idea of the destiny which God has prepared for him? What spiritual oppression or hindrances or bondages is that person struggling and dealing with? How can we even begin to really relate to someone if we have no clue as to what really is driving him?

For Example: Some people seem driven to get more money and stuff– it could be simple greed and stupidity, but it could also be a spiritual force driving a particular individual. It could be a spirit of greed or a spirit of competition or a spirit of fear or simple unbelief or, or....*[only God knows what!]* If we know him by the flesh we might assume that he is simply more selfish than anyone else we know. If we know him by the spirit we will also discover a lot more about him and his struggles as well as more love, compassion, understanding, and God's unique ability to help him.

Jesus thoroughly understood this and could say, ***"I do nothing on My own initiative... He who sent Me is with Me..... for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."*** [Jn.8:29]

While natural men have tended to automatically turn to the brain or some memory bank, Jesus ALWAYS turned to the Father. As new creatures we are uniquely equipped to tap into God's abundant supply for us and for those in our world by simply agreeing that ***"from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view"***. As new creatures we know that, ***"...the old has gone, the new is here!"***

Let's live like it!