

PK's Perspectives ... Be Loved.

We are always comparing ourselves to one another and if somebody acts like they are better than us, it can make us very frustrated inside and we get sad or angry or bitter about it. In creation, God wired us so that He tells us who we are, and outside that relationship with our Creator — the relationship that says we are loved and valuable and beautiful, we don't have any worth at all. I mean, I really started wondering if maybe a human is defined by who loves him. I know it sounds terrible, because we have always grown up believing that a person is valuable even if nobody loves them, and I certainly agree with that because God made everybody and the Bible very clearly states He loves everybody. But, as Paul said, if that relationship is disturbed, the relationship between God and man, then we feel the desire to be loved and respected by other people instead of God, and if we don't get love and respect from other people, we feel very sad or angry because we know that our glory is at stake, that if there isn't some glory being shone through us by somebody who has authority, we'll be dead inside, like a little light will go out and our souls will feel dark, like nothing can grow there.

Even Jesus's glory comes from the Father (2 Peter 1:17), which I take to mean that even Christ, a perfect Being, was valuable because God loved Him. And I realize that this sounds weak and codependent, but what if a person isn't supposed to be alone, isn't supposed to have glory on his own, but rather get glory from the God who loves him? What if, in the same way the sun feeds the plants, God's glory gives us life? What if our value exists because God takes pleasure in us? I know it isn't a very Marlboro-man way to live your life, but what if the Marlboro-man way of life really stinks and makes you lonely all the time, and what if the way of Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit is true — that we will ultimately be fulfilled when we are walking in intimacy with God and, in His companionship, we know who we are? What if when we are with God, we know the joy of His glory, we feel His love for us and know, in a way infinitely more satisfying than a parent's love or a lover's love, that we matter?

It makes sense that if a plant is separated from the sun, it dies, and that if people are separated from God, they will die. What we really need is God. What we really need is Someone who loves us so much we don't worry about death, about our hair thinning, about other drivers pulling in front of us on the road, about whether people are poor or rich, good-looking or ugly, about whether we feel lonely or about what clothes we wear. We need this so we can love other people purely and not for selfish gain, we need this so we can see everybody as equal, we need this so our relationships can be sincere, we need this so we can stop kicking ourselves around, we need this so we can lose all self-awareness and find ourselves for the first time — not by realizing some dream, but by being told who we are by the only One who has the authority to know, by that I mean our Father, our Creator. (*adapted from Searching for God Knows What*)

Colossians 1:27 “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Christ really is the hope of glory we desperately desire. Johnny Lee sings, “Looking for love in all the wrong places, looking for love in too many faces, searching their eyes looking for traces of what I'm dreaming of...” Only the face of Christ can satisfy the human heart. Grace & peace, PK.