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Judgment Pt. 4

Review:

- What judgment is: dividing, not punishment
- Dividing between first and second – What these are.
- Blueprints vs. House – we're in the second.
- He takes away the first to establish the second
 - Finished in his view, but we are coming to that view.
 - Judgment working in us.

And what I said last week was that we are in Christ, but often without judgment. We are in Christ but we continue to judge according to man's judgment. We have not become a manifestation of his judgment. His dividing.

And we've looked at this in times past when we've looked at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. You see, its one tree. One single tree with both good and evil fruit on it. Well, who's going to decide which is which? Who gets to decide which is good and which is evil? Well, you do. The one that lives by it. Anybody can. We just do what is right in our own sight.

And, in that specific way, eating it made Adam and Eve like God. They got to be judge. But that didn't make them righteous. That didn't give them life. You see that was Satan's trick. And there was truth in his lie, as there often is. If you eat of it you will be like God. Well, not like Him in nature and character and life, but like him in being the source of judgment.

And we still live like that today apart from the mind of Christ. Who decides what is good or bad fruit? Anybody! And that is how we live when the judgment is according to good and evil rather than the living and the dead.

And, sadly to say, that is what much of Christianity has become. It is the reproduction of certain types of behavior that we are taught make us like God. How do I act like God? Do this and don't do that. Don't say that, don't do that, don't eat that, start doing this. But then its just a free-for-all as to who makes up the rules.

This one preacher over here told me I can't say that. But then another brother comes up to me and says "who told you that you couldn't say that, its ok to say that word, just not this other word that sounds like it". "Who told you not to do that. You can do that, just look at this verse over here. Jesus did something like that here. So you can go do it to."

"This church said I'm not allowed to do that. Well, I'm gonna go see what another church says. I think a Christian should be allowed to do that." Do you see? Its become about certain behaviors. Its become **about us deciding** whatever we think Jesus would do if he were in our situation. What would Jesus do? We know that that

concept has infiltrated the body of Christ. Like I said, we are in Christ without judgment.

You see, that concept is not the judgment. In reality, that is missing the judgment entirely. That is entirely the wrong tree. **His** judgment brings you to a place where it is no longer "what part of me is right, and what part of me is wrong". And it becomes "what is me, and what is Christ"

Remember the midget analogy? We're not comparing midgets to midgets. The revealing of Christ unveils what is Him and what is not Him – NOT "what part of me is like Him".

It begins to work in your heart. And you see that salvation is not about you being good and not bad. Your salvation is you being dead and Christ being your life.

Here's the simple truth. **Even your goodness is unrighteousness. Even your righteousness is filthy rags.** God is not seeking to extract from you some improvement to human behavior. God is seeking to bring forth from you the life of His Son. And yes, that will in time change your behavior.

But that's not the way we like it. Truly, we'd rather have it any other way. We would so much rather have a preacher come in here and preach radical holiness, hell-fire and brimstone telling us what we can't do, shouldn't' do...**as long as he ends up telling us what we can do.**

Do you see that? I'll do anything you want, God, just don't kill me. I'll give you everything I have, just don't take me from me. I like me. I'll log whatever hours are necessary for this thing, just don't take me out of center stage here.

Tell me I screwed up, just don't tell me that I have no life but Christ. Tell me that Jesus made me something good because I was bad, but don't tell me that Christ didn't make me anything, but rather He was made all things unto me.

1 Cor. 1:30 "Christ was made unto you wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption".

No, the Father isn't after just a different sort of behavior from you. The Father is after the increase of His planted Seed through you.

And let me just say something about the fruit that comes from that Seed. When I saw this it was quite liberating to me. The fruit from that tree is first inward, and it is fruit for the Father. What do I mean?

Those are both really big topics that could be entire sermons themselves. What is fruit? Well, any time you see anything in Scripture about fruit, bearing fruit for God, the fruit of good works, it is always the increase of Christ. The increased manifestation of Jesus Christ in and through you is fruit, is spiritual growth, is transformation, is sanctification, is righteousness, is good works, is effectual ministry, is love, etc. Fruit – the increase of His planted Seed. We have to settle that.

What is fruit on a branch? It is the sap from the vine moving through the branch forming a piece of fruit. But listen, first of all that fruit is inward. Before there is an outward manifestation of that sap, there is the inward flowing of that sap.

Can you see what I mean? First the sap has to gain ground in the branch if there is ever going to be any outward manifestation. And from the outside nobody can really see that inward flowing of sap. Nobody can see if there is fruit on the inside of the branch. Well, in you the Father can see it. Its His fruit. He planted the Seed. And its real, and its fruit, even before someone else can eat of it...if it has begun to move in the branch.

But we have so often only measured fruit by the size of the ministry, by the number of "converts", by the outward smile on the face, by the sharing your candy bar with an enemy. All of these things may or may not be the outworking of the indwelling Christ. All of these things can be mimicked by man. But fruit is first of all inward. And what makes it the Father's fruit is that it came out of the Seed.

Fruit is first of all inward, and it is for the Father. And maybe there are things in you, of you, that are coming to death, and something else of Christ is taking shape. But maybe there has not been any outward manifestation as of yet. What I'm telling you is that its still fruit. Its still Christ. The Father is still seeing His Son.

If there was an apple tree in the middle of a swamp where there were no people or animals, and that apple tree had hundreds of apples every year that were never seen let alone eaten by others, it would still be producing fruit. **It doesn't become fruit when somebody eats it. It doesn't become Christ when somebody else sees it.** Fruit is fruit. Christ is Christ.

And yes it certainly does grow into a form that can be eaten by others. Yes, that is wonderful. They can know us by our love. We can share that fruit with one another. That's great. But I'm just saying that the seeing of it doesn't make it fruit. Think about the fruit of the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, patience...etc. Someone doesn't have to see patience. Sometimes you can't see such things. They're internal. But they are the fruit of His Seed regardless of who sees them.

I hope that takes a little of the burden off of you to produce something that you can point at and say "there it is!". All you have to worry about is abiding in the vine. Branches grow because of that joining. Fruit naturally comes out of that union.

All of that came out of saying that the Father is not simply looking for a certain type of behavior out of you. The Father is seeking to make you into a "vessel of honor, sanctified and useful to the master". What is a vessel of honor? Only a vessel that once contained something of the earth, and now contains and pours out something of the heavens.

Which, incidentally, is what I believe Jesus was trying to show us at the wedding feast in Cana. 7 vessels of dishonor suddenly turned into 7 clay vessels of honor. 7 earthen vessels of water turned into vessels of the greatest wine ever tasted. And that at a wedding...a union.

Paul says "we have this treasure in earthen vessels so that the excellence of it may be seen to be of God and not of us".

Ok...lets get back on track. The judgment. All of this is impossible without the judgment working in us. You will only ever be a vessel of your own judgments, your own thoughts, actions, emotions, apart from this judgment.

And what I'm saying is that the problem is not that we're not in Christ. Its that we're in Christ without judgment. We're seated in Him, joined to Him, alive in Him, but our hearts are so ignorant, so lacking light that all we know to do is sit in darkness trying to figure out what God wants us to do, rather than manifesting his Life because there's been judgment in our hearts.

Well, how does judgment come? It comes in the appearing of the Lord. It comes in the coming of light. It comes in the revelation of Jesus Christ, the one who is the light. "In His light you see light" – and then darkness becomes an entire first creation to you. Darkness becomes to you EVERYTHING that is not revealed in Christ. Darkness becomes every natural thought you have apart from the mind of Christ. Darkness becomes bigger than just evil deeds or evil thoughts. Darkness becomes everything that is not light.

And that's our problem. That was my problem this week. Sitting there in outer darkness, trying to understand spiritual things that are only understood in the coming of Light.

But then light comes. When does light come? In the revealing of Christ. When does that happen? Whenever a heart turns to the Lord. When we look to Him like little children and say "Father, open my eyes!" "Father, reveal your Son in me!"

And when light comes that judgment begins to work in us. How does it work in us. Well, more ways than we could count. But lets just take a little time and see how it works in us in relating to other people. That's what I wanted to hit today.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17. I'll just read it first and then we'll try to unpack it.

14 for the love of the Christ controls us, having judged thus: that if one for all died, then all died,
15 and for all he died, that those living, no more themselves may live, but him who died for them, and was raised again. *(the prepositions "for" or "to" are not found in the original Greek. i.e. it is not live "for themselves, etc)*
16 Therefore we now know no one according to the flesh, and even if we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him no more in this way;
17 therefore if any one 'is' in Christ -- he is a new creature; the old things did pass away, lo, all things have become new.

Ok, first Paul starts by saying that the love of Christ, Christ's very love is controlling him, constraining him. He starts by telling us that the life of another, Christ's very affections are controlling him. Don't read over that lightly. That's an amazing statement. How did that start happening in you, Paul?

How? Here's the key sentence – "having judged thus". Paul says "well, its because of a judgment that I have. A judgment that I've seen. Not a judgment that originates from me. No, it's a judgment that has been revealed in me. It's a judgment that has been done to me. A taking away of the first and an establishing of the second. The love of Christ controls me, **having judged thus:**"

What do you mean, Paul? What is this judgment that causes the love of Christ to constrain you?

Well, ok...I'll tell you the judgment. Vs. 14 "since He died for all, all have died. So that now, those that are living no more themselves live, but the one who died and rose again". There's the judgment.

One died for all, all died, now He's the life of all who live. That's it. That's the judgment that is working in me.

What is that doing in you, Paul? How is that working in you?

The next verse: "therefore now we know no one according to the flesh"

What does that mean? Well, Paul might say. "Well I've seen that the old man, the flesh, all of Adam has been crucified with Christ. The old man, the old creation, the first. All of it is without life. All of it was crucified with Christ. And that the body of believers has now become, because of this judgment, the temple of the living God. It has become the branch of His life. I see that He has taken away the first and established the second. A spiritual house, a spiritual body, a spiritual kingdom.

How is it effecting me? Well, I can no longer, in my thinking, in my feeling, in my thoughts about you, in my values connected with you, I can no longer base them upon what is dead, upon what you were, upon what is irrelevant, upon what doesn't even exist in Christ. I can no longer see you that way. Its not just that I know I shouldn't, its that I cannot. I cannot relate to you according that which is not even life! A judgment has come in. I don't relate to you according to the flesh.

The place of connection is no longer things we have in common in the flesh. All of that seems meaningless now. The place of connection has become a person – the one who is the life of all that live.

Paul would say, You see, concerning you and me, when He died, we both died with Him. And that judgment is working in my heart. Its not something I'm trying to see. Its something that is just happening in me as Christ is revealed.

And now I simply cannot try to find relationship with you according to realms and realities that don't even exist in Christ. Those things are being put away from my heart as they have already been put away by the cross. Black, white, Jew, Greek, male, female, age, common interests, good badminton player, etc. Relationship, true fellowship, has nothing to do with these things. They don't even exist in Christ. These things can be enjoyed by those who are in Christ, they don't cease to exist on earth...but they are not the place or the reality of connection.

"One died for all, therefore all died...and now He's the life of all who live". And therefore, because of that judgment, I know you, I relate to you, I perceive you, I enjoy you, entirely according to the Life that we both share.

That has become the point of connection. That has become that which we share. That has become the joy of my heart to be with you, to think of you, the joy of our time together. The one that we share. The life that we share.

And that life that I see and enjoy in you now works in me. And that's why Paul can say "the love of Christ constrains me". Why? "Having judged thus". Having come to know this judgment. You see, it's all about this division working in his heart. A division where the first is put away and the second is established. And now he sees all things according to the second. Now he is defined by the second. Now the second is working in Him. The love of Christ controls him.

Verse 16 So that we now know no one according to the flesh, and even if we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him no more in this way;
17 so that if any one 'is' in Christ -- 'he is' a new creature; the old things did pass away, lo, all things have become new.

You see, we don't even know Christ according to the flesh. I don't know how much I want to get into that this morning. But listen, we do not truly come to know Christ as a man, the Nazarene. The babe born in the manger. We don't just know Him by things He did while in the flesh, things He said, things he taught. Coming to know Jesus is not a studying of his life in the flesh.

Coming to know Jesus is a participation in His life. That is why Jesus could tell all of the crowds that "no one has known the Father but the Son, and no one has known the Son except the Father". Well, there is just one way to know Life – and that is to partake of that life. You will only know me when I have become your life. You will only grow in the knowledge of me when I, who am your life, is revealed.

You can watch me, study me, take notes on my words, actions, behavior. You can memorize my sayings, you can fall in love with my kindness. You can enjoy my love for you. You can stand amazed at my righteousness. You can be comforted by my words. But all of that is you observing me. You liking me. You amazed at me.

But if you really want to know Me, you have to know Me in the resurrection. You have to know me in the power of my resurrection. You have to know Me as life. "I am the resurrection and the Life". And Paul cries out "oh, to know Him in the power of His resurrection." Brothers and sisters that was not Paul crying out to see more healings.

So, Paul could say to his readers..."some of you probably knew Jesus according to the flesh...but that wasn't even really a true knowing of Him". The apostles knew Him intimately that way for 3 years and were still entirely blind and helpless until His life was in them and began to be revealed.

How do we truly know Jesus? By sharing his life. How do we truly come to relate to one another in His body? By sharing His life. By relating according to that life. Why? Because there's been a division. Flesh gives birth to flesh, spirit gives birth to spirit. The flesh profits nothing, the spirit gives life. When one died, all died. And now those who live, live by his life, live in Him.

And now, if anyone is IN CHRIST, there is a new creation. Old things have passed away – and now they are passing out of your heart. They passed away at the cross, but now they are passing out of you through this judgment. Now they are no longer the basis of relating to people or to Christ.

Its no longer watching the Nazarene in amazement. Its abiding in the resurrected Son. Now its no longer looking for things I have in common with you. Its fellowshipping together in the light. In the life.

Now its not – I like you because you can tell a funny joke or because you are my cousin. Now its – the love of Christ controls me. Why? Having judged thus. Having seen the judgment. Having become a manifestation of a judgment that takes away the first and establishes the second.