

## Mirror, Mirror... Part 4: "Humanly Centered!"

By Cere Muscarella

"Receive with meekness the implanted word of God which is able *to save your soul*. Be a doer of the word and not a hearer only, which would be to deceive yourself. *But if anyone is a hearer and a doer, he is like a man who sees himself in the mirror of God's word and never forgets who he is!*" **James 1.21-24, flipside**

**Whatever images we see of believers in the word of God, we fit ourselves into it!**

**Mirror, mirror...**

***Called to be people of integrity/self-control in facing self-indulgent offers!*** "All (lawful) things are lawful but not all things get us there!" **1Cor 6.12 10.23**

***Joy-fueled, animated (10), unhindered Praiser's and Worshipper's!*** **Psalm 149**

***"Defier's of the reign and timed-rules of Death"*** **Hebrews 2.14,15**

***Today, "Humanly Centered:" well balanced, locking the central point in our souls!***

**Getting humanly centered!** "And God said, Let us make man in our *image* (resemblance) and *likeness* (model, shape) and let them have *rule* over the earth... and He blessed the male and female He created and said, 'be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and have *rule* over it!'" **Genesis 1.26-28**

We were 'wrought' by the cohort (pl) of Father, Son and Holy Spirit... **Gen 1.26** Created in their image and form... **v27** Given rule in a 'created space...' **v28, 2.8** Gave it away to the original sinner... **Is14** "by one man *sin entered into the world*, and *death* by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." **R5** Got so good at adapting to and adopting darkness, **John 3.19,20** that...

"the Lord said, Take a look, they are united in their will for a new identity; they are communicating, and this is just the beginning of their designs, and now nothing will be too hard for them... whatever they imagine they will be able to accomplish! Let us go down and confound their language so that they can't understand each other... and they were scattered!" **Genesis 11.6-8**

We were given a Godly start! Creative coding and brilliant minds to accomplish anything! **Gen 1** To be a blessing in our partnership with God in ruling over earth! **Gen 2** It became our curse, twisted under the dominion of our enemy! **Gen 3** And our corrupted wills went to war with God!

**How do we explain...**

Wars?

Rape?

Abuse?

Divorce?

Lying?

Cheating?

Adultery?

Cohabitation?

Abortion?

Other premeditated crimes?

Crimes of opportunity?

Prejudice?

Compromises?

Self-reliance?

Random acts of violence?

**All our sins are the result of our fallen will being exercised against God's will! God can't stop sin without wiping out fallen (saved w/unsaved) mankind! He's not going to do that until the 'right time!' Until then God cannot stop the nonsense of our broken wills!**

**The Broken Will...** A thousand times 'we' are called to do what is right... To choose God's ways over 'ours...' To turn from 'our' dark ways and bad choices... and we still struggle daily! **The theological explanation is called the natural depravity of man...** The reality is that without Jesus there is no truly good thing in us!

#### **World Survey...**

90% of respondents say they have *a personal commitment to Jesus...*

89% say it's important *to develop a deeper relationship with God...*

88% believe the Bible is *actually His Word...*

86% say it's important *to increase their understanding of God!*

52% believe people are *basically "good..."* **And that doesn't agree with Christian Doctrine!**

**Mirror, mirror...** "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." **Gen 6.5** "We like sheep have gone astray, turning every one to his own way, and God made the sin of us all to be laid on Him!" **Isaiah 53.6** "We are all unclean and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calls upon Your name, that stirs up himself to take hold of You: for You have hidden Your face from us, and have consumed us, because of our iniquities." **Isaiah 64.6-7** "There are none righteous, not one; none that understands, none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they have altogether become unprofitable; there is none that does good, no not one." **Romans 3.10-12** "The only rightness with God comes to those who believe, by faith, in Jesus, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God!" **Romans 3.22,23** "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned." **1Cor 2.14** "When I want to do good, I find evil is present with me. I love God but there is a war going on in me. O' wretched man that I am; who will deliver me from this body of death? Thank God! JESUS!" **R7**

**The Centered Points? We needed a Redeemer!** "When we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly! And God commended this love toward us in this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us..." **Romans 5.6-8** "God laid on Him, the sin of us all!" **Is 53.6** "He was the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world!" **John 1.29**

**We need our Redeemer!** Even in our saved state we *need* Him! "And if, when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by His death, much more will we be saved by His life!" **Romans 5.10** And if we realize how completely we need Him we will stop trusting in ourselves and begin trusting Him alone!

**We are valued by our Redeemers!** I thought you said we are nothing! Do you think God would sacrifice His Only Begotten, Beloved Son for nothing? **You are 'everything' to Him!** Smudged, cut, bruised, broken but He still sees us under it all... Beautiful, beloved, yearned for... Royal, whole, purchased; HIS VERY OWN

**The Central Point! We don't contribute anything to our value to Him...** We don't earn our value... We don't work for value... We don't compete for more value... He's not in it to get something from us! **We are all valued and loved because we were lovingly created in His image!**

***If we can see ourselves as 'humanly centered' and perfectly loved... the image will change everything we think or do!***

***We don't work for value, or more value, to Him... now we work from our value!***