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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.
August 2012

Who doesn't want family and friends? God has put that desire within us to have both. God is a Father, a heavenly Father, and has a family of His own and has people He calls His friend. The true God wants us to know how to be adopted into His family and how to have fellowship with Him and with the others in His family.

It begins with a messenger introducing us to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Why? Because we need to meet the Lamb in order to find fellowship in the family of God the Father.

John the Baptist was baptizing folks with a baptism of repentance when suddenly Jesus appears before him and John says, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John says that this person approaching was "before him." What did he mean? Jesus was physically born after John the Baptist. So how was Jesus "before him"?

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of people. The light shines in the darkness; and the darkness does not comprehend it...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (from John 1:1-14)

Before there was any beginning, the Word had been, and the Word has been with God, face to face, and God had been the Word. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. **At a particular time Jesus Christ became that which He was not before**, a physical being. Jesus is a divine person with a divine nature who took on a human nature in a human body.

John says, pay attention, look! Here comes the Lamb of God! He is the Word, the Creator now to be Redeemer. There is life in Him, grace and truth. He is the Incarnate Word, God in flesh.

And Jesus, the Messiah, the only Mediator between God and man, has come to declare to us the Father, to show us the Father. As John the Baptist bears witness of the Lamb of God, so also

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Jesus, the Lamb, bears witness of the Father. Jesus has the pre-eminence. He is the Son of God, God the Son.



Jesus takes away the sin of the world. Jesus is come as the Passover lamb. This Lamb of God was provided by God as an offering, foreordained before the foundation of the world, before anything was created. (1 Peter 1:18-20) Jesus came with the nature of a Lamb. He has come to give new life, new creation, through offering, the offering of Himself as a sacrifice for sin. The offering Jesus makes has power to remove every kind of sin: sin, iniquity, lawlessness, unrighteousness, lawbreaking, covenant-breaking, treachery, treason, fear, doubt, failure, unbelief, side slip, transgression.

Being the Lamb refers to Jesus being the only acceptable offering for sin, the only way to have the guilt of sin removed and God's wrath and justice satisfied. Jesus is the lamb led to slaughter, the servant of the Lord, the lamb of daily sacrifices, the scapegoat, the lamb triumphant. There is redemption through the Blood. There is reconciliation. Satan is defeated at/by the Cross. The atoning sacrifice of Jesus the Lamb is completely adequate to accomplish all that is necessary and sufficient for salvation. And salvation is about getting back to the Father.

What must we do? We must meet the Lamb! If we do, we will find that we will have fellowship with the Lamb from day one. We will follow the Lamb and find out that before we know Him, He has known us. (John 1:35-42, 47-49) When we ask Him, where do you hang out, where do you live, where are you staying, He will answer us, Come and see. (John 1:13, 39)

Jesus is the love of God offered to us. He is the light of God; the life of God. Condemnation is not first; fellowship is first.

When people come, we greet them and introduce them to the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. We want them to meet the Lamb just as we have met the Lamb. We are messengers. Our message is not that mother church saves or that a person can save himself or that angels save or that someone can be saved by keeping a set of rituals and religious duties; our message is that a person must receive Jesus, the Lamb of God. It is not enough to accept Jesus; we must receive Him into our hearts and lives. God accepts the believer, in Christ. (John 1:12, 13; Ephesians 1:4-6)

People who love darkness shun fellowship; they stay away. They do not want to come to the light. They fear exposure of their evil. When the light appears, darkness is chased away and cannot stay. Jesus is that light. (John 3:16-21)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ; and these things write we unto you, that you joy may be full. 1 John 1:1-4



Just as we have fellowship from day one of meeting the Lamb, so also we receive a new name. The first Adam named things in the creation. The Last Adam is Jesus, the Federal Head of a new creation, a new human race. He also names; and He gives us a new name and a new identity, a new future and real hope. (Romans 5:17ff; Romans 8:29, 30; John 1:42, Acts 9, e.g.; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Just as God the Son, the Word, entered into the world and became something He was not before, by the will of God, so also those who believe and receive Him enter into the kingdom of God and become something they were not before, by the will of God. God does in them a creative work. They are born out of God and receive a new name.

Simon received a *new* name: Peter, meaning ‘stone’. Peter likewise received his new name. The changing of his name implied that his entire nature would now be conformed to what was foreknown for him: a ‘stone’. Encounters regarding rocks and stones became part of Peter’s life from that time on, as we see in the letters he wrote. (Matt 16:18; 1 Peter 2:4-8)

Jesus shows us who we really are. He knew us and He knows us. He knows who we are inside and out. He knows all about us. He knows who God wants us to become.

We find our new name, our new identity as we follow the Lamb, as we live “in the Name” of Jesus.

God’s life has been given in offering, the offering up to God of Jesus’ life. Jesus offered up His life to God as a sacrifice for sin. From the cross, He cried, Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. (Luke 23:34)

People are not basically good. Jesus Himself said that there is none good but God. The divine life of Jesus Christ has been given in offering, the only offering God accepts for one to have fellowship with the Father and with others in Christ. (Matthew 19:16-26; Romans 3:23)



The forgiveness of God opens the door for those who receive Christ, who receive fellowship with the Lamb, who receive forgiveness and forgive others as Christ has forgiven them, who receive their new name and new identity, a new future and real hope. Forgiveness opens the door for God to do something new, for a new creative work, something new in quality, new in kind.

Even as believers, forgiving those who have offended us, who have wronged us, who have harmed us...asking God to forgive us for offending Him, for wronging Him, for harming Him, for thinking wrong things about Him, for refusing His love and despising His love...opens the door for God to do a new creative work in our lives as He grants us repentance and faith.

God wants to give life, to bless, to bring His power into your life. He is merciful but He is also just; He will by no means clear the guilty. Only the Blood of Jesus the Lamb can atone for sin and remove it. Only the Lamb of God can satisfy divine justice and justify the unholy. Only Jesus can save and do a new creative work in our lives.

We must find the Lamb, meet the Lamb, enter into fellowship with the Lamb, follow the Lamb, and become of the Lamb. In so doing we will find life and the light and love of God; we will find a forever family and forever friends.

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