



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, April 23, 2017

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UNION OF ONE

I love verses that encourage me in my walk with God and often just in my plain old daily walk. (Is there a difference?) I was reading recently in Malachi and read over a verse I had read many times. Don't you love it when all of a sudden something new pops out of something old?

The verse is Malachi 2:15. *Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.*

I first remember reading this verse when God impressed on me for the first time the solemnity of the marriage vow. I am saddened to say it was years after I had made that covenant. God is real serious about covenants. More on that later. The second time that a portion of this verse stuck out to me was when God pointed out that He had a purpose in making them one. He wanted Godly offspring. Well that seems straightforward. As we had children they were the result of our oneness and should be raised to become Godly offspring. Sounded real easy for me to do. That is until I look back and realize how little my striving to produce Godly offspring really produced things. Yes I took them places and walked with them along the way explaining what little I knew and telling them of the faithfulness of the Father, but for all of that when I look back I can only see the hand of God on the big changes in their lives. I still look for that movement in some where despite my best efforts they don't seem to be fully where God wants them to be.

In my most recent reading of this verse I was struck by a small phrase that I am sure God must have added into His most recent update. I had never seen it before. *"with a portion of the Spirit in their union?"* Is there truly a piece of my marriage that is a portion of the Spirit, separate from my wife or me? I know that the Spirit dwells in each of us. I have come to grips with the idea of the two of us as individuals becoming one unit permanently glued together by God. This, however, seems to say something a little more. It sounds like there is an extra, third piece added in when the two become one. A "portion" of the spirit. King James uses the word remnant. In the Old Testament the word is mostly used like residue or left over piece. The picture to me is a piece of the Spirit that is set

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aside for this union. Almost like this is the thing that binds them together. Separate from either of them and the Spirit that indwells them but together with them as one. I have in my head the picture of molten plastic. When the "molten" spirit of two mixes with the molten residue, the Spirit that is reserved for that union, they become one piece. What God has molded together, how could this ever be separated. What happens to that special piece of the Spirit designed to complete that union? It is one with the two. It can never be separated. I would argue that it can never be removed from that intended union no matter the distance of the physical beings. Three in one once again.

What a fantastic picture of the Trinity. Three yet one. A cord of three strands. The whole picture helps me understand why Jesus used marriage metaphors and word pictures to try to get across the union of us as Christians with Him. It would appear that it is His intention from the beginning to make them one. Stuck together inseparably, creating a picture of the Trinity and a picture of the life in Christ. Through our marriage, the world can see the results of this kind of work of God. Now I know why God looks so harshly on breaking covenants. To attempt to break such a bond would be to blur what God wants the nations to see clearly. It would be to give a distorted picture of God Himself. It would be to violate His name, a thing He takes very seriously. As we live out our life together in the bond as one, let us instead, honor that picture. Christian may we always show the world clearly what it means for two to become one eternally.

Rene Milner

APRIL MEMORY VERSE:

John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (ESV)

PICNIC in the PARK

On May 7th, New Life will be gathering in the Dresser city park on Main Street near the Village Hall for a picnic. The Elder Board will be providing hot dogs, chips, and water. There is no need to bring anything to contribute unless you'd like something specific for your family. We will be inviting the community to join us for some food, fellowship, and fun. Since we are having the picnic, there will be no Pot Luck meal at the building. Please bring outdoor chairs if you have them the park has limited seating. See you there at 11:30 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS:

APRIL BOOK HIGHLIGHT

Have you taken a moment to browse the tools that the Resource Center offers for children and youth? There are many great books and Bibles geared towards aiding our children's love for and study of Scripture as well as our own! This month we are featuring a book called "*Busy Books Sermon Notes*" for ages 8-12. It offers worksheets meant to keep a child in this age group engaged and participatory during the Sunday sermon and throughout the week! Stop by the Resource Center and check it out!

GRIEFSHARE

Help and encouragement is offered through GriefShare for anyone who has had a loved one die. The meetings consist of a video, group discussion and a workbook for personal use. A new 13-week season of GriefShare begins at two different times, starting Wednesday afternoon, **April 19th at 12:30 p.m.** in the green room, and Thursday evening, **April 20th at 6:30 p.m.** in the large classroom. This is available to anyone you know that may need added support and understanding.

COFFEE SERVICE

We hope you are enjoying the Sunday Morning Coffee! Just a reminder to please put your used cup in the bin at the coffee bar. We are finding empties in the funniest places...so unless you are just having fun with us...that's where they go :) A reminder for the small groups that use the coffee supplies, please clean your cups and pots and refill the supplies you use. It is a great help to us on Sunday morning :) Thanks again! Enjoy!

A NIGHT OF IMPROV HOSTED BY CEF

Mark your calendar for *A Night of Improv* on **May 12th at 7:30 p.m.** here at New Life. The night promises to be filled with fun and laughter and its free and open to the public. A free-will offering will help CEF reach children and families in the Greater St. Croix Valley with the Gospel.

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Upcoming Potlucks & Meal Teams:

Apr 30 Meal Team #5
May 7 Picnic at Dresser Park
May 14 Meal Team #6

Fellowship follows our service every Sunday,
along with a great meal.



Please Stay and
Join Us!

This Week's Schedule of Events:

Apr 26 **GriefShare Afternoon Meeting**
12:30 pm NLCC Green Room
Apr 26 **Immerse Family Studies**
6:30-7:45 pm at NLCC
Apr 27 **Men's Bible Study**
6:30 am at NLCC
Apr 27 **Women's Bible Study**
9:30 am at NLCC building
Apr 27 **GriefShare Evening Meeting**
6:30 pm NLCC Lg Classroom

Check out New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org

Find Links to:

• *Events* • *Sermons Online* • *Set Lists* •
New Life Connect • & More

Tune into our pastors' podcast at the beginning of
each week through our website, or the podcast icon
on your Wi-Fi device.



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
[Mark 10:13-16](#)

Sermon Notes:

