

The LORD Makes Mature Personalities – and not Religious Marionettes!



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Introduction

It was a few days after my conversion to the living faith of the LORD Jesus Christ that as a “youngster in faith” I went searching for my *brethren* (Acts 7:23). I then visited all Christian circles in my hometown known to me just to obtain information on what these communities or churches could offer. Besides interesting discoveries, an alarming fact became apparent to me: in all these circles, there were a great number of psychically or physically afflicted or restrained persons. Above all, it seemed to me that there were but very few compelling personalities. Though in every community, one could find a few Christians possessing a certain amount of authority and charisma – the great rest were more or less dependent on those few.

As a “Christian youngster” one expects of course to find paradise in Christian circles. But the result of my “tour d’horizon” was rather disappointing. Sadly enough, there were practically no convincing personalities to be found. Something began to repel me, in particular the ambition of the respective leaders in all of these communities to get hold on me to become a member of their church.

I could not help getting the impression that there was something in this “Christian” system that did not match. Therefore, I began to attentively inquire with the **Word of GOD**. Pretty soon I realized that I was confronted in my hometown with some sort of religious patchwork that was to a great extent not according to GOD’s plans. When studying the Word of GOD it became clear to me that GOD’s supreme intention was to bring us into a most **intimate relationship with His Son Jesus Christ** and thus to make of us **true men**, i.e. stable, mature and unique personalities who are just exclusively dependant on Jesus Christ – relieved from all kind of human domination and psychic-religious control.

Meanwhile, I have had counselling experience for more than twenty years. Over all these years, this ministry has brought me into contact with almost all known Christian churches, communities and ministries as well as Christian sects. Let me now present to you the quintessence of all these experiences within a rather important subject. Though it is quite demanding, I trust it is really important for every sincere Christian, especially also with a view to the consummation of this era. Thereby, I am submitting to you a general subject of your heavenly Father, namely to transform you into a **mature personality** and to separate you from every sort of **religious domination** with a corresponding life as a religious marionette.

The Children of GOD and the Sons of GOD

The basic passage I want to quote regarding this topic is found in **Rom. 8: 18-22** (NKJV): *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now.*

To start with: After all these years of practical counselling, I am convinced that we Christians live **far** below the level that our heavenly Father in His Son Jesus Christ would have foreseen. Accordingly, any deeper insight in the loving intentions of your Creator is mostly missing. With what now follows I am trying to show you with the help of the Holy Spirit the magnificent plans of the LORD for you.

The aim in every of my counselling practice is that the counselees will be set free by the power of the Holy Spirit to sooner or later become such personalities as

was planned originally by the LORD, and that they subsequently can enjoy daily this great stream of living water that would flow within their heart and into their surroundings (see John 4:14; 7:38-39).

Whoever does not experience it in his life, will probably end up in a miserable compensation which is “Christian” religion with all her different facets. One is satisfied in it with any sort of emotions, knowledge, activities and “passions” and is living in a false view, that it should be “Jesus”. It is much more something about which Paul gives a serious warning in **Eph. 4:14**: ... *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.*

The “Christian” Sects and How They are Defined

Now it is certainly worthwhile to give a **definition** about the term “**sect**” in a consistent and unemotional manner. Thus all people who will not be led into a most intimate living relationship with Jesus Christ, will end up finally always in any sort of dominating religious system – or bluntly said sooner or later in big or small sects.

The term “sect” is nowadays of course a buzzword so that it is used for whatever purpose it may serve. However, it does not express truly the essence of the subject. Quite often, this term is misused to intimidate people, to make them feel inferior and dissuaded from Jesus Christ. Whenever one is accused for belonging to a sect, mostly all get startled with fear. So it is certainly worthwhile to investigate in what really means a “sect”.

What is a sect in context really with the Word of GOD? If as an example I witness to a person of Jesus Christ, I am then mostly accused within short to be a sectarian. But it is not as simple as that. In this respect, I have learned something from Jesus Christ about conversation techniques. On various occasions, people tried to corner Him during His earthly ministry. Quite often, He then applied a quite efficient technique: He simply asked a counter question! As soon as somebody has a suspicion about me to be a sectarian, I then counter with the following question: “Do you know what is a sect?” Normally, the problem gets solved quickly, because the word “sect” is used by them as a weapon to defend themselves or to incriminate a person in a bad way. Fewest can satisfactorily define what really means a sect from the perspective of **GOD’s Word**.

Thus it becomes quite important to find a correct definition of the expression “sect”. To make sure about it, I have to specify the expression in a meaningful way to make it more understandable. The first problem we are facing is our **own blindness**. It is a fact that everybody who really is part of a sect, is totally convinced not to be in a sect! Whoever is effectively part of a sectarian system, can hardly be convicted from his standpoint to be in the best religious set-up. He entertains no doubt about it, unless he is in deepest emotional distress that could possibly open his eyes about his error. Otherwise, every real sectarian is convinced that everything else is a sect, except his congregation.

Where is the reason to be found? On the one hand, it has to do with our own natural blindness. On the other hand the classical sects show clear signs of **demonic** manifestations. Demons distort the thinking, the emotions and the ability of distinction of man. Furthermore, they are as their head (Satan) the master of all **lies**. Consequently, people in sects are continuously lied at in their spirit so that they are just unable to grasp many developments.

The Word of GOD makes it quite easy to define the meaning of a sect. A sect is any form of a doctrine, group or church that **adds** anything to the **Word of GOD** or

takes it off. Now if someone accuses me to be a sectarian, I then ask him to consult the Word of GOD in using this criterion to check his own church. Is there something added to the Word of GOD or something taken away from it? Should this be the case, then my interlocutor would be member of a sect! If he is a sincere person, he will soon be having problems so that the whole situation changes in a few minutes only. It was more than once that I met people who suddenly became quite thoughtful and realized: "Well if one looks at it from this standpoint, then it would rather be me who is in a sect." In such a case this person has realized it all by himself...

Another criterion to identify a sect is: As soon as in a group or congregation **religious manipulation** can be found, it must then be declared as a sect. Their members or sympathizers will be reduced to **religious marionettes**. It is exactly this fact that hinders man to make the most important experience while on this earth, namely the complete **transformation in the image of Jesus Christ** and thus to grow up into **personal maturity**. Consequentially typical members of a sect are always under great dependency to the corresponding organization or their leaders and show mostly an underdeveloped personality status. Mature persons instead would dangerously challenge the credibility of the sect system what must knowingly be stopped by all means (see church history!).

A sect will then become a substitution for a **direct and most intimate relationship with Jesus Christ**. One becomes dependant on whatever doctrines and their adepts which again preclude exactly the most important thing in our life, i.e. a direct, deepest and most intimate dependency on Jesus Christ – without any intermediate dignitaries or similar exponents as intermediaries of their religious system. A typical sect system has members who are like sheep in an enclosure that are kicked to and fro. When they want to question the system or to by-pass it, or even to quit, they will almost every time be threatened to be **eternally damned** and thus lose their salvation.

Those who dare really to question their system or even to drop out will undergo deepest emotional afflictions – another sort of religious psychological blackmail. In my counselling practice I looked after several such persons. From the exterior, it is hardly possible to imagine what terrible times such people have to undergo when they are for example threatened to lose their eternal salvation if they were to quit their own congregation or church. This menace provokes mostly serious moral conflicts and it needs quite a lot of empathy to help such people to get liberated.

These are just a few aspects to define typical criteria for a sect. There could of course much more to be said (such as financial exploitation, elitism, no freedom to decide, religious indoctrination etc.). this should be sufficient for the moment because I rather want to show you much more positive aspects.

Definition of a True Christian

In this regard I would like to turn over to an opposite viewpoint. What are the typical **characteristics** of a true Christian? It has to do with another man who primarily does not cleave to other people or religious bodies, but firstly to Jesus Christ, as can be seen in the parable of the *branch at the vine* (John15:1ff.). His most intimate relationship is with Jesus Christ and not in a membership with a religious body and their representatives, what would already be a sectarian approach.

Many religious entities nowadays fight against each other with accusations of sectarianism. So called experts reckon to be well aware of sects thanks to their depth-psychological achievements. Far from it. The sect is mostly far closer than most would like it to be. When investigating seriously the dependencies of members of unnumbered congregations, one can make out rather quickly a sect. How is the conduct of the

members, how do they speak, to what are they finally attached – these are quite decisive criteria to discover the mostly unpleasant truth.

Assuming that primarily a Christian is totally and deeply depending on **Jesus Christ**, it becomes quite easy to find out that most of the Christian beliefs belong to smaller or bigger sects. This might be quite a harsh and denouncing statement – but as a counsellor I very well know what it is all about. Where then do you find people who are truly deeply and intimately related with Jesus Christ? Is it not rather so that most are simply depending on a **religious system** which domineers over them, though perhaps not consciously? This would certainly be the wrong way to chose. How quickly one is depending on a congregation or church. And without being aware or unintentionally the congregation one belongs to becomes the key to salvation and to be dissociated brings logically great problems. Consequently this would be sufficient proof of the existence of a sect.

The Word of GOD provides exact information where a connection with any sort of human-Christian organization leads to. It informs us of a global system, so to speak a counterfeit of the true community of Jesus Christ. It is the personified **religious manipulation** and **domination** and is e.g. defined in the book of Revelation as follows: And on her forehead a name was written: *mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth* (Rev. 17:5). It is a mystery which the Holy Spirit must reveal us by all means to prevent us from getting entangled in it.

In exchange of a deep relationship with Jesus Christ there is after all always **human effort**. It is any sort of (Christian) religion, any (“Christian”) churches or congregations to which one is attached and which either hidden or obviously promise salvation. Typical elements in religious circles are for example the emotions. One is emotionally stirred up in a religious environment. Furthermore, there exist typically any sort of **religious doctrines, experiences** or **favourite hobbies**. Immature members of a congregation will then be tossed to and fro (Eph. 4:14). Again, people resemble to sheep in a corral.

One can certainly be of another opinion about the situation in Christendom as presented here, but what surely is mostly impeded is a **deep awareness of Jesus Christ!** Fewest are motivated for that because they have been made dependant and are constantly supported by the religious system. As long as someone goes with the mainstream, he will mostly not be interested to question the system. Everything runs smoothly and one is perfectly taken care of. The basic human needs are in a religious setting excellently looked after.

But what happens if a person is suddenly totally on his own? This would exactly be a big chance to discover his true position without hindrance. If there is no connection any longer with a religious entity, one discovers in the shortest time whether one is **truly attached to Jesus Christ**. I know of quite a number of Christians who are petrified should it arrive that they would be persecuted because of their faith. It must be assumed that this will happen in one or the other way. Then there will be fear that everything will collapse.

However, the opposite will be the case. People who are truly in living constant touch with the LORD Jesus Christ will continue to live on exactly as before – if not even better! The parable of the *vine* and the *branches* provides for that an excellent object-lesson (John15:1ff.). Who really is a branch of the vine, is perfectly taken care of by the vine second by second – notwithstanding the circumstances, emotions, people etc. he is in. If there are no more any people around us, things will become even better because we would then have Jesus Christ alone and nobody else.

Those people however who have been attached to whatever persons or organizations will endure it in quite a different way. They are suddenly lacking all provision because in fact they are mostly missing an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Strictly seen from a counselling viewpoint such a situation offers a tremendous chance to really get to know Jesus Christ. Many will then get their eyes opened that they were in fact never truly connected with Jesus Christ. They will realize that all one had got was just religious compensation. And it is exactly this compensation that is life threatening because it will end up sooner or later in a sectarian behaviour.

It is by far more marvellous when besides Jesus Christ you possess nothing any more. This is the starting point where true spiritual life will be built up. In this connection I recall a woman who one day visited me and reproachfully mentioned: "I cannot stand any longer with you all. Everything with you is so unsecure. Everything is off our hands!" I replied: "I myself feel very comfortable because what I have is Jesus alone – I need nothing more at all!"

As the Psalm writer Asaph said about 3'000 years ago: *Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You (Ps. 73:25)*. Is there anything more marvellous than this most **intimate relationship** with the **heavenly vine**, with **Jesus Christ**?

Did you also contemplate in autumn the beautiful grapes at vintage time? I was recently while ministering for the kingdom of GOD in a house where at its wall an exceptionally great number of grapes were hanging. Suddenly, my curiosity was awakened and I wanted to find out where these many grapes came from at all. I went all along the wall and to my great surprise found just two vines that grew out of the soil. Still the vines bore many nice fruits. By this impressive demonstration of nature the LORD spoke deep into my heart. This is exactly **His plan with your life!** You are hanging unhindered on Jesus Christ and you will bring forth fruit without end (see John 15). You must however be separated from any other vine which after all in its essence will always be sectarian, so that you truly are hanging on Jesus Christ only.

God's Plan with Man

After this introduction I want to refer to more positive subjects. For this reason I want to ask you whether you know the **plan of GOD** with us men. It has but one sole objective: **Love**. Because God loves, He has created among other things counterparts, man - the crown of all creation. Man should according God's eternal thoughts with creation be His likeness as well as His counterpart.

In order that love can develop at all, it needs **freedom of decision**. It's in the nature of things that there is a great risk to misuse freedom of decision. With regard to the first men there were the following dangers menacing: to depart from GOD, to go their own way and to choose autonomy. And it was exactly at this point that the first two people failed. They chose more or less at their own will the wrong pathway. This was the hour of birth of the original sin of man. They abused their freedom of decision that was given to them out of God's love.

Considering carefully these impacts, one realizes immediately that it is exactly this autonomous life, going its own ways, separated from the living God of all creation which finally is responsible for **all misery** in this world. Time and again I am confronted with people who are asking the following: "So far so good, but why does this pretended GOD of love allow all this misery to happen in this world?" This question can seriously put Christians out of action. A GOD of love should rather stop all this misery on this planet earth – one could argue.

This train of thought is rather short-sighted, inconsiderate and superficial. In fact man just gives the blame to **GOD** for all that misery that **man** by his **autonomy** has finally caused to happen. Every reasonable man will realize more and more that all developments in the visible world (and thus also in the invisible) get mixed up. Surely, the

excesses in nature are on the increase. The fragile balance in creation has exactly been mixed up by the autonomous life of man. Autonomous men are finally nothing else than **aides of Satan** who has but one declared objective: *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy* (John 10:10a). Every autonomous person gets into an implicit alliance with the destroyer of the works of GOD – whether he likes it or not. The reason for any destruction lies never with GOD. He is neither the author of it. But for specific reasons He must permit destruction. Or He uses them to fulfil His eternal plans with man. In a semantic sense one speaks of a “**visitation**”. Consequently, the reason of every destruction is finally to be found in the self-imposed autonomy of man, i.e. he has wrongly invested his GOD given freedom of will and decision. Misery and destruction were and are until today the logical consequences!

According to GOD’s plans man should now be the crowning achievement of all creation, so to speak His *image*. Perhaps you may also have asked yourself how then the LORD could look like. If man should be made in His image, this could then provide specific key information. Of course, I do not think primarily about the physical appearance, but rather the **character** and the **built-up** of man. Still I would not go into more details here on that subject.

Man – a Person of Authority

You must by all means understand another fact According to GOD’s eternal plans man has an **extraordinary position**. It often happens that I have to tell the audience in my speeches what extremely high value they have! Thus you as well are a wonder on two legs! And the LORD has given you a stupendous and hardly understandable worthiness. Unfortunately very few only can recognize this fact.

I am quoting as an example a passage from **Hebr. 2:5-8**, that provides for you important information about the position and value of man: *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: “What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honour, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*

Certainly this quote refers in its context primarily to the person and function of Jesus Christ. These are excerpts of so-called messianic quotations from the Psalms. However, whoever has at least partially understood the **mystery of Christ** knows that GOD with His eternal plans has ordained us in His Son Jesus Christ to live in His position. Thus the quotation here above signifies certainly also this position in Christ that the LORD has foreseen for man: *a little lower than the angels* – but otherwise positioned above everything. This was at least the original intention of GOD.

Now man should perform a stupendous task with full authority. I am quoting **Genesis 1:26-27**: *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image ...* GOD’s intentions are quite clear: Man should exercise full authority above the earth and thus above all creation.

Now since man went astray from GOD’s ways because he misused his freedom of choice, his autonomous conduct led to the destruction of creation. There is nothing more dangerous than if the autonomous man separated from GOD exercises authority on creation. This must surely end up in the destruction of creation which nowadays can easily be seen. Once the inventive mind or spirit of man is darkened because of his separation from GOD, he will finally **destroy everything**. Modern technique has certainly achieved stupendous developments. But since these achievements have mainly

originated from man's darkened intelligence, they will in the long run certainly end in destruction.

Just one example among many: Man nowadays burns fossil fuel in enormous quantities. Probably the fossil fuel stored under ground is a relic of the catastrophe of **godly judgement of the Deluge**. She covered all of the antediluvian vegetation and civilisation. Tragically enough, it could well be that burning of this destroyed antediluvian vegetation could lead to the destruction of today's creation! Therefore if man takes things of creation in his hands with his darkened intellect, he finally always destroys them. That is why *creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of GOD (Rom. 8:19-22)*. This for the moment as a short excursion into creation.

Moreover, GOD's plan with man is a specific position, namely a most intimate relationship with his Creator. As long as man at the origin of creation was **intimately connected** with his Creator, nothing is reported of any sort of destructive developments such as diseases, afflictions, suffering, death etc. As long as this intimate connection was kept alive, man was entirely protected and in perfect health. But barely after having committed disobedience against this most intimate connection, there were immediately affliction, destruction and death that entered into the life of man. Ever since this happened, we still suffer from it in all respects. Even worse: By this disobedience man has **lost his authority to Satan** – the one who virtually deceived man. The effect was that the two first men lost the GOD given authority over creation. No wonder that a total destruction started at once. Whatever has to do with Satan ends up in destruction. Since then all creation waits for a specific event: **the revelation of the sons of GOD** – a marvellous and mysterious subject!

Thus man lost by his fall the GOD given authority to Satan. The direct consequence is that he enslaves since then mankind and this basically because of the fallenness of man – bluntly said: because of **sin**. Likewise it enslaves man by **lusts** and **covetousness**. Therefore, man through his fall became a **string puppet of Satan** and his empire. According to **John 8:44**, Satan is *a murderer from the beginning and a liar*. Satan lies to man and feigns to him freedom. So man believes to be free. In actual fact however every man lives originally under the terror of sin, and as long as this terror has not been broken, a man will never experience true freedom.

We read in **Rom. 8:21** about this *glorious liberty of the children of God*. I am asking myself how many Christians have tasted, or experienced at all this *glorious liberty of the children of GOD* in everyday life. Do you know how liberty really manifests itself? It is e.g. this marvellous condition where one lives **totally released from this earth** as it was demonstrated by Jesus or Paul. This marvellous godly freedom is working amidst most serious challenges in life. I shall come back to this later.

Religion – Satan's Method to Enslave Man

Satan knows various means to enslave man. A preferred method is religion. So he can act through false apostles or even as *angel of light (2 Cor. 11:13)*. Thus Satan has developed outstanding abilities to finally enslave man through **religion**.

Just think about it one moment: There exist several big religious systems on our planet earth. In each of two of them, more than **one billion people** are kept organized! They represent about one third of world population. In both systems Satan is perfectly well organized. Both systems are responsible for killing over the centuries **several hundred million people** in the name of their GOD. These religious systems work exactly according to *the desires of their father who was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44)*. Do you realize how cruelly Satan uses religious systems to destroy man? Do not just think of non Christian systems, because one of the big religious systems mentioned already declares itself to be **the** Christian global Church. Likewise, many

small Christian systems are finally a playing field of Satan to trap people and to make them dependant of whatever machinations of darkness. Their followers or members are either made dependant of their spiritual religious leaders, or they are tied and penned up in any sort of religious “stables”, interests of powers, tension zones or machinations.

After more than thirty years of counselling with people coming from a great variety of religious and “Christian” groups this subject brings to me much pain. Time and again I find anew how people are **enslaved** within their religious systems. Quite often, they are used, recruited, exploited to satisfy any mean objective of religious leaders and organizations. Logically most of them never experienced the stupendous life that would be available in Christ since nearly 2000 years. I am really agonized about it – and I guess the LORD even indefinitely more! How many Christians have invested themselves wholeheartedly in their congregation or their religious organization. But eventually, they had to realize under great shock that they just were **exploited** in a religious manner and **betrayed**. Their leaders might not even have done it intentionally, but the end result is still the same.

In other words: Satan will use every means to keep you away from the path leading to real *glorious liberty of the children of GOD* that you may ever experience it. Regarding **liberty** I am just quoting two passages of the Scriptures:

Gal. 5:1: *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.* Its direct meaning refers of course primarily to the **law** resp. **legalism**. Through many contacts in my counselling practice I know most of the current doctrines. The distressing fact is that in most “Christian” circles legalism reigns, though one talks constantly of grace! Many sermons or publications contain nothing else than an accumulation of commands: “You have to do this, you must, a Christian must do this and that ...” This is undoubtedly the language of legalism through which the auditors or readers are constantly put under pressure to perform religious works to be allegedly pleasing to their “GOD”.

But this corresponds in no way to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ because it is just set up the other way round. So we can learn from it primarily about everything that has been provided for you in Jesus Christ. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ* (Eph. 1:3). Or: *how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?* (Rom. 8:32) – to just quote two verses.

A true child of GOD basically just lives of **gifts** all day long! He calls on the LORD and claims the gifts already made available in Christ. Such people are exceedingly pleasing to our Father in Heaven! Legalistic Christians instead are constantly living in **unbelief**. For this reason they usually pray as follows: “LORD Jesus, would you please ... look at me.... I am meaning it seriously.... I have prayed so much already. Just give me as well a little bit of grace”. This is of course total unbelief and nonsense.

The real children of GOD take possession all day long all of these marvellous heavenly blessings and gifts that have been made available in Christ by divine **grace**. In this manner they take hold as well of their effective **position** and will thus reach to all GOD given goals. Legalism instead just leads to the opposite. Legalistic people always lack of something. And to get more, they consequently must religiously speaking perform more and more. This corresponds to the above quoted *yoke of bondage* (Gal. 5:1).

If one examines carefully the religious information published nowadays, one notes with amazement that one is openly or hidden asked to constantly perform, to act and to execute by our own strength any sort of “Christian” deeds. These instructions in fact represent the **worst heresy** because they lead people astray into the illusion that they will be blessed because of their own religious effort. This corresponds in its es-

sence to the betrayal of any (Christian) religion because it ends always in pure **self-redemption**. In every religion man is called to perform religious deeds to put any GOD into a merciful mood. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ instead is totally opposed to that. It teaches us that the LORD Jesus Christ has already **perfectly accomplished everything**. Therefore the real children of GOD will come before GOD and simply claim all perfected divine goods which objectively speaking were made available **in Jesus Christ** already 2000 years ago.

Now let us look at the second of the two passages that deals with the promised liberty in Jesus Christ. It shows us the ingenious method how a man will be **transformed into the image of Jesus**. For the chronic pitfall especially with junior believers is knowingly the fact that they realize that there is much in their life which is not at all in order. Consequently, they are trapped by Satan who urges them to use their own efforts to improve their condition. This must inevitably end up in a total disappointment.

The divine principle instead as to how a man will be transformed is much more simple. To this effect, I am quoting 2 Cor. 3:17-18: *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.* The Greek expression for “transform” is called meta morpho. In biology the term used is metamorphosis. It defines e.g. the total transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly. Paul exactly makes use of this pattern.

How does a “Christian” caterpillar develop into a „Christian” butterfly? (is meant the transformation of the old man into a new creation). The answer is simple: By *beholding with unveiled face the glory of the LORD*. This simplicity does not please many. They rather prefer to engage in a futile religious stress of self-improvement and transformation. It will ruin them! No, they should simply behold the glory of the LORD. And what will you see then? **GOD’s plans!** It is the objective GOD has foreseen before the foundation of the world. Namely to **transform you in Jesus Christ into His image!**

The Mission of Jesus Christ

I showed you so far briefly GOD’s plans with mankind and where man arrived at by estrangement from GOD. As the Grand Finale, let me present to you the most marvellous fact, namely the **mission of Jesus Christ**. Why at all did Jesus have to come to this earth? Why did His Father in Heaven send Him to this earth, and why did He let Him be sacrificed in such a cruel way?

To sum things up, the compacted answer is: To **bring** us people **back** to where the first two men **have fallen off**, thus to get him back to the original **position** and **function** of man. This ingenious way of redemption is basically spoken of in the whole Word of GOD – the Old as well as the New Testament. Thus the mission of Jesus Christ can be very easily be defined: He should clear the way to bring the children of GOD back to where they once had fallen off.

To illustrate it in more detail, I shall quote here after three passages. The first one is written in **1 John 3:8**: *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.* So the Son of GOD was revealed to **destroy the works of Satan**. Therefore, Jesus came to set you and me free from the claws of Satan. By His complete work of redemption at Calvary, Jesus has fulfilled all conditions that you can be completely freed from the claws of Satan! This is already a main point of the complete Gospel, wherever it is taught correctly and especially put into practice.

The next passage is: **Heb. 2:13-15**: ... *And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me. ”Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and*

blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Therefore for this reason the Heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus Christ: **To deliver from any bondage of Satan!**

The last passage is in **Acts 10:38**: *... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

All three passages are representative to illustrate the impact of GOD's work or GOD's plan and the mission of Jesus Christ. The practical approach is as follows: When a man accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Master and Redeemer, then this action in faith provokes a deep innermost connection with **Jesus Christ**. One declares it as a so-called "baptism". The logic behind a "baptism" is that initially two persons are melted together in **one unit** and in a **new personality**. This new personality is mentioned in the Word of GOD as a **new creation**, i.e. finally Jesus Christ in us. By this most intimate connection with Jesus Christ, the required prerequisites are put in place so that by corresponding actions (deliverance, repentance, forgiveness) every sort of inner domination by Satan will in its essence be broken. The **inner connection with Jesus Christ** leads to deliverance from any inner dominations and destructions of man.

The question arises who then could rule over you in your daily life. Who after all is governing our society? It is firstly always the dominator of all sorts of control and manipulation: Satan who exercises dominion over the whole earth. Jesus then calls him as *the ruler of this world* (John 14:30; 16:11). Now of course Satan has his helpers, and these are multitudes of fallen angels, spirits and demons. Moreover, all of us are ruled from our first breath onward by **sin**. Its handyman is the fallen human **flesh** which agonizes us, rules over us and lets us rove around. From it come as well the **lust** and **covetousness** which enslave and corrupt man etc. The resulting consequences are **constraints** and almost innumerable **addictions** and perverse patterns of behaviour. From it follow negative influences or manipulations initiated by people. Finally the **curse** of the law is to be mentioned as well.

About in this way we could define the various forms of control of man. Now the LORD Jesus Christ specifically came to disconnect us from all these forms of control – thus to redeem us or to liberate us from these machinations. To make this happen, we shall be **put into Jesus Christ** by the power of the Holy Spirit and in Christ be restored in **His position**.

I am illustrating this marvellous subject with three citations from the Word of GOD. **Eph. 2:4-7**: *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

The basic idea is: *... and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.* At times, I ask people during my speeches: "Where are you this morning?" Most of them look at me in amazement and reckon what should be all about this silly question. He ought to see quite well that all auditors are naturally present. Of course, I am aware of it as well. But a true child of GOD stays as well at a totally different place. If he does not know it and is not there in spirit all the time, he has not yet understood the essentials of the Gospel. A true child of GOD is parallel with this earthly life living in spirit in the **same position as Jesus Christ** Himself! In Christ we sit on **His throne**. This is about the meaning of the before mentioned passage and can be further substantiated with other passages of the New Testament. A true Christian is a **person of authority**. By the connection with Jesus Christ, he is, spiritually seen, ef-

fectively in the same position as Jesus Christ. This is exactly an essential part of the mission of Jesus Christ. He has rescued and has repositioned us where He Himself sits. He has raised us up together, and *made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*. In **2 Cor.2:14** Paul repeats as an example this fact: *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ...* Again this is an indication of our authority in Christ.

Now let us look at the second passage in **Col. 3:1-4**: *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.* These verses are really outstanding in all aspects. They show us clearly where we basically belong to. GOD sees us **in Jesus Christ** as being **co-crucified, put to death** and **co-resurrected** in His position. Thus a Christian always looks out for what is above. He is basically a spiritual “stargazer”! His viewing direction leads continuously upwards so that in **Hebr. 12:2** this is expressed with: ... *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith ...* Why then does a Christian always look upwards? Certainly not to look at the clouds. He should simply always be aware of where he **belongs to**. He thus sits with Jesus Christ on His throne!

The third and final passage is from **John 10:10b**: *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* In this manner, the standard for life is defined. You should not be satisfied with less than this promised quality of life – more abundant life and overflowing life!

The Work of the Holy Spirit

When hardly someone accepts correctly Jesus Christ as his LORD and Master, he will, by the power of the Holy Spirit be instantly and intimately connected with Jesus Christ. At once, the great work of the Holy Spirit in our life starts to happen. Truly the marvellous work of the Holy Spirit will be realized only once we shall be in eternity. It can hardly be compared with anything else, for the Holy Spirit is confronted with a tremendous task. He has to **transform** us as totally fallen, rotten and distorted men during our lifetime into **the image of Jesus Christ**. Such a work can be accomplished on this earth by nobody at all – neither a psychiatrist, or an ideologist, and certainly not any religion. Solely the **Holy Spirit** is capable to transform us in such **personalities** as the LORD had originally planned.

How does this marvellous work of the Holy Spirit take place practically? Firstly, He is at work within you during 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, whether you are aware of it or not. And He works in you right now when reading these lines! He normally uses your natural environment or practical situations in your life. He also speaks directly into your life. Thereby, He works subtly in every area of your personality. As an example, He is constantly busy to **relieve** us from being tied up to men. Is it not written in **Jer. 17:5**: *Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength?* Thus it becomes obvious that you must be liberated from any **fixation with men** which quite often can be rather painful. It can even concern your beloved ones from whom the Holy Spirit separates you from within. Since bindings to men according to the above quoted passage are always attracting “curses”, it is absolutely necessary to take heed of it, for who at all then would like to be under a curse.

Besides other areas the Holy Spirit liberates you also from men who dominate and control you, thus from any sort of **manipulation**. According to experience this is precisely quite common in the religious environment. Consequently, the Holy Spirit pulls you out from there and afterwards integrates you intimately into Jesus Christ.

This integration into Jesus Christ is expressed in theological terms with “**baptism**”. As is well known, a Christian should get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (e.g. Acts 2:38). Naturally, the meaning is far more than the endless dispute about being touched with water in some way, for this would just be an external act. It has rather to do with a deep most **intimate living relationship with Jesus Christ**. Whoever has not experienced it gets lost – regardless whether there was water baptism or not! “To be baptized into Jesus Christ” is just another way of using the term “*he who believes in Me*”. The **correct faith** on (or in) Jesus Christ thus initiates exactly this deep union with Jesus Christ (i.e. this “baptism”) and this happens exclusively by the work of the Holy Spirit. To become a personality according to what GOD had originally foreseen for you, you have to be relieved by the work of the Holy Spirit from your entire environment and most intimately be integrated into Jesus Christ. This is the only way how the Holy Spirit produces **mature personalities!**

The Restoration of Your Personality

I am trying now to inform you about the work of the Holy Spirit to restore the divine pattern of your personality. All of us have been more or less negatively affected by education, experiences with our surroundings, impacts from society etc. as against our GOD given personality. When hardly someone surrenders to Jesus Christ the **complete control** over his life, the Holy Spirit takes the command and begins to bring back man in that image which GOD had originally envisaged.

This leads to most surprising developments! One is suddenly guided on totally different pathways in our life. There come up qualities and attributes in our personality that we would never have expected possible – now in a positive sense. The LORD begins to develop **talents** within you and to expose **vocations**. Your life gets more and more a marvellous value and meaning.

To this effect, I can shortly give account of wonders that the LORD so far did within me. Before having obtained new life in Jesus Christ I was one of those unfortunate creatures who could see absolutely no meaning in life and I wanted to commit suicide. But when the Holy Spirit hardly got control over my life, He began to bring me back into the divine pattern of my personality. When I am looking back on my life, there remains just an almost incredulous shaking the head. I was lead by the LORD into pathways and areas of life I never have believed to be possible.

It is so marvellous and formidable when the Holy Spirit begins to generate out of us mature personalities. At last we shall become **true men!** When Pilate exposed the LORD Jesus Christ before the people, he pronounced these rather strange words: “*Behold the Man!*” (John 19:5). Today, this declaration is to me very profound. If Jesus Christ is really your life, you will first become a true man in the sense as was foreseen for you by GOD! You are no longer a creature manipulated, altered and debased from all directions – no, you will become now a true man – an **image** or a **counterpart of GOD!**

You now get back again the status of a **child of GOD**. You are no longer an ordinary man – you have become a child of the Living GOD. And then you belong to the same worldwide family who knows but of one true father, the **Father in Heaven**. All those who are truly in Christ belong to this same family. How many children there are finally is of course not known to me. But it must be a quite impressive number considering that the children of GOD over all centuries and all continents will gather before the LORD. Once being in Heaven, we shall know more about it.

Thus every man in Christ is being prepared for this “godly family”. As it happens in our natural life, there exist growth steps in spiritual life as well. As such, children un-

der the age of accountability will become mature sons. We are now getting to the **sons of GOD**. Now all the creation is in earnest expectation and eagerly *waits for the revealing of the sons of God*. (Rom. 8:19). Now who are these *sons of GOD*? It is a great and mysterious subject. I cannot go into more details here.

Briefly said are meant those people in whom **Jesus Christ** has truly become **the life**. Spiritually seen they consist of Christ, thus of GOD, as the apostle John writes about it e.g. in 1 John 4:4: *You are of God, little children*. Thus the sons of GOD represent a particular “breed”. These are people who in all truth are most intimately united with Christ and for this reason are exclusively cleaved together with Him. For this reason they can easily **relinquish** everything else. And in doing so they will become these extraordinary **personalities**. Sons of GOD are truly in Christ, and Jesus Christ is truly **their life**. He in them, and they in Him. Logically, they are no longer driven by this world, by Satan or a religion – they are driven by the **Holy Spirit**.

Authority over Creation

The Holy Spirit authorizes the children or the sons of GOD to again perform those **works of GOD** that GOD originally entrusted them to do (see John 14:12). Therefore, they begin again to carry out authority, e.g. over creation. This could mean to confront natural forces in godly authority when destructive rain or tempests mass together. The children or sons of GOD then begin to act, for behind it are nothing less than all evil powers of darkness. So it happens that we as a family stand before opened windows and command the tempest and hailstorm to cease at once.

In this manner, the children of GOD execute again authority over creation. They do it like Jesus Christ did, the Son of the living GOD who for example was together with His disciples on a boat trip when a tempest came up. The weather-beaten disciples were already panicking and expected any moment to overturn. *Then He (Jesus) arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm* (Matt. 8:26). The winds and the storm simply had to obey Him! This is e.g. exactly the **authority** given to the **sons of GOD**. They make again use of the authority who the first men because of the fall had lost. So much for the moment as an indication about the sons of GOD.

Now the regeneration work of the Holy Spirit is done also by an ongoing **sanctification**. This process goes on until the end of your life. All wrong things in your life get continuously pressed out which will then be submitted to **cleansing** by the blood of Jesus. This brings you to become a steadfast, mature and sanctified personality that is most intimately in Jesus Christ. This communion with Jesus Christ should become so deep as it was with Jesus and His Father. This was in fact what He prayed for in **John 17!**

How to Proceed

The question arises how you could apply what has been said so far. I would recommend you to firstly submit your life deliberately and completely under the **reign of Jesus Christ** and His **Holy Spirit**, as well as under the **Word of GOD**. All this goes practically in parallel. The Holy Spirit will at once start to work intensely in your life. Wherever the Holy Spirit lays His finger on areas of your life, you should act immediately and consistently – according to the words: *Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts* (Hebr. 4:7). Therefore **act immediately!**

Afterwards, you will have to **let go** all areas and persons with whom you are **emotionally** or in a **religious** way linked and correspondingly manipulated or under bondage. Every form of religious domination obstructs finally your way that leads to an

overflowing life in Christ. To let go and be separated is often quite painful. However the Holy Spirit will lead you through and will liberate you from all **dead religious works** in your life.

The logical result will be a wonderful lifestyle, since you have started to live in deepest intimate communion with Jesus Christ exactly as the branch is attached to the vine - and this all day long. Every morning, when I get up, I affirm the communion with the vine anew, in a sense as follows: "LORD Jesus Christ, I thank You that I am allowed to be within you. I deliberately want to be in You today. Thank You that You also will remain in me!" This brings about a powerful basis to be victorious and triumphant during the day even though everything may go haywire. It is exactly in such situations where we can experience GOD's most beautiful wonders. However you should not be **stuck** any longer with **men** or **religious groups**, but solely and exclusively with the true vine whose name is **Jesus Christ**, the true *Head of the community*. In this manner the unique provision for all our needs comes from the Head, and the *Vinedresser* will cut off from your life all what is wrong (John 15ff.).

Consequences

These can for sure not be ignored. It is exactly in everyday life that this promised stream of life from GOD will flow more and more through you (see John 4:14). This will lead you to be more and more **transformed in the image of Jesus Christ** and to be built up to **sons of the living GOD**. So you can confidently leave aside all usual religious and perhaps even sectarian activities. You will no longer be guided by people, but directly from the heavenly Head, from Jesus Christ alone. You will thus become a true *member* of the *body of Christ* which can discover and put to use his genuine GOD given **talents**. You will be guided into your unique **ministry** in the Kingdom of God and you will begin to serve, with your talents your neighbour in the world or the community. In this manner Jesus builds up His community. Mind you, HIS community! You will practise by the vocations of the life of Jesus Christ received from the Holy Spirit. You give away nothing else than His wonderful life – this is the true meaning of life for a spirit filled Christian!

In this manner you will become an **epistle of Christ**, known and read by all men (2 Cor. 3:3). Thus you proclaim a totally different message than all of mostly dishonest media of our days. Your life proclaims the best message that has ever existed, the **overflowing life of Jesus Christ**. Your surrounding will read Jesus Christ within you. This is **pure evangelism** and makes things very easy and certainly more trustworthy. Your surrounding will learn how the lifestyle of a true Christian looks like. The Kingdom of GOD gets within reach – as it was with Jesus and His disciples. Did not the LORD Jesus tell His disciples they should say: *The kingdom of God has come near to you!* (Luke 10:9)?

Just realize that while reading these lines the Kingdom of GOD has really come near to you. If Jesus Christ has really become your life – or perhaps will become it right now – you will then have *the Kingdom of GOD dwelling within you* (Luke 17:21). It is Christ within you, *the hope of glory* (Col. 1:27). For the Kingdom of GOD does not come by outward gestures, but it is the indwelling of Jesus Christ within you. And the more you will now be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit into a spiritually mature personality, the more the **Kingdom of GOD** will be manifested within you. All what remains to be done by you is to **give away**, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit **the life of Jesus Christ** - to your loved ones, at your workplace, in your locality. Freely have you received this wonderful life, freely you give it!

Isn't this a wonderful subject? The LORD wants to make out of you a **mature personality** – and not a religious marionette. How this is going to happen has been

herewith shown to you in a rough outline. It may have been somewhat concise. Examine these explanations carefully in consulting your bible until the Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth. A totally different life awaits you – a life in fullness that is lived daily out of Jesus Christ. You then give away nothing else than what you have got: **Christ in you!** To give away this life I trust is the true meaning of a purposeful life. Besides you will discover how the living GOD manifests Himself and performs **His works or wonders**. Through simple men like you and me. The LORD is not dependant on experts...

“LORD Jesus Christ, I thank You that You have been sent on this earth to specifically release us from any bondage and distortion of our nature and character. Thank You that in Your name there is authority to liberate us from any sort of bondage and slavery of darkness. Thank You, LORD Jesus Christ that still today, You are getting out people from any pits or caves to bring them into Your wonderful light and to transform them by the power of Your Holy Spirit into Your image.

LORD Jesus Christ, I pray that You instil a deep longing into every reader to reach out for You and to totally surrender to Your Holy Spirit. Thank You that by the power of Your Holy Spirit we shall be transformed into the likeness of Your image and thus shall become true children of GOD and sons of GOD. Thank You, LORD Jesus Christ that You have a marvellous plan for everyone of us and to make us rulers over many things as it is written in Your Word, e.g. over ten cities to practise Your authority.

LORD Jesus Christ, I pray that You continue to speak to us and to lead us further daily, closer and closer to You. Thank You for this wonderful position we may possess in You so that we really can sit on Your throne and rule from there in a kinglike manner. LORD Jesus Christ, I thank You for talking to us, and I bless now every person who has read these explanations. Amen.”

Bruno Schaer / September 2012

Original German title: „Der HERR schafft mündige Persönlichkeiten –
und keine religiösen Marionetten.“

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