



Oneness in Christ Lesson 6 4Q 2018 Images of Unity

by Dr. Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “As anyone who...” What does the phrase “in a sense” mean in this sentence? Are they suggesting there is some part of the sacrificial system that is not symbolic?

Can you think of any part of that Levitical system that is literal, or is every part symbolic of the true reality—Jesus and the plan of salvation?

So, would that mean the OT system was not necessary for salvation—even in OT times? Is there evidence of people being saved in OT without participating in the sacrificial system?

- Naaman
- Nebuchadnezzar
- The Shunamite woman
- Daniel and others during the 70-year captivity, at least didn’t do anything associated with the Temple and we have no record of them sacrificing animals.
- Ninevites

The prophet Jeremiah wrote:

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord.
“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people. 31:33

The prophet Hosea wrote:

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. 6:6

David wrote in the Psalms:

You take no delight in sacrifices or offerings.
Now that you have made me listen, I finally understand*—
you don’t require burnt offerings or sin offerings. 40:6 NLT

Then if the ceremonial sacrificial system wasn’t required for salvation during Bible times—what was? A new heart and right spirit—i.e. healing of the inner person by God! Is there something different



required today?

Then if the ceremonial sacrificial system wasn't required for salvation during Bible times—will it be required today?

Then why do some Christians teach that in the future the Jews will one day set up a Temple and begin sacrificing animals again as part of God's plan?

What was the purpose of the sacrificial system in Bible times?

- A teaching tool—that is all it ever was
- Is there evidence of this from Scripture?
 - The gifts and sacrifices being offered were **not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper**. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order... But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because **it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins**. Heb 9:9,10, 10:3,4
 - “The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?” says the Lord. “I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; **I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats... wash and make yourselves clean**. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.” Isa 1:11,16,17
 - “I want your constant love, **not your animal sacrifices**. I would rather have my people know me than burn offerings to me.” Hos 6:6 GNT

The sacrificial system in the Bible was NEVER a means of salvation—only a means of education about the means of salvation.

What is the means of salvation?

Peter said in Acts 4:12: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

What does this mean—no other name under heaven?

In Bible culture what is significant about a name? Name means character—so there is no other character whereby men can be saved, i.e. healed, restored, renewed, reborn, won to trust, recreated, rebuilt!

Salvation is the literal, actual, real recreation of God's original design into the species human, first by the individual person Jesus Christ, and then into every believer—thus writing the law on the heart and



mind. This is the same as having the character of Christ. All the OT symbolism tries to teach this reality!

Note: this is not a legal process it is actual recreation, healing, restoration, fixing what is wrong!

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “The church is about people...” What is it that gives God’s people continuity through all history?

Did a person have to be part of the nation of Israel to be part of God’s people?

If someone was a genetic descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did that automatically make them part of God’s people?

Jesus said to those genetic descendants in His day who opposed Him:

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire.” Jn 8:44

So are there people who are genetically descended from Jacob that are NOT part of God’s people?

What makes a person part of God’s people?

The lesson states that God’s people are “to be representatives of His love, mercy, and justice to the world.”

How did ancient Israel do in representing God’s love, mercy and justice?

How have Christians done thus far in human history?

What would God’s love, mercy and justice rightly look like?

How do we differentiate God’s character, methods, principles from that of a sinful world—from Satan’s counterfeit?

Here are some key elements that will always be useful to differentiate the two systems:

- Truth versus deception (lies)
- Love versus selfishness
- Freedom versus coercion
- Design law versus imperial/imposed law
- Justice defined through design law versus justice defined through imposed law



What is justice through the world's system, imperial/impose law?

- Inflicting punishment for rule-breaking/sin
- Oversight, monitoring, and inflicting consequences—compliance police

Have Christians applied the world's methods to their practices?

What was the Inquisition?

It was the Roman Catholic governing system to investigate and police heretical views within the body of Catholic believers.

The 1578 edition of the *Directorium Inquisitorium* (a standard Inquisitorial manual) spelled out the purpose of inquisitorial penalties: ... quoniam punitio non refertur primo & per se in correctionem & bonum eius qui punitur, sed in bonum publicum ut alij terreantur, & a malis committendis avocentur (translation: "... for punishment does not take place primarily and per se for the correction and good of the person punished, but for the public good in order that others may become terrified and weaned away from the evils they would commit"). (Wikipedia)

Punishments included various penances, wearing a cross, doing a pilgrimage, exile, banishment, imprisonment and burning at the stake.

If the punishments are mild rather than burning at the stake, does that make this way of functioning okay? Is this type of action Godly?

In 1908 the Catholic Church changed the name of the Inquisition to "Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office" and in 1965 it became the "Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith."

Is it any less problematic if we change the name?

What if we call it compliance of faith?

Here is an interesting quotation from A.W. Tozer:

The average church has so established itself organizationally and financially that God is simply not necessary to it. So entrenched is its authority and so stable are the religious habits of its members that God could withdraw himself completely from it, as He once withdrew the Shekinah from the Temple, and it could run on for years on its own momentum. (Snyder, *The Quotable Tozer* Bethany House, p. 13).

Wow—God withdrew His presence from His chosen people who were called to prepare the world for the first advent of the Messiah—Do you think this could happen to those God called to prepare the world for the second advent?



What caused the withdrawal of God from the Jewish nation?

What would cause God to withdraw from Christians today?

Could it be solidifying in our hearts and minds such a wrong view of God that we, like the Jews 2000 years ago, reject the truth God and prefer a god in the image of Satan—and teach that God, in order to be just, must punish sin?

God's methods are not the methods of the world. God's methods are to present the truth in love and leave people free. As soon as the institutions begin using coercive and compelling measures they stop advancing God's kingdom and instead advance the kingdom of the enemy—the beastly system.

So what would God's justice, based on God's design law look like?

- Defend the poor and fatherless; **Do justice to the afflicted and needy.** (Psalms 82:3)
- Wash yourselves clean. Stop all this evil that I see you doing. Yes, stop doing evil and learn to do right. **See that justice is done — help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights, and defend widows.** (Isaiah 1:16-17 GNT)
- **The Lord longs to be gracious** to you; he rises to show you **compassion.** **The Lord is a God of justice.** (Isaiah 30:18 NIV)
- This is what the Lord says to the dynasty of David: 'Give **justice** each morning to the people you judge! **Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors.'** (Jeremiah 21:12 NLT)

What do you think interfered with Israel's ability to rightly represent God?

They accepted the worldly view of imperial law with imposed punishments as godly and thus they rejected Jesus

What has interfered with Christianity's ability to rightly represent God?

- Christianity has been infected with the imperial/imposed human law construct which has distorted our understanding of God's character, and what His justice actually is. Thus, Christians through history have practiced Satanic methods of coercion in the name of God—crusades, inquisition, burning at the stake, and many other abuses.
- In matters of conscience every person is to be fully persuaded in their own mind. (Rom 14:5) Thus Godly interventions are to promote the truth and leave people free—Satan's methods are to establish defined ways of thinking and then use coercive measures to force those ideas and behaviors on others—REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE IDEA IS TRUE OR NOT!!! Such as promoting Christ as Savior by threat of punishment—this is Satanic.

So, what is currently happening in our church with top down authoritarian methods to enforce certain views is the outworking of infection of the world's methods in this organization. Those at level four will make all types of excuses and deny this reality attempting to justify their actions, rather than



understanding how God's system and methods actually work—which is truth, love and freedom. In God's system truth spreads from person to person and group to group over time organically, not from top down.

What brings unity?

- truth, love and freedom!

Read second paragraph, "God's people are called..." What is meant by darkness? What kind of darkness? What is the light to which we are called?

- There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. John 1:7-9

Consider this quotation from the book *My Life Today*:

Every truly converted soul will be intensely desirous to bring others from the darkness of error into the marvelous light of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, **which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people,** that know by **experience** what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; **but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God. God cannot pour out His Spirit when selfishness** and self-indulgence are so manifest; when a spirit prevails that, if put into words, would express that answer of Cain--"Am I my brother's keeper?" . . . {ML 59.2}

When the hearts of the believers are warm with the love for God, they will do a continual work for Jesus. They will manifest the meekness of Christ and display a steadfast purpose that will not fail nor be discouraged. God will use humble men to do His work, for there is a large vineyard calling for laborers. {ML 59.3}

What is the light? It is the light of God's character of love—which is misrepresented by imperial/imposed law concepts and thus as long as we as a people hold to the dictator views of God, and teach penal substitution with God as the punishing judge we obstruct the work of the Holy Spirit and obstruct the finishing of the work. In other words, such presentations promote darkness rather than light.

The lesson asks why God chose Abraham and his descendants for the purpose of being the avenue of God's truth and ultimately Jesus?

Could it be because Abraham was willing?



Could it be we have a record of Abraham because Abraham trusted God and was willing—and we don't have a record of others because they refused God?

Has anyone ever heard of William Foy and Hazen Foss?

From Wikipedia:

William Ellis Foy (1818–1893) was an African American Freewill Baptist minister and preacher in the Millerite movement, who claimed to receive four visions from 1842 (two visions) to 1844. A tall man, he was the first of three Millerites to claim visions around the time of the 1844 "Great Disappointment".

A common theme of his visions was that the Second Coming would come later than the Millerites expected. They inspired many people through the Great Disappointment when Jesus did not return as they had expected. Ellen White supported his visions. They also concern the judgment, and rewards for the righteous.

He claimed visions in January and February 1842, told in his autobiographical *The Christian Experience of William E. Foy*, published 1845. They were similar to those experienced by Ellen White.

Foy was reluctant to obey his commission to share the visions, yet did eventually. He never became a Seventh-day Adventist, and his subsequent history was unknown. J. N. Loughborough's account was simply repeated by later historians until Delbert Baker's definitive 1987 biography *The Unknown Prophet* traced his subsequent history.

Hazen Foss (1818–1893) was another Millerite who claimed to receive several visions. However he refused to proclaim them, and God told him he was "released" from that ministry, and the message given to Ellen White instead. He was Ellen White's brother-in-law. Adventists tend to believe the prophetic gift offered to these two men was instead passed on to White.

Could we know about Abraham because Abraham accepted God's call and this is why his descendants were chosen?

Read last paragraph, "Perhaps we could ask..." What do you think of the idea that "All nations and ethnic groups are composed of people who do not deserve God's love and grace"?

What is being taught here?

Do unfallen angels in heaven deserve God's love but sinners on earth do not?

If we love only those who are obedient is that love?



Jesus said:

- Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! MT 5:46 GNB

What does John 3:16 mean, “For God so loved the world....”?

Did God select Israel because He loved them while God did not love others?

Do we understand that the phrase “to be loved by God” has two meanings—

- to be loved in God’s heart, i.e. God loves us
- to experience God’s love in us, i.e. we respond to and are changed by the functional power of receiving God’s love

So, Abraham responded to God and opened his heart and thus God’s love could operate in Abraham and many of Abraham’s descendants, so even though from God’s heart God loves all people, not all people open their hearts and experience God’s love, so functionally not all people are loved by God.

And for what was Israel selected by God—to be the exclusive recipients of God’s truth, love, salvation—or to be agents to help God reach the entire world and to be the avenue for the Messiah?

Consider Isaiah 19:18-25:

18 When that time comes, the Hebrew language will be spoken in five Egyptian cities. **The people there will take their oaths in the name of the Lord Almighty**. One of the cities will be called, “City of the Sun.”

19 When that time comes, there will be an altar to the Lord in the land of Egypt and a stone pillar dedicated to him at the Egyptian border. They will be symbols of the Lord Almighty’s presence in Egypt. When the people there are oppressed and call out to the Lord for help, he will send someone to rescue them. **The Lord will reveal himself to the Egyptian people, and then they will acknowledge and worship him**, and bring him sacrifices and offerings. **They will make solemn promises to him and do what they promise**. The Lord will punish the Egyptians, but then he will heal them. **They will turn to him, and he will hear their prayers and heal them**.

23 When that time comes, there will be a highway between Egypt and Assyria. The people of those two countries will travel to and fro between them, **and the two nations will worship together**. When that time comes, ***Israel will rank with Egypt and Assyria***, and these three nations will be a blessing to all the world. **The Lord Almighty will bless them and say, “I will bless you, Egypt, my people; you, Assyria, whom I created; and you, Israel, my chosen people.”** GNB



Does God love only one ethnic group or does God love all humanity?

Through Abraham all nations of the earth will be blessed, the Bible says!

All human beings suffer with the same terminal sin-condition and God loves all human beings and wants to heal every one of us!

So what does it mean to be part of the people of God? To trust God and receive His Spirit to transform us to be like Him, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or denomination!

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “Another image of the people of God...” And from what is this house of God constructed?

What lessons can we draw from the image of a house?

- shelter
- safety
- place of sustenance and nurture
- place for family
- place for children to grow
- place for love
- place for fellowship
- place for marriage
- others?

Do any of these apply to the church?

When you think of the church do you think of a:

- shelter
- place of safety
- place of sustenance and nurture
- place for family
- place for children to grow
- place for love
- place for fellowship
- place for marriage

Can houses become destructive places—places where people are injured rather than nurtured? Can churches become destructive places?



What causes a church to change from a place of healing to a destructive place? Would it be a change in how they understand right and wrong, God's law and justice? Would imperial thinking lead to the need to find fault and punish, rather than identify sickness of heart and bring healing?

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, "Another building imagery..." Is there a difference between the Temple of God, the Sanctuary of God, God's house, and the heavenly sanctuary?

From what is the temple of God built?

Paul says, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's **house** [sanctuary/temple], **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone**. In him the whole **building** [sanctuary/temple] is joined together and rises to become a **holy temple** in the Lord. And in him **you too** [you all] are **being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit**. Ephesians 2:19-22.

And Peter says, "As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- **you also, like living stones** [building blocks of the Temple], are being built **into a spiritual house** [Temple] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." 1 Pet 2:4,5.

Does this include the temple in heaven that is not built with human hands?

What do you think of this quotation from the book *Acts of the Apostles*:

Through the ages that have passed since the days of the apostles, the building of God's temple has never ceased. We may look back through the centuries and see the living stones of which it is composed gleaming like jets of light through the darkness of error and superstition. Throughout eternity these precious jewels will shine with increasing luster, testifying to the power of the truth of God. The flashing light of these polished stones reveals the strong contrast between light and darkness, between the gold of truth and the dross of error.

Paul and the other apostles, and all the righteous who have lived since then, have acted their part in the building of the temple. **But the structure is not yet complete. We who are living in this age have a work to do, a part to act. We are to bring to the foundation material that will stand the test of fire—gold, silver, and precious stones, "polished after the similitude of a palace" (Psalm 144:12).** To those who thus build for God, Paul speaks words of encouragement... : "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." ... **The Christian who faithfully presents the word of life, leading men and women into the way of holiness and peace, is bringing to the foundation material that will**



endure, and in the kingdom of God He will be honored as a wise builder.—The Acts of the Apostles, 598, 599.

Is this temple, built out of living beings, literal, made of real material or metaphorical, symbolic and not real?

If we teach the temple in heaven is built out of living people does that mean there is or is not a real temple in heaven?

If the temple is built out of living beings, then what would the cleansing of the temple, which occurs before the second coming, be about?

Consider this quote from *The Desire of Ages*:

In the cleansing of the temple, Jesus was announcing **His mission as the Messiah**, and entering upon His work. That temple, erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was **designed to be an object lesson** for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was **God's purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator. Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God.** Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, **the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple.** God designed that **the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul.** [what was that building to represent—so the heavenly sanctuary is built from what?] But the Jews had **not understood the significance** of the building they regarded with so much pride. [Are the Jews the only ones who did not understand the significance or do many Christians today also fail to comprehend?] They did not yield **themselves as holy temples** for the Divine Spirit. The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all **too truly the temple of the heart**, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. In cleansing the temple from the world's buyers and sellers, Jesus announced **His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin**,--from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul. [What is Jesus mission? What temple is being cleansed?] "The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver." Malachi 3:1-3. {DA 161.1} [What is Malachi 3:1-3 referring to? Who is being cleansed, what prophecy describes the same event?]

The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, **foretold by**



Malachi, are descriptions of the same event.... {FLB 207.4} [What is the cleansing of the sanctuary? Is this a legal process or an actual healing of heart and mind of all the living stones—cleansing us from lies about God and fear and selfishness, guilt, shame, and all evil?]

Are we taking a message that cleanses the hearts and minds of the lies about God—the view that God is like Satan a being who makes up rules and then threatens to punish for breaking his rules, or are we promoting the truth of our Creator God whose laws are the laws reality are built upon—worship Him who made the heaven, earth, sea and fountains of water?

WEDNESDAY

The metaphor of a body is used to represent the unity in diversity. What lessons can we learn from this example?

What happens in a person when one's body attacks itself? Autoimmune diseases of various kinds—what happens in the church when we attack ourselves?

What contributes to autoimmune diseases? When our immune system, which is designed to protect from outside destructive elements, falsely identifies members of the body as outsider and begins attacking those parts.

And what contributes to problems in the church? When we begin attacking within ourselves differences, divergent ideas, perspectives that don't meet the orthodox view and believe we must rid the body of people with such ideas.

Do you ever see this happening?

What is the solution? Truth, love and freedom—which is presented in harmony with God's design laws—to present so-called truth through the imperial law lens does not present truth but distortion, which all too often happens in Christianity.

THURSDAY

The metaphor of the shepherd and his sheep, what lessons can we learn from this metaphor?

- How does a shepherd lead?
- What methods do shepherds use?
- Does the shepherd know his sheep and the sheep know the shepherd?
- Who fights for the sheep? Do the sheep fight for themselves? What about in the church—do we allow Jesus do defend us or do we feel the need to fight for ourselves?
- When a sheep is lost what does the shepherd do?
- Do others live in fear sheep? Do others live in fear Christians?
- What would it mean if Christians become people that incite fear in others?



- What is the difference between a lost coin a lost sheep and a lost son?
 - Some people are like the coin—lost and don't even know they are lost
 - Some people are like the sheep—lost and know they are lost but have no idea how to get home and bleat for help
 - Some are like the lost son—lost, know they are lost, and know the way home but have to decide to turn back and go home.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss question 3, what are merits?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Watch *The Dr. Tim Jennings Show* on **WBTN.TV Network**. Go to TimJenningsMD.com for more info.

November 9,10 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Houston, TX, in conjunction with the AACC

December 1, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing an Aging Brain seminar in Dallas, TX. Organized by the Arlington SDA church.

January 4-6, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking for the Florida Conference of SDA Women's Convention in Orlando, FL.

February 2-3, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking Christ's Church of Oronogo, MO.

February 22-March 9, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be in Australia speaking in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Adelaide, Avondale, Sydney, Livingston, Perth, and Melbourne.

Mental Health Matters *Community Gatherings for Help, Hope and Healing*
In partnership with Come and Reason Ministries and Hixson United Methodist Church

Guilt Resolution Thursday, November 8, 2018

Do you struggle with guilt? Discover the difference between legitimate and illegitimate guilt and how to resolve each and how to prevent people from manipulating you with guilt.

The God-Shaped Brain Thursday, December 13, 2018

Our brains are in a constant state of flux. Moment by moment new connections are forming, idle tracks are being pruned back and brain circuits are changing. Discover how our beliefs change our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or turned off. Do your beliefs matter – more than you ever knew!