

In Christ Alone

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The 2nd Sunder after Epiphany
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Isa 49:1-7; 1 Cor 1:1-9; Jn 1:29-42a

Introduction

What happens when a baby is not held?

Touch can ease pain, lift depression and even possibly increase the odds that a team will win. But touch is even more vital than this: babies who are not held and nuzzled and hugged enough will literally stop growing and-if the situation lasts long enough, even if they are receiving proper nutrition-die.

We are designed to receive and give _____. But in America we assert our _____. Radical autonomy is really _____-_____.

CCT: True Christian witness points to (and centers) Christ and calls us to live _____ fellowship.

I. Christian Witness Points to Christ

John 1:29-34

Why is John's "Lamb of God" *pregnant* language?

Exodus 12:3 (ESV)

³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

Maia Szalavitz, "Born for Love," *Psychology Today*. Posted March 1, 2010. www.psychologytoday.com. URL: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/born-love/201003/touching-empathy>. Accessed January 12, 2017.

Isaiah 53:7 (ESV)

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Who is the prophecy for? Why?

1 Peter 1:18–19 (ESV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

[Explanation of the 2nd Article of the Creed, LSB 322]

II. Christ Calls Us into His Fellowship

1 Corinthians 1:2

Even though they're a very messed up congregation, Paul still calls them _____. Why?

1 Corinthians 1:9

What does it mean to be in "fellowship" with Christ?

Acts 2:42 (ESV)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

The example of Zacchaeus

Conclusion

Christians of all ages, we find our identity in Christ, our way in His Word. Therefore, we have to very careful so that we do not uncritically accept _____ cultural ideals that may be contrary to God's Word.

What's the relationship between "fellowship" in 1 Cor 1 and "participation" in 1 Cor 10?

1 Corinthians 10:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

What is the importance of The Lord's Supper: a) in terms of our basic needs? b) in terms of our relationship with others?

Let us, by the grace of God, _____ in His fellowship.



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