CAPTIVATE: “to attract or capture”

--

“Is it possible to be a captive and be free at the same time?”

--

I Corinthians 6:19-20

*19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*

*--*

*20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (NIV)*

--

“How can we become a church for people who don’t like church?”

--

Mark 2:13-17

*13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them.*

*--*

*14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.*

*--*

*15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.*

*--*

*16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

*--*

*17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (ESV)*

--

Isaiah 61:1-11

*1 THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound,*

*--*

*2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [the year of His favor] and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,*

*--*

*3 To grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion—to give them an ornament a garland or diadem) of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit—that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.*

*--*

*4 And they shall rebuild the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former desolations and renew the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.*

*--*

*5 Aliens shall stand [ready] and feed your flocks, and foreigners shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. (Aliens and foreigners shall work for the oppressed)*

*--*

*6 But you shall be called the priests of the Lord; people will speak of you as the ministers of our God. You shall eat the wealth of the nations, and the glory [once that of your captors] shall be yours.*

*--*

*7 Instead of your [former] shame you shall have a twofold recompense; instead of dishonor and reproach [your people] shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double [what they had forfeited]; everlasting joy shall be theirs.*

*--*

*8 For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong with violence or a burnt offering. And I will faithfully give them their recompense in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant or league with them.*

*--*

*9 And their offspring shall be known among the nations and their descendants among the peoples. All who see them [in their prosperity] will recognize and acknowledge that they are the people whom the Lord has blessed.*

*--*

*10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*--*

*11 For as [surely as] the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring forth, so [surely] the Lord God will cause rightness and justice and praise to spring forth before all the nations [through the self-fulfilling power of His word]. (AMPC)*

--

Mark 2:17

*“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (ESV)*

--

"Jesus didn’t launch the church for people who had a common interest; He launched the church for people who had a common need."

--

"How do we become a Church that is attractive to people who don't like church?"

--

Romans 8:1-11

*1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

*--*

*2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

*--*

*3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,*

*--*

*4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

*--*

*5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*

*--*

*6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

*--*

*7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*

*--*

*8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*--*

*9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

*--*

*10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

*--*

*11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” (ESV)*

--

Romans 7:14-25

*14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.*

*--*

*15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*

*--*

*16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.*

*--*

*17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

*--*

*18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*

*--*

*19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*

*--*

*20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

*--*

*21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.*

*--*

*22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,*

*--*

*23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.*

*--*

*24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

*--*

*25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.” (ESV)*

--

MEMBERS: (melos) “a bodily organ or limb; any function of the human personality, such as our “sanctified imagination”.

--

Romans 3:10-18

*10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;*

*--*

*11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.*

*--*

*12 All have turned aside; together they [we] have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*

*--*

*13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips."*

*--*

*14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."*

*--*

*15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

*--*

*16 in their paths are ruin and misery,*

*--*

*17 and the way of peace they have not known."*

*--*

*18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (ESV)*

--

“Is God asking us to adapt Him to our culture or to adapt our culture to Him?”

--

“Loving and Leading People into a Growing Relationship with Christ.”

--

“Jesus came to this earth to gather together a group of people, not with a common interest, but a common problem.”