

THE AWAKENING

Only By Love is Love Awakened

^aSave - Sozo, to Heal

Luke 19.9—Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.

^bAionios—everlasting conditions that have neither beginning nor end

☺ **ALL Privileged & Oppressed**
- **Becoming Awake**
- **The Picture Jesus Chose:**

Luke 4.18—The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.

Isaiah 61.1—The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners.

Isaiah 58.6—Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

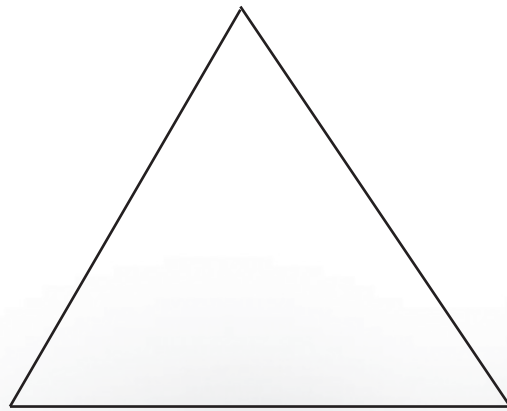
John 3.17—Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved^a through him.

Individual Sickness vs. Systemic Sickness

John 3.16—For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal^b life.

“metanoesein kai pistos emoi.” - The Life Of Flavius Josephus, (Thackery 110)

Strange Absence: They Already Believed They Were The Favored of God



God ---- You

Why This doesn't always work:

Lack of Attraction
Opium for the Oppressors
Opium for the Oppressed

“Religion is the opiate of the people” - Karl Marx

God ----- Them

Luke 15.2—And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

God as **shepherd** leaving the 99 to seek the one.

God as a **woman** seeking a coin.

That the world might be healed . . . – John 3.17

*All texts quoted from the NRSV unless otherwise noted.

^d**Mark 10.21**—Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

“Sin is evident in oppressive structures, in the exploitation of man by man, in the domination and slavery of peoples, races and social classes. - Gustavo Gutiérrez

The gospel itself contains the seed of liberation from all things that oppress. - Gustavo Gutiérrez

Grace moves individually AND socially. - Gustavo Gutiérrez

‘One of Two Responses

God as a **father** who embraces a wasteful son while pleading with an older sibling.

God most definitely takes sides. God seeks to liberate ALL from systemic oppression, in every instance through solidarity with the oppressed. If the God of Jesus takes sides, then those living with privilege must pick a side as well.^d

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5.1-12

<http://renewedheartministries.com/presentation/GodisBeautiful>^e

And until the white body writhes with red rage, until the white heart heaves with black tremors, until the white head bows before yellow dreams and tan schemes and olive screams for a different world, any communion claimed will be contrivance of denial. A theologian~speaking of resurrection, in a body not bearing there scars of its own “crucifixion”? Impossible! - James Perkinson; *White Theology [A Response to James Cone’s God of the Oppressed.]*

1 John 4.19-20—We love because he first loved us [i.e. “the world” John 3.16]. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

There’s no question about the reality of evil, injustice, suffering, but at the center of this existence is a heart beating with love.— Desmond Tutu

Test Case:

“And until the _____ body writhes with _____rage, until the _____ heart heaves with _____tremors, until the _____ head bows before _____ dreams and _____ schemes and _____screams for a different world, any communion claimed will be contrivance of denial. A theologian~speaking of resurrection, in a body not bearing there scars of its own “crucifixion”? Impossible!”^f

John 3.16-17—For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be [healed] through him.



RENEWED
HEART
ministries

Herb Montgomery
Renewed Heart Ministries
PO Box 1211 | Lewisburg, WV 24901 | 304.520.0030
herb@renewedheartministries.com
www.renewedheartministries.com