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MONDAY MANNA
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DO YOU SOMETIMES WISH YOU WERE DIFFERENT?

By Ken Korkow

Comparison is a dangerous game to play. Because we are all unique. Some people have abilities and traits we wish we had. Would it surprise you to discover that those same people are envious of abilities and traits that you have? But I suppose it is normal to wish we were different – I know I have done that.

For instance, I can recall times wishing that I was taller. Or that I had a better memory. Some people might wish they had different family members, or that their background experiences were different. Do you wish your self-control was better, so you would not keep repeating the same limiting and/or destructive behavior? I have lost count of the times I wished I could stop making the same mistakes.

This morning I was reading from one of my daily devotionals, one called *JESUS CALLING*, and saw this verse: *“But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? Shall what be formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?”* (Romans 9:20-21).

Then, I received a reminder of how much grace I have been given by God – His limitless, unconditional, unmerited favor – and how much grace I continue to need on an everyday basis. I read the following thoughts below from the late Henry Blackaby, author of the excellent Bible study, *Experiencing God*. He started by quoting a passage I have read many times:

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified” (Romans 8:29-30).

Even though we might sometimes wish we were different, each one of us is a product of God’s perfect, divine plan. How we are – and who we are – is not a mistake.

Blackaby continued to elaborate on what this means: “Your life is a part of God’s grand design. God has known about you and had a plan for your life since before time began. He knew everything about you before you were even born.” He then cited a verse that continues to amaze me, Jeremiah 1:5, *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart....”*

由香港工商基督徒協會 (CBMC Hong Kong Ltd) 逢週一發放

地址: 香港上環禧利街 2 號東寧大廈 20 樓 2004 室 Tel: (852) 2805-1923

Email: enquiry@cbmc.org.hk Web: www.cbmc.org.hk

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“God predetermined that you would become like His Son. Your life, therefore, has a destiny. Christ is the model upon which the Father is developing your life. You are meant to have a relationship with the Father that is as intimate as the relationship between Jesus and the Father (John 17:21). Every event He allows into your life is designed to make you more like Christ.

“God’s call came when He invited you to join Him in the process! His call was extremely personal, designed specifically for your response. How wonderful to realize that at a particular moment in history, almighty God spoke personally to you and invited you to become His child!”

No matter what our job might be – as a top executive, manager, supervisor, retail salesperson, craftsman, educator, musician, engineer, attorney, physician, developer, technician, or some other profession – we are much more than the kind of work we do. As Romans 8:29 declares, we are predestined by God “to be conformed into the likeness of His Son,” Jesus Christ. More than anything, when people see us, God wants them to see Christ. And being different is how He enables people to see Him in different ways.

Ken Korkow lives in Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A., where he serves as an area director for CBMC. This is adapted from his “Fax of Life” column. Used with permission.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. To revisit the opening question, do you sometimes wish that you were different? If it were up to you, in what ways would you like to change?
2. What can be the effect of being envious of others, wishing that we were like them in terms of their personality, traits, skills, or giftedness? Can it be productive in any way to compare who we are with what we see in other people? Explain your answer.
3. In the first passage cited, Romans 8:29 says we are “predestined [by God] to be conformed to the image of His Son.” What do you think this means? And how can that be applied to how we approach our jobs and responsibilities in the workplace?
4. Another verse, Jeremiah 1:5, quotes God making the declaration, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart...” How do you understand what this means, and as you think about it, how does it make you feel?

NOTE:

If you have a Bible and would like to read more, consider the following passages: Isaiah 29:13-16, 64:8; Jeremiah 29:11-13, 33:2-3; 1 Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 2:10

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