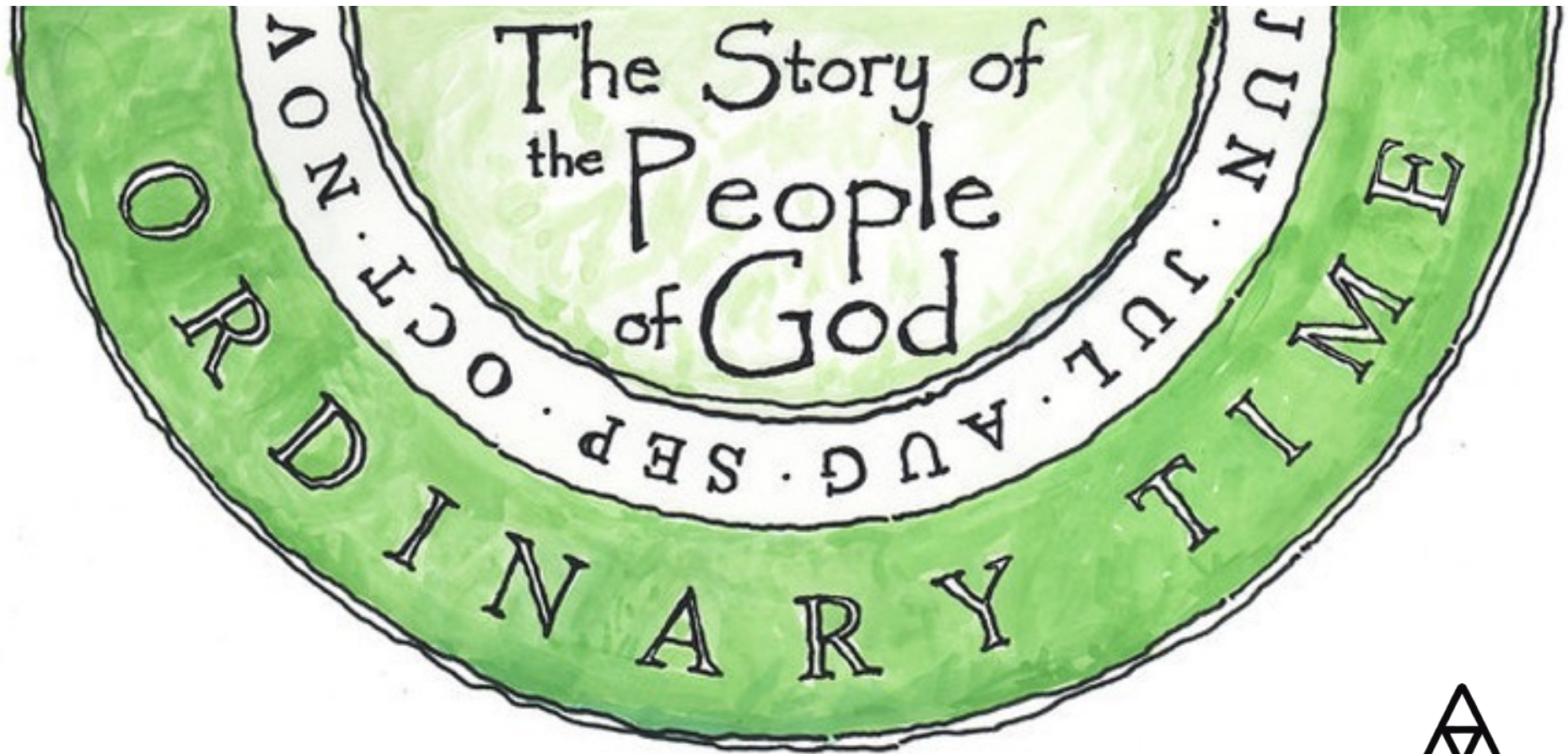


Holy God, you have called us
to follow in the way of your risen Son,
and to care for those who are
companions and strangers alike.
Fill us with your spirit that we may
love you as we love our neighbor,
not only with words of comfort,
but with acts of generosity and love. Amen

Opening Prayer

A decorative banner at the bottom of the page features a dark background with white line art of hands holding a globe. The globe is composed of overlapping circles in red, green, blue, and purple. To the right, there is a white pattern resembling a fishnet or a woven mesh.



The image features two ripe peaches with a mix of red and yellow-orange skin, set against a plain white background. A single green leaf is attached to the peach in the foreground. Overlaid on the peaches is the text "THE GOOD and BEAUTIFUL GOD" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. Below the text is a white geometric logo consisting of a large triangle composed of smaller triangles.

THE GOOD and
BEAUTIFUL GOD



*“What commandment is the foremost of all?” Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, ISRAEL! THE LORD IS OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE; AND **YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**’ The second is this: ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

HOLY
BIBLE

MARK
10:37-38

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son, whom God appointed heir of all things, and through whom also God made the universe. **The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of God's being...***

HOLY
BIBLE

HEB
1:1-3

THE TRUE NARRATIVES OF JESUS

- God is **GOOD** ✓
- God is **TRUSTWORTHY** ✓
- God is **GENEROUS** ✓
- God is **LOVE** ✓
- God is **HOLY** ✓
- God is **SELF-SACRIFICING** ✓
- God is **TRANSFORMATIVE** ✓



james bryan smith

The Good and Beautiful

GOD

FALLING IN LOVE WITH
THE GOD JESUS KNOWS

"The best practice I have seen in Christian spiritual formation."

—DALLAS WILLARD



FALSE NARRATIVE #6

I **AM** a **SINNER**



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DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN

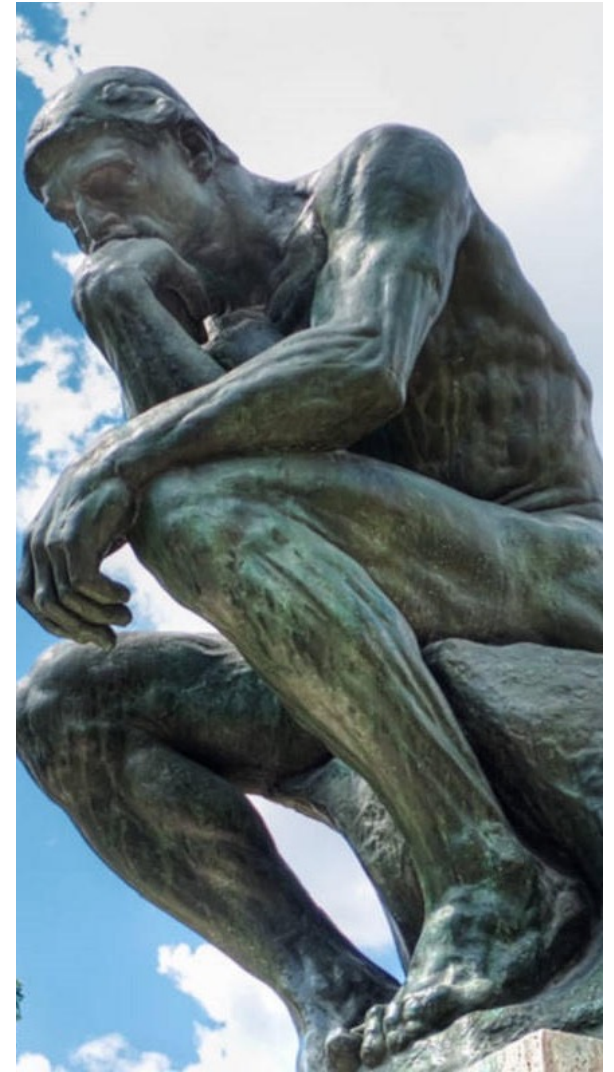
The condition of sinfulness all human beings share as the result of Adam's sin; originally believed to be transmitted *genetically* (without the knowledge of how human biology and procreation actually work); infants are damned at birth; expanded to the total loss of free will except to choose sin



A FEW PROBLEMS...

1. According to “original sin,” Genesis 3 > Genesis 1:

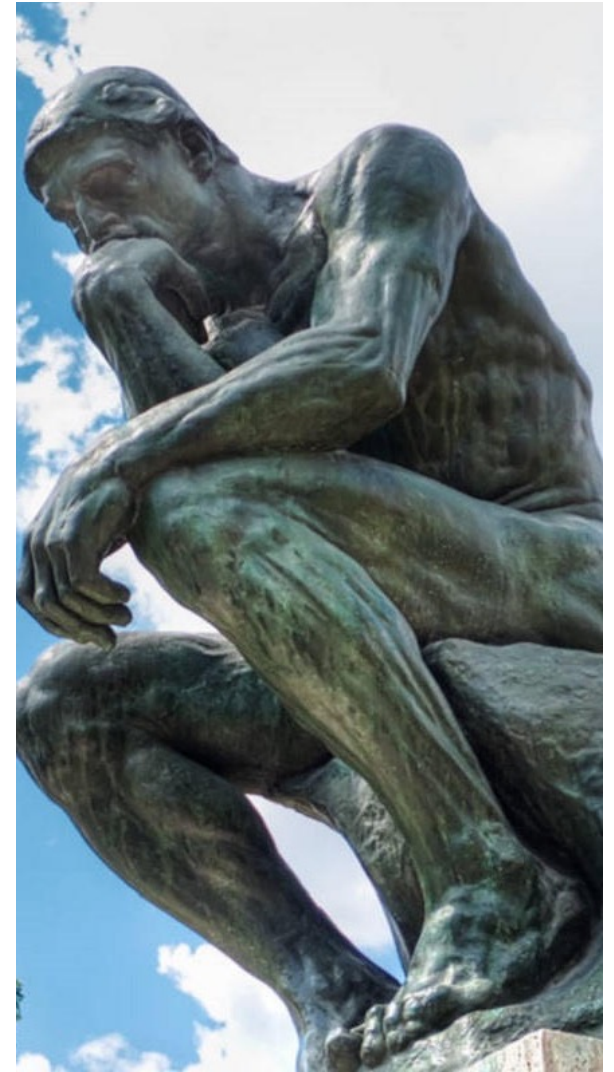
*“God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good.” (1:31)*



A FEW PROBLEMS...

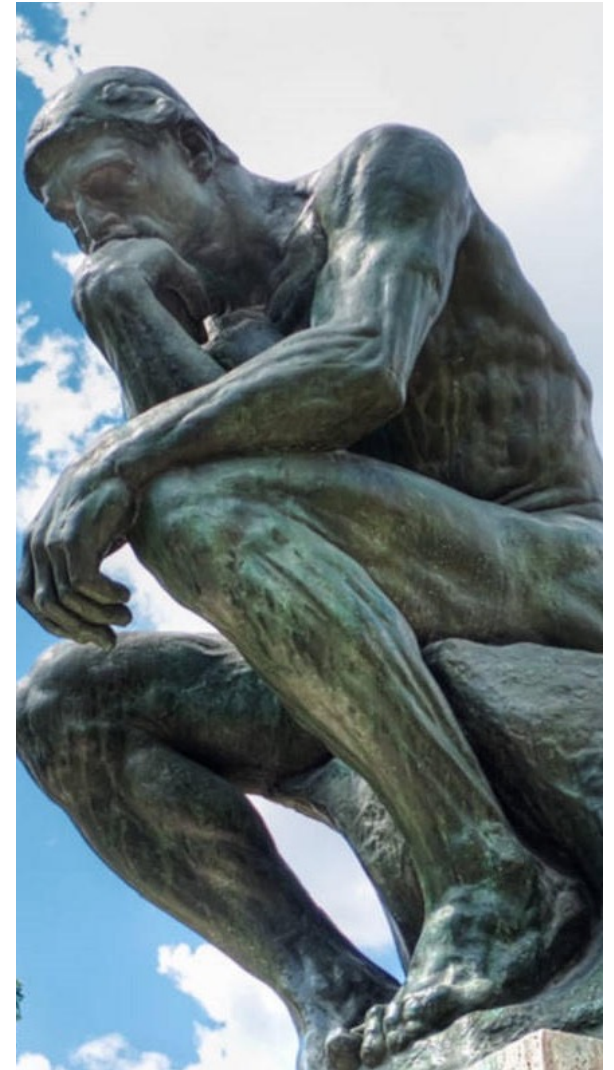
1. According to “original sin,”
Genesis 3 > Genesis 1
2. Psalm 51:5-6 requires a fuller
understanding of genre/context:

*“Surely, I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother
conceived me. Yet you desired
faithfulness even in the womb...”*



A FEW PROBLEMS...

1. According to “original sin,”
Genesis 3 > Genesis 1
2. Psalm 51:5-6 requires a fuller
understanding of genre/context
3. Romans 5 doesn't require
“original sin” for “accuracy”



...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned...

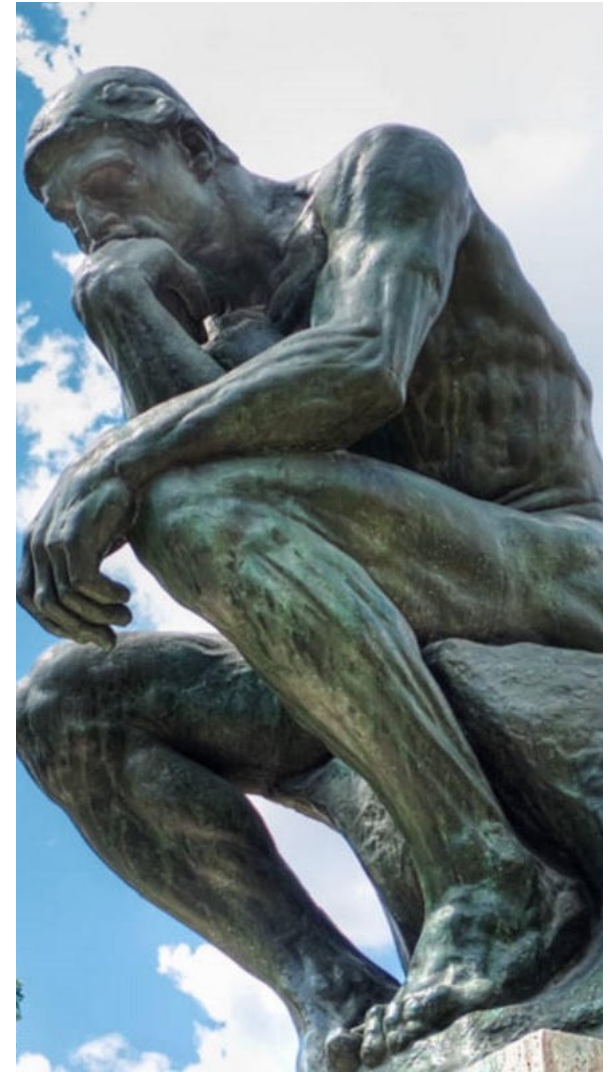
HOLY
BIBLE

ROM

5:12

TO SUM UP:

1. Everything was made with original goodness; effects of sin came later
2. David was writing/singing his emotions, not offering literal truth applicable to all human beings
3. Sin entering the world, affecting everyone/everything, does not require belief in “original sin”



The phrase “in Christ” or “in the Lord” occurs 164x in Paul’s epistles...
The NT does not set Jesus apart from his followers, rather, those who put their confidence in Jesus are also inhabited by him. Christians are people Christ dwells in...they are not just forgiven sinners, but a new species.



FALSE NARRATIVE #6

I **AM** a **SINNER**

TRUE NARRATIVE #6

I **AM** a **SAINT** and/or
I **AM** am deeply **LOVED**



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(Quoting Greg Jones) “to be initiated in the life in God’s Kingdom, is to be transferred from one narrative—the narrative of death-dealing sin—to the narrative of God’s reconciliation in Christ. And in that latter narrative we are forgiven of our sin so we can **learn to become holy*** through lifelong repentance and forgiveness.”
(*sanctification)



**JAMES BRYAN
SMITH**

Jones is right; our narratives must first change. The narrative of *“I am an awful sinner”* must be replaced by the narrative that says, *“In Christ I am no longer defined by sin. I have been reconciled. Sin has been defeated.”*



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SMITH

**HERE'S WHAT WE
NEED TO REFLECT ON:**

How do we **SEE/THINK ABOUT**
ourselves at the **IDENTITY** level?



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*...it is by grace you have been saved...
For it is by grace you have been
saved, through faith—and this
is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
not by works, so that no one can boast.*

HOLY
BIBLE

EPH

2:5, 8-9

I AM NOTHING BUT A

SINNER

SAVED BY

GRACE

EPHESIANS 2:5

HOLY
BIBLE

EPH

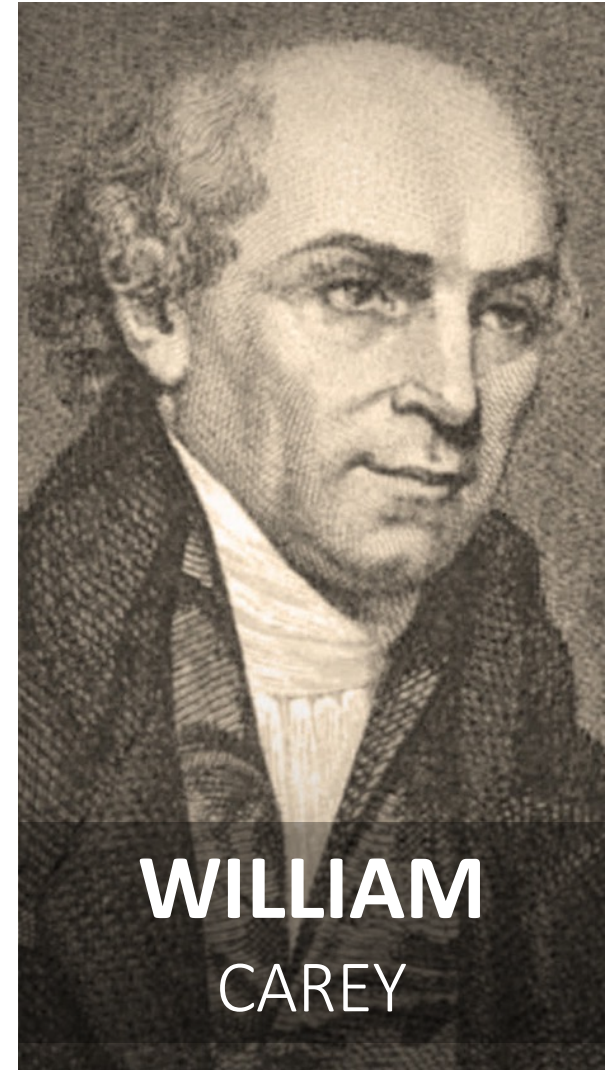
2:5, 8-9

HIS EPITAPH

Born August 17, 1761

Died June 19, 1834

“A wretched, poor, and helpless worm
On thy kind arms I fall”



When I hear Christians say,
“I’m just a sinner saved by grace,”
I want to say, “That makes as
much sense as a butterfly saying,
‘I’m just a worm with wings.’”

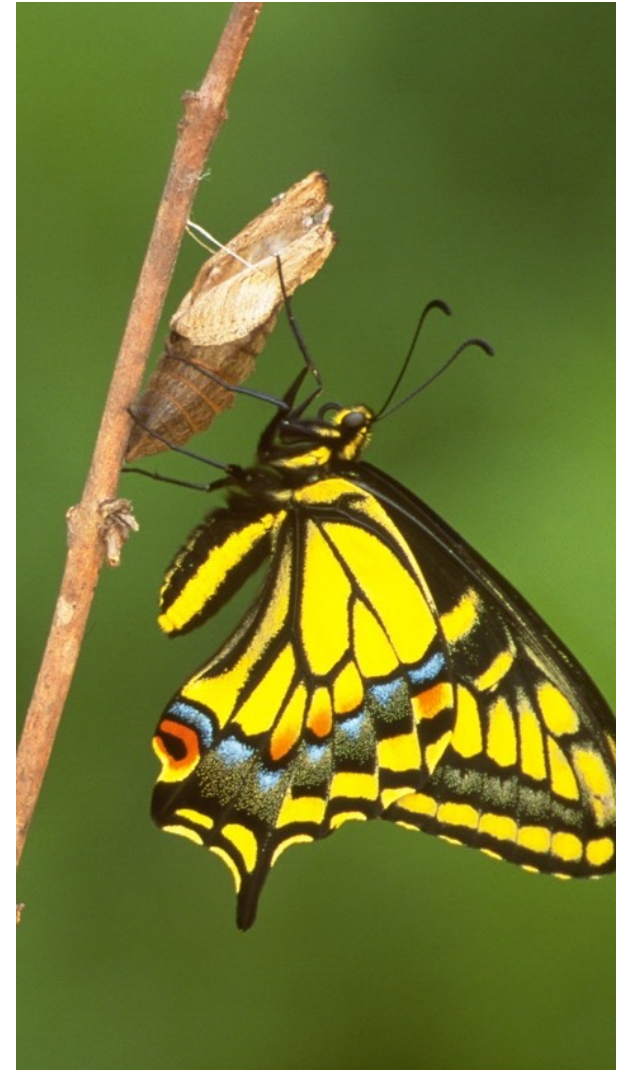


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A FEW METAPHORS to HELP...

1. Caterpillar/Butterfly 2 Cor 5:17

“If anyone be in Christ, they are a new creation; behold, the old has gone, the new is here!”



A FEW METAPHORS to HELP...

1. Caterpillar/Butterfly *2 Cor 5:17*

2. Vine/Branches *John 15:5*

"I am the vine, you are the branches; if you remain in me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Apart from me, you can do nothing."



A FEW METAPHORS to HELP...

1. Caterpillar/Butterfly *2 Cor 5:17*

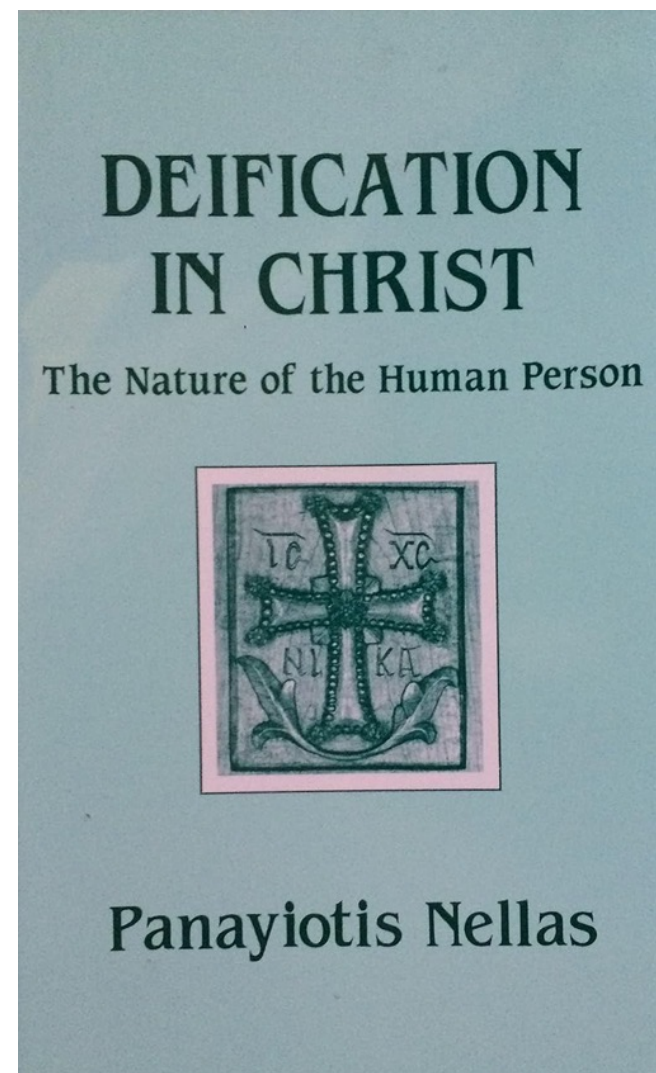
2. Vine/Branches *John 15:5*

3. City/Country dog *Luke 15:11-31*

- Country dog = younger brother
- City dog = older brother



The spiritual life is not a life of laws and precepts but a life of participation, affection and love, a life mingled and mixing with God.



SOUL TRAINING EXERCISE

Meditate/reflect on the WHO I AM IN CHRIST list

- Read each item on the list
- Look up and read the corresponding scriptures
- Ask: do I really believe this?
- Ask: if not, why not?
- Ask: if so, then what?



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WHO I AM IN CHRIST: I Am Accepted

I am God's child *John 1:12*

As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ *John 15:5*

I have been justified (declared righteous) *Rom 5:1*

I am united w/him, and one w/him in spirit *1 Cor 6:17*

I've been bought w/a price and belong to God *6:19-20*

I am a member of Christ's body *1 Cor 12:17*

I've been chosen/adopted by God *Eph 1:3-8*

I have been redeemed/forgiven *Col 1:13-14*

I am complete in Christ *Col 2:9-10*

WHO I AM IN CHRIST: I Am Secure

I am free from condemnation *Rom 8:1-2*

I am assured God works for my good *Rom 8:28*

I am free from condemnation *Rom 8:31-39*

I've been established/anointed/sealed by God *2 Cor 1:21-22*

I am hidden w/Christ in God *Col 3:1-4*

Confident God will complete what God started *Phil 1:6*

I am a citizen of heaven *Phil 3:20*

No spirit of fear, but of power/love/sound mind *2 Tim 1:7*

I am born of God; evil one can't touch me *1 John 5:18*

WHO I AM IN CHRIST: I Am Significant

I am a branch of the true vine, channel of his life *John 15:5*

I am chosen and appointed to bear fruit *John 15:16*

I am God's temple *1 Cor 3:16*

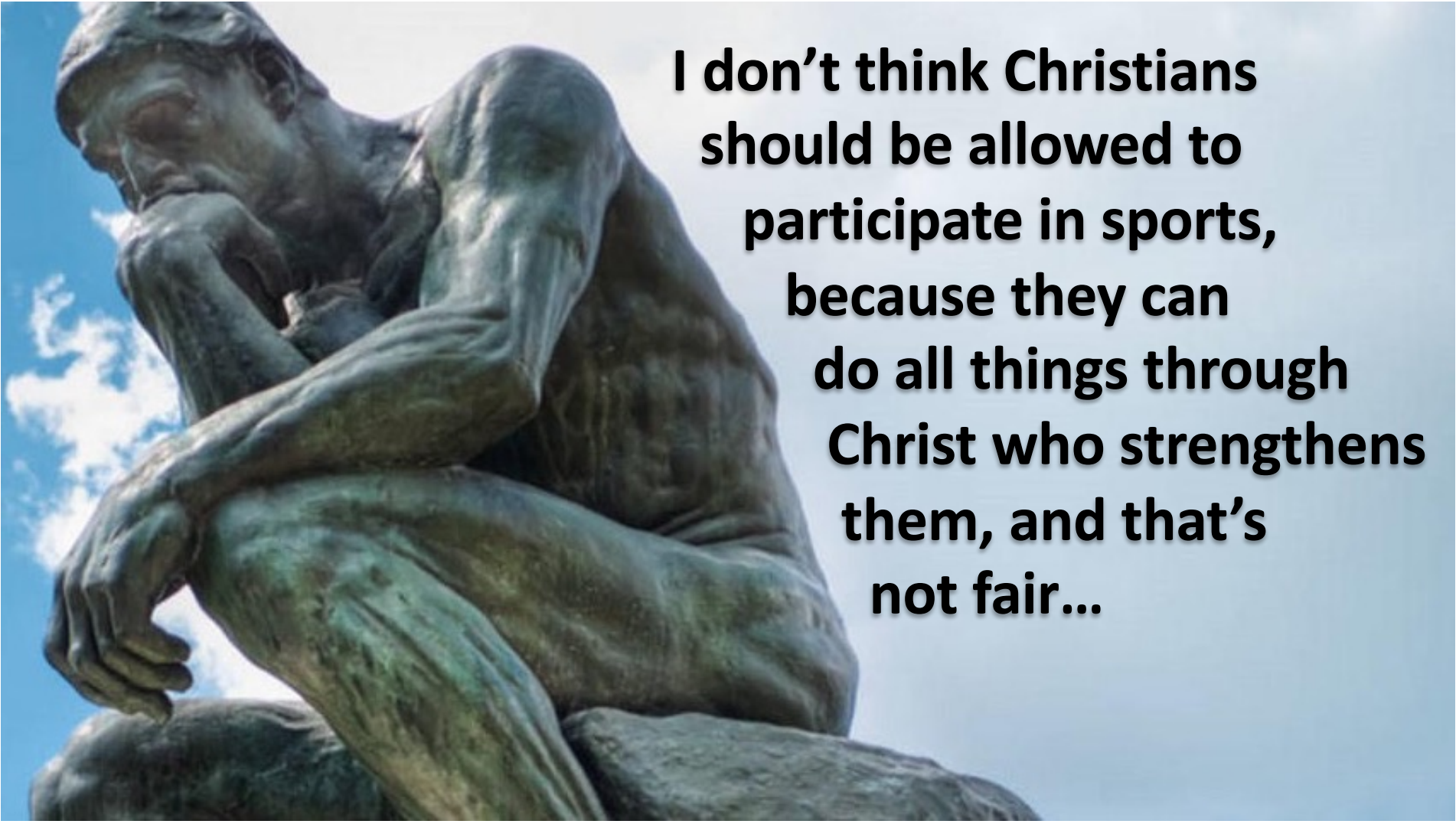
I am a minister of reconciliation for God *2 Cor 5:17-21*

I am seated w/Christ in the heavenly realms *Eph 2:6*

I am God's workmanship *Eph 2:10*

I may approach God with freedom/confidence *Eph 3:12*

I can do all things through Christ *Phil 4:13*



**I don't think Christians
should be allowed to
participate in sports,
because they can
do all things through
Christ who strengthens
them, and that's
not fair...**

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BAPTISM *and potluck*

SUN, 6.28 // 2829 Missouri St // 5 – 7pm

Bring a dessert/side dish to share

Interested in baptism? Let Deacon know!

Coming next week:

**THE GOOD and
BEAUTIFUL LIFE**



Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty,
and restore all things in glory
through the victory of Jesus Christ.

We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice,
love, and peace, to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Closing Prayer

