

# Jesus The Man of Rebellion Series

## We Are One!

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one even as we are one.** 24, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, **so that the world may know that you sent me** and loved them even as you loved me.  
(John 17:22–23 ESVi)

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to **those sanctified in Christ Jesus,** called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:  
(1 Corinthians 1:2 ESVi)

**And because of him you are in Christ Jesus,** who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,  
(1 Corinthians 1:30 ESVi)

Our union with God and each other is the earthquake that shakes the world into being awakened to the presence of the Spirit and the love of the Father. Could it be that the reason the world is blind is because what we have put on display is division and judgment rather than unity and grace? Meditate on the phrase above from John 17, “...**that the world may know.**” To see myself as one with Christ means that I also see myself as one with others in Christ. If my heart reflects my Father’s—that all should come to repentance, that the world would know, and that every knee would bow—then it does no good for me to treat anyone as being separate.

### Acts 10

Peter had a most fascinating experience. He had refused to value Gentiles, but God wanted him to minister to the house church of a Roman centurion. God showed him a vision in which animals Peter **considered unclean** were lowered before him over and over. Shortly after the vision, men arrived to invite Peter to minister to Gentiles. Peter stood before them, and this is how he interpreted the vision:

And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.  
(Acts 10:28 ESVi)

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,  
(Acts 10:34 ESVi)

So according to the apostle Peter, we can call no one **unholy or unclean**. So then what am I to call people?

If no one can be holy or clean apart from Christ, then my perspective of all people must be **“in Christ.”**

Please understand that I did not say that all people are in Christ. Whether or not that is ultimately true is not what this reflection is saying.

I simply want to raise a question. **Do you see Christ in people around you?** I believe I must see others in Christ, or I will live alienating myself from those I’m called to love.

Within the body of Christ, this perspective eliminates all jealousy and competition between us and positions us to celebrate the greatness in each other.

If the same Holy Spirit that empowers greatness and gifts within you **lives in us both**, and **Christ is not divided**, **then we are one in the Spirit in the most eternally profound sense possible.**

I become more aware of the nature and character of God by discovering the treasure within you. It is then that you and I become the answer to Jesus’s prayer that we would be one.

**Christ’s blood, not their actions,** has made them holy and clean, and they are one with him as we are one with them.

We are not to see ourselves as divided or independent of each other. We are to see ourselves as one with each other because we are.

Paul said that the fullness of the Godhead dwelled in Christ, (Col 2:9-10)

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

**(Colossians 2:9–10 ESVi)**

Jesus said that we would eventually realize that he is in us and we are in him. So picture this: God in Christ is fully within you, right where you are sitting and reading this book. Christ is also within me wherever I happen to be. Yet Christ is not divided. So then what are we to do with the distance between you and me right now? The only explanation that serves to accept the reality of unity and deny the apparent division between us is that this perceived distance is simply not the highest revelation of reality. Linear time and measurable space were created by God as a means of forming within us a completion that—we will eventually come to discover—is a present reality that has always been. **The Bible speaks of mankind as “Adam”** and tells us that there are just two: the first Adam and the last Adam. **The first Adam was a created being; the last Adam is a life-giving Spirit.**

***Every judgment one man has given another has been a condemnation he has inflicted upon himself!***

**Luke 7**

Luke 7's brilliantly overlooked admonition that the judgment we release over another opens us up to an avalanche of our own self-inflicted condemnation has resulted in humanity scapegoating itself into blindness to ourselves and God. Jesus said about the woman, "Her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little" (Luke 7:47).

**Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."**  
**(Luke 7:47 ESVi)**

**To illustrate this**, let me tell you a story. I have spoken to many Christian leaders who have fallen to various sins. I remember the PTL and the Jimmy Swaggert scandals that exposes to sin and judgement. I have had some personal experiences with this issue. **(The Baptism of Innocence)**

To each of them the question was asked **"Do you know anyone who has struggled with this?"** They almost always say yes. When I ask how they, as leaders, responded to those people giving in to sin, most of them will say something that sounds like this: **"I took a stand."** "I preached against it." "I confronted it!" It isn't too long before those same leaders begin to find themselves struggling in their own heart, and those struggles usually begin with the question of what if— picturing themselves engaging in that activity they've taken a stand against.

It is the nature of judgment that, before you can judge others' actions, you must come to the conclusion that you simply can't see how they could have done what they did.

**To make this determination**, you have to come to the conclusion that you absolutely could never do the same. This elevated perspective of personal capability or incapability is what sits us firmly upon the seat of judgment. When, from that seat of judgment, the judges begin to struggle, many of them will identify this struggle as "an attack of the enemy." When a person feels attacked, he or she usually doubles down on the defenses and strengthens the offensive.

**Eventually**, in a moment of weakness and blindness, many fall to the very sin they were condemning. I'm not saying we shouldn't condemn sin or take a stand for righteousness, but we must understand and learn the danger of what judgment opens us up to. **Do you see what's happening?** When we judge and feel opposition, challenge, and internal struggle, we label it an attack of the enemy when, in fact, we are crushing ourselves beneath the weight of our own self-inflicted condemnation. Perhaps we do this because we don't yet believe the prayer of Jesus (John 17), his declaration (John 14), or the teachings of Paul (Colossians 3) which say that we are one and that Christ is all and in all.

**Matt. 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.**

**Even Jesus worked with this self-inflicted condemnation to bring about the redemption of mankind.**

**Let me explain.** Who were the only people Jesus judged and condemned harshly? **Religious leaders.** They were the ones on the receiving end of the angriest words Jesus ever spoke. He even resorted to name calling (“whitewashed tombs ... full of dead men’s bones”) and some seriously dark labeling (**“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, ... a liar and the father of lies.”**).

To say that Jesus was never judgmental is to ignore how he treated religious leaders. So then, what happened to Jesus? He was murdered by the very people he judged. Jesus himself became a victim of his own judgment, **and it was no accident.** He was demonstrating for us what we still don’t understand.

Jesus’s judgment and death at the **hands of those he judged is a violent illustration of the brutality we have failed to realize.**

**The judgment you give is the judgment you receive.**

On the cross, while we were dead in the blindness of sin, he entered our blindness, taking us with him through death. As mankind went blindly about his life, Christ raised us together with him from that place of death, making us alive before we even gave him permission to do so.

When he declared **“It is finished,”** he forever united us in reconciliation with the Father, forgiving us before we did anything to deserve it.

**That’s love. That’s grace. That’s the gospel.**

As you begin to understand this, you might be wondering if releasing grace and forgiveness over others would have a reverse effect. **Absolutely it does!**

If what you give to another was to manifest and overflow in your own life, what would you give away?

<sup>22</sup> **And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.**  
<sup>23</sup> **If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”**

For now, read **John 20:23** and meditate on these questions. ASK YOURSELF Take this personally, as if it’s being directed at us today.

What is the challenge Jesus is giving us in **John 20:23**?

1. How will this change the way I treat people?
2. How would I live differently if I believed the grace I gave away actually mattered?
3. If you were to make a list of the people in your life who you would call “unholy” or “unclean,” who would be in the top three spots?
4. Now call each one of them by name and declare over them, from your heart, that they are “holy” and “clean.”