

Lent Day 16

Saturday March 18, 2017

Reading: Romans 7:1-6

4 So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. 5 For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death.

Reflection

Have you ever wondered what you would look like if you had a different mother or father? Would your hair colour be different or your height? It's an interesting thought but it is based on the fact that we are all products of a combination of our parents. Paul uses a marriage, death and remarriage metaphor to make this same point.

Let's work it backward so we can see it a bit better. Congratulations, you've been joined in a second marriage — to Jesus. This second marriage is different than your first, or at least the result is. In our first marriage our offspring was fruit for death, but in our second it is fruit for God. So, who was our first husband? You, your old self, or as Paul has worded it the flesh, by which he means your old Adam solidarity which you died to when you were joined to Jesus.

Let's work it forward. You were bonded to your own sinful nature and that union led to death. But, now, you have died with Christ in his death on the cross which means you are free to have a new marriage, which is to Jesus and that union leads to life — a life for God. The long and the short of it is you, now joined to Christ, produce a life for God.

This is vital to remember during lent because our focus is renewed life. That isn't impossible it's what has been done for us in Christ. The key is to maintain our union with our second marriage and not try to go back to our first.

Prayer

Lover of our soul, thank you for freeing us from our bad marriage and joining with us to make a good one. Produce in us the fruit for God, life. Amen.