

Pastor Ron Case
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“Believing & Cleaving”

“but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

Childish Belief

John 8:30-36, 44-45 – (30) “As he (*Jesus*) was saying these things, *many believed in him*. (31) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ (33) They answered him, ‘We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?’ (34) Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. (35) The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (36) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (37) I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you... (44) You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (45) But because I tell the truth, *you do not believe me.*”

Key Point: True Believing = Cleaving

Clingy Belief

John 20:1-3, 10-18 – (1) “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. (2) So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ (3) So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. (10) Then the disciples went back to their homes. (11) But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. (12) And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. (13) They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ (14) Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. (15) Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have

carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ (16) Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned and said to him in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means Teacher). (17) Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling (to fasten upon, to kindle) to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ (18) Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’—and that he had said these things to her.”

Evidence of Cleaving

John 15:5 – “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

Galatians 5:22-23 – (22) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Are there those who believe, but do not cleave? (James 2:19)

How do we cleave to Christ? (Col. 2:18-19; Eph. 5:24-26)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)