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Challenge 29 of 40

Reflection by Rod Long - Sydney, Australia

"His name shall be called Immanuel, . . . God with us." "The light of the knowledge of the glory of God" is seen "in the face of Jesus Christ." From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father; He was "the image of God," the image of His greatness and majesty, "the outshining of His glory." It was to manifest this glory that He came to our world. To this sin-darkened earth He came to reveal the light of God's love—to be "God with us." Therefore it was prophesied of Him, "His name shall be called Immanuel." DA pg.19

My father passed away in August of 2000 at the age of 70. I remember we had worked together in our family property development business for more than 22 years at that time. It wasn't a plan we had formulated while in my schooling years, but working with him was simply something that happened naturally. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and one that will continue to impact me in the years to come. When I was very young, I remember tagging along to work meetings of his, visiting building sites, overhearing telephone calls, and travelling in the car with other business associates of his. I didn't realize it at the time, but I observed (and consequently learned) the importance of integrity and trust in business; valuing the relationships built over time, and essentially doing business on a handshake. He was not just my father, but my friend and mentor. I have strived to be like him, and to follow his example.
Occasionally, people comment how I look like my father, or have some mannerism of his, or do something similar to the way he did it. Sometimes I, too, catch myself saying something the way he would have said it, walking the way he walked, or exhibiting some quirky mannerism of his, only to be reminded, oh...that's just like Dad. I find myself being interested in the things Dad was interested in, and involved in things he was involved in. I feel like he is with me. Of course some of these things are handed down to me by genetics, but I also believe they have come from spending a lot of time with my father.

As I reflect on the phrase "God with us," and how Jesus reflected the image of God to the world, I wonder how much of God is actually 'with' us and reflected by us, as we interact with the people we come in contact with. Is 'God with us' in our business dealings? Is 'God with us' in our marriage or relationships? Is 'God with us' as we interact with others on social media? Even with those that we disagree with?

When we spend significant time with God, when we listen to what He says, we will learn His ways. We will learn how He related to those He came in contact with. We will take on aspects of His character. When we speak, we will hear words that He would say. We will reflect aspects of His character...fruits of His Spirit.

It's an ongoing process, but the more time we spend with God, the more we will truly reflect Him. Proverbs 27:19 says "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart."

Are you reflecting that God is with you and in your heart?

Just as Jesus came to bring the presence of God into our world—“Immanuel...God with us” (Matt. 1:23 NIV)—so too are we called to bring His presence into our world.

Recalibrate

1) How can we as flawed human beings ever portray God’s flawless image?

2) This Christmas, how can you give the gift of God’s likeness through you?

3) Is God 'with' you and reflected by you?

4) When you speak, do you hear words that God would say?
11 Days Left!

Friends, we are currently 90% full for our San Diego gathering in February, and there are 11 days left until regular registration ends. If you, your friends, or your family still wish to join us, we encourage you (and encourage you to encourage them!) to register today.

We are also offering a parallel curriculum for TOP Kids, ages 4-12, generation One for 13-17 year olds (with a special rate), and TOP Childcare for 0 to 3-year-olds.

Following the success in Australia we are providing one extra day for free, called Reframe. We invite Pastors, theology students, and their spouses to join us as we explore the implications of Jesus. All in our congregations. We will also include a Q&A session with the One project leadership.

The schedule will go as follows:

Sabbath 3-10 p.m.: Registration is Open
Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Gathering
Monday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Gathering
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Reframe

For more information go to www.the1project.org, or feel free to email us with any questions.
the One project headquarters is located at the Boulder Seventh-day Adventist Church
345 Mapleton Ave, Boulder, CO, 80304, USA.