...and let us consider how to stimulate one another
to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own
assembly together...but
evacuraging one another.
Heb 10:24-25

**July 18, 2008—Atonement—Relationship Restored: Me With Me—Part V**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 – 6:05</td>
<td>Coffee &amp; Donuts  Opening Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:05 – 7:00</td>
<td>1) We Have Been Lied To! (2Corinthians 11:14)</td>
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I have trouble penetrating my web of self-deceptions and knowing this real me...The roots of our pretend self lie in our childhood discovery that we can secure love by presenting ourselves in the most flattering light...we learn to fake it, appearing as we think important others want us to be and ignoring the evidence to the contrary.¹

a) My view of who I think I should be is influenced by:
   i) My parents
   ii) My self
   iii) My family
   iv) My friends
   v) My culture
   vi) Satan
   vii) Other things?

This view of self generally arises from affirmation and love we have received. We believe this self leads to “life” (love and affirmation). It is the self we consciously and unconsciously strive for.

b) My view of who I really am but am afraid to be is influenced by:
   i) My parents
   ii) My self
   iii) My family
   iv) My friends
   v) My culture
   vi) Satan
   vii) Other things?

This view of self generally arises from me taking a critical look at myself and from criticism from outside of ourselves. We believe this self leads to “death” (rejection). It is the self we hide, consciously and unconsciously, at all costs.

c) “Mind the Gap”

¹ Ibid. 61.
i) The “gap” between who I think I should be and who I think I am provides major motivational force in our lives.

ii) It is a hole, created in me “then” that I try to fix by my behavior “now.”

d) BOTH OF THESE SELVES ARE LIES

i) The me I believe I should be is who I would create me to be if I were God.

ii) The me I believe I am is the me I hate (the beast), but that I believe God has created.

iii) Jeremiah 17:9

Spiritual transformation involves the purification of sight...We have to learn to see—and to accept—what is really there...To see God as God is—not who we want God to be—requires that we see our self as we really are. For the same cloud of illusions obscures our view of both God and ourselves.²

We do not find our true self by seeking it. Rather, we find it by seeking God.³

2) Consequences?

a) What are the consequences in our lives of believing these lies?

3) God Offers Us Truth!

a) John 8:31-47

Who I Am In Christ⁴

I am accepted...

John 1:12 I am God's child.

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

Romans 5:1 I have been justified.

1 Corinthians 6:17 I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.

1 Corinthians 12:27 I am a member of Christ’s body.

Ephesians 1:3-8 I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.

Colossians 1:13-14 I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.

Colossians 2:9-10 I am complete in Christ.

Hebrews 4:14-16 I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

I am secure...

Romans 8:1-2 I am free from condemnation.

Romans 8:28 I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.

Romans 8:31-39 I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be

² Ibid. 63.
³ Ibid. 92.
⁴ Based on Anderson. 51-53.
⁵ Ibid. 53.
separated from the love of God.

I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.

I am hidden with Christ in God.

I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.

I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.

I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I am a citizen of heaven.

I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

I am God's temple.

I am a minister of reconciliation for God.

I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.

I am God's workmanship.

I may approach God with freedom and confidence.

I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

The more you reaffirm who you are in Christ, the more your behavior will begin to reflect your true identity!

4) What Next?
   a) How do we begin to cooperate with God in the transformational process?
   b) Come back next week!

7:00 Closing Prayer

If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

--Jesus (Luke 9:23)

Every morning I must say again to myself, today I start.

--St. Anthony of the Desert

Further reading:
- *The Bible*

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6 Quoted in Benner, *Surrender to Love*. 75.
to be accepted to something: to is about direction I was accepted to university. The relation tells the direction of the verbal accepted: the subject was accepted to university. This is a confusing sentence, actually. Is accepted and adjective or a passive verb? It’s very hard to interpret a bare sentence like this. The better way to say it is: I was accepted by Harvard. - clearly passive or I have been accepted to Harvard. - true in the past and still true now. A. It means I am married. "Are you single? No, I'm married". "Got accepted" is a commonly used phrase and will be understood, but "was accepted" is better grammar. Got is the past tense of the verb to get, which has multiple connotations - "to obtain [as in 'to get a degree']," "to reach a destination [as in 'to get there']," and "to become, or show a change of state [the connotation you're indicating above]."