

A Trophy

Everyone wants to be a part of something
Everyone wants to fit in
Everyone wants to feel connected to something wonderful
Everyone wants their value as a person to be seen
Everyone wants to be special
Everyone wants to have a trophy to show how special we are

If not it's because somewhere along the way it just wasn't working
out for you so you gave up and became a hermit...a recluse...or
sasquatch
The rest of us continued to seek out our group identities

School:

Columbia, S.C. 1969...an honorable experiment known as
busing....negro to colored to black to Afro-American...finding my
group....

We all know the scene...Jocks...Cheerleaders...Heads or
stoners...The too pretties...the future criminals...and when all else
failed the geeks/nerds/dorks...

Acceptance policy...default

The trophies...SAT scores...special recognition for events and
testing...science fair trophies...GPA...Tesla coils

What were we trying to prove, and to whom, and why

Downside...lack of fashion sense

The Mod Shop:

Groovy digs

The GI

...so he could fit in... with the cool scene

What was he trying to prove and to whom and why

Boy Scouts of America:

Great organization

We learned an incredible variety of things

Civics, community, leadership, responsibility, preparedness

Trustworthy , loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind,
obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent

We also learned about competition...from the experts...our
fathers...

Merit badges...little trophies...awards ceremonies

Things started to go awry

Merit badge cards

The trophies started to overwhelm the rest of that really good stuff

It's pretty humiliating

What were we trying to prove and to whom and why

The Boss:

SuSu and I went to sea...beautiful, basic, simple

The moorings

Private yachts for a group from Monterrey Mx

And talk about trophies

The companies they owned,the boats, cars, jets, villas, the
politicians,

The excesses were astounding...and we were moderate...400k

Not so beautiful , basic, and simple

I don't regret it...

The trophy rooms

The lion film

What they took their pride in we found repulsive

They should have been humiliated

What were they trying to prove and to whom and why

The Presidents:

Costa Rica Isla Cocos

The passage

The arrival of the guests

The diving then the hike

The video...a trophy...a dork

A glorified taxi driver for ordinary guys with titles guys just as screwed up as the rest of us if not more

I was soooo humiliated

What was I trying to prove and to whom and why

I wanted to be a part of something...I wasn't

I wanted to fit in...I didn't

I wanted to feel connected to something wonderful...It wasn't

I wanted my value as a person to be seen...It wasn't

I wanted to be special...I was not

I wanted to have a trophy to show...I didn't

Church...Us

I was told by several of you last week that I did a great job on the sermon...

I appreciate the encouragement and feel that I am where God wants me to be but most of all I stand amazed that God can reach down through the brokenness of my past and my present and touch people in His name and somehow allow me to glorify Him with my lips...lips which so frequently fail to glorify Him.

I have to confess that anyone who thinks that I can do anything to change your heart or mind...

I amused myself: The sermon formula...I'm a technician and like formulas

I don't have to...I just have to get out of the way

Every once in the while I think God has to pull the plug if we get uppity...

1 Pet. 4:11 "If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies"

I had a beautiful revelation yesterday in music rehearsal:
You can figure out something that you already know

So now a little lesson on Christian anatomy
Whenever we try to figure out here
What we already know here
We fall down and land here

Matthew 5:8. "You're blessed when you get your inside world - your mind and heart - put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

When God is revealing himself to you don't try to figure it out...just live it out

When God speaks to you don't try to negate or negotiate...just obey Him

You want to be part of something?
If this is Christ's Church not man's church
There is nothing you can do to qualify be a part of it...you are a part of it
Just recognize it.

You want to fit in?
If this is Christ's Church not man's church
It's all misfits...not of this world...
It's impossible not to

You want to feel connected to something wonderful?

If this is Christ's Church not man's church
You are connected and it is wonderful
Just stop denying it and it becomes more wonderful

Want your value to be seen, to be special?

Jerimiah 1:5 Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work. Does God lie?

Matt 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Matt 5:5 "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are - no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

You want a trophy?

Matt 16: 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

His cross and our cross are bound together in substance and power
His cross has been freely given as our trophy of triumph over sin and death
Ours to be accepted as a trophy of triumph over temptation and the flesh

10."You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

11."Not only that - count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross...Till my trophies at last I lay down

I will cling to the old rugged cross...And exchange it one day for a crown

There is nothing for you to prove to anyone for any reason.

The Lord does ask that you obey but He is even at the center of effort there:

Phillipians 2:13 "God is working in you to help you want to do and be able to do what pleases him"

Every step of the way God makes it so simple...why do we make it so complicated.