Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?

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John 5:1-16

John 5:6, "*When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?*"

People have imperfections that they need to work on to be whole. No one is perfect, but we are to work toward perfection. As we see flaws in our life, we do what we can to heal them and make ourselves whole.

We have many parts of our body that make a whole, and each part is susceptible to imperfections that need to be healed.

Man has a physical body. He has flesh, blood, nerves, bones, etc. The body eats, sleeps, walks, talks, exercises the five senses, and performs many and varied physical acts.

Man has an intellect. That is, he possesses intelligence. He has a mind. The intelligence considers, thinks, reasons, forms conclusions, accepts, believes, rejects, disbelieves, etc.

Man has emotions. He possesses feelings which hate, love, rejoice, grieve, etc.

Man has a will. The will chooses, decides.

Man has a conscience. The conscience approves when we do what we think is right, and condemns when we do what we believe to be wrong. We can be educated to recognize good and evil, but its action is involuntary. It does not identify good and evil, but only approves or condemns.

We are all sick

How many whole people have you seen? Wouldn't it be great to be whole?

There are no perfect bodies.

Physically, our bodies get colds and other illnesses, we bleed when cut, our bones break, etc.

Some people are maimed for life through some accident; some are born that way.

There are tall bodies which have trouble entering rooms, or sleeping on a cot; there are short bodies which would have trouble playing basketball, or reaching the car accelerator.

Everyone has their own idea of what a perfect body is. The size or shape of one's body has nothing to do with the wholeness of that body.

There are no perfectly normal minds.

We are all at least a little crazy.

Some have analyzing minds; some have emoting minds. These different types of minds sometimes have trouble understanding one another.

Each type of mind has its benefits, and each also has its tendencies toward drawbacks.

The analyzing mind can more readily study and accept the word of God, but may have trouble understanding the emotions of others. He usually dislikes emotional appeals over logic.

The emoting mind does well in responding to people and their needs, but may have trouble accepting the word of God as commands. He usually dislikes logic over emotional appeals, and may tend to be impulsive and take risks. He does not always check things out, but operates on intuition.

Each type of mind is necessary, but each must understand its weaknesses. There is a tendency of flaw in each type of mind.

To be whole we must understand these differences and do what we can to overcome our own faults.

Each must lean toward the center of the extremes of our personality. We would not be whole if we were completely an analyzer without any emotion, or an emoter void of any facts.

People differ in their consciences.

The conscience of man in general is weakened somewhat.

Far too many people's consciences have been seared to a point that they just don't care. This is a very sick conscience, and not a whole one.

Some people's consciences just haven't been trained very well, having never really conditioned it to god's word.

Wilt thou be made whole?

Instead of letting ourselves go at our own whims, we need to let Jesus Christ direct our entire being without any reservation to control, direct, and restrain us.

Our body.

Some people when their imperfections are pointed out to them, and shown that they can do something about them, just stiffen up and say something like, "It's my life", or "It's my body." There are harmful things that can be done to the body that can keep it from being whole.

"It's my life"; "It's my body", they say. Is it?

We have a volitional body; that is, we have a will to make a choice. We can choose to listen to God, or not. He instructs us concerning our body.

- 1 Cor. 6:19-20, "*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*"
- 1 Cor. 3:17, "*If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*"

Our mind.

Those who have an analytical mind are wasting it if with all their getting of knowledge and data they leave out the word of God.

- Phil. 3:7-8, "*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*"
- 2 Cor. 10:5, "*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and <u>bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ</u>;*"

To have a whole mind is to have a mind desiring to know the will of God, and casting out those thoughts and ideas that are contrary to His will.

Our emotions.

Emotions can be a strong force in our lives; but we need to take guard that our emotions are wholesome.

Many wars and needless bloodshed has been caused because of someone's feelings of hatred, or wanting to get even with another.

Families have been broken up because of someone's strong feelings for someone other than his own mate.

The emotions of hate, love, rejoicing, and grieving are good and proper in the right element.

- We are not to hate our brother, but we are to hate sin.
- We are to love one another, but without dissimulation.
- We are to love our spouse intimately, but our love for others must be brotherly.
- We are to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who are grieving. To do otherwise we would not have wholesome emotions.

Some people teem with zeal, while others lack. Whereas much good can be done by a person with a lot of zeal; much damage can also be done if not channeled by the word of God.

Rom. 10:1-2, "*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.*"

There are many good intentioned, zealous people in the world leading a greater number of people down the road to eternal destruction because of little regard to the word of God, playing instead upon people's feelings.

Our will.

Man has a volitional body; that is, he has a will to do things.

There was a phrase made popular in the 1980's, "I can do what I want to do; be what I want to be; say what I want to say." This type of will is contrary to the type of will God wants us to have.

- John 7:17, "*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*"
- Matt. 5:6, "*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*"

A wholesome will shows the desire to seek the righteousness of God and let Him direct our lives.

Our conscience.

Since conscience is an approval of right or a disapproval of wrong, can it be a good guide to determine whether we have a wholesome body or mind?

Not with Paul.

- Acts 26:9-12, "*I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities. Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,*"
- 1 Tim. 1:5, "*Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*"

The very purpose for which Jesus came

That men ought to be made whole.

- John 10:10, "*… I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*"
- 2 Tim. 3:15-17, "*And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*"

They ought to be made whole through the scriptures.

2 Cor. 3:18, "*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*"

Conclusion

Are you whole?

Are you sick or weak spiritually?

If you are not whole, why not let Jesus heal you through your acceptance and obedience to him.

To be whole one must be a Christian. The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*" When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn't sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, "It doesn't work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him."

- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, "*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*" Acts 11:18, "*… Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*" If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, "There's a burglar in my house!" So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, "I'm sorry; I'm sorry!" What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.

- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*" What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are "**UNTO**" righteousness, life,

or salvation. "Unto" means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, "*But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said "*it becometh **us** to fulfil all righteousness.*" We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

  In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. "*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*" (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? "*for the remission of sins*". Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

  Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. "*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*" (Mark 16:15-16).

  Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*" (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

  Baptism is called a burial. "*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*" (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. "*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been*

planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God's blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn't mean "sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don't take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won't you consider it today?