

October 2007

Introduction Edition

Becoming Whole Women in Christ

**The New Antioch Baptist Church of
Randallstown Women's Newsletter**

**Message
from our
First Lady**

**Ellen P.
Barney,
Director of
Women's
Ministries**

It is my delight to introduce the first issue of "Becoming Whole Women in Christ" newsletter. The formulation of this first issue is a creative process of vision and ministry achieved through prayer, supplication, and reliance upon the Holy Spirit for fruition. Too, I pray that it will be used as an additional supplement to your daily intake of God's Word.

Increasingly, women are confronted with challenges of balancing families, ministries, and careers to meet the demands of today's modern society. It is no wonder that we are perplexed regarding the will of God and what it entails concerning becoming whole in Christ. Nonetheless, to become whole persons in Christ, we must integrate frequently in our personal lives the following practices of spiritual disciplines: prayer, biblical study, fasting, solitude, silence, sacrifice, service, confession, submission, fellowship, and worship.¹

Moreover, becoming whole women in Christ is not done spontaneously or individually, but it is done with the formation and the collaboration of the Holy Spirit, which is known as the sanctification (to be set apart) process. This course of action is a continual transformation of one's moral and spiritual character that results in a complete sanctification (1 John 3:1-3; Jude 24-25). True, we, as born again believers, were given experiential sanctification the moment we accepted God's invitation to salvation (1 Corinthians 1:2). However, we are still confronted with the choice of working harmoniously with the Holy Spirit in regards to obedience to God's will in order to become whole women in Christ (1 John 1:6-10; 2:1-6).

Accordingly, as noted in Romans 12:1-2, we are entreated by the "mercies of God to present *our* bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is *our* reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of *our* minds, that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (italics mine). The preceding verses note that commitment and sacrifice must be made to our Savior. Furthermore, maintaining a committed and sacrificial life to Jesus Christ signifies a faithfulness of the total person, not just with our minds, but our hearts, bodies, and souls as well. In essence, both a sacrificial and a committed life also indicate a giving of our bodies to God so that He may use them for His glory.

Becoming whole women in Christ is a beautiful transformational process that requires complete surrender to Him "who is able to keep *us* from stumbling and to present *us* faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy..." (Jude 24, italics mine). And with that in mind, let us diligently seek to experience His presence and surrender to His perfect will of transforming us progressively into His glorious image, and when we enter into His heavenly kingdom then we will be finally whole women in Christ, ultimate sanctification!



Ellen Barney

Becoming Whole Women in Christ

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"My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word"
Psalm 119:28.

Looking for Love

Learning about the Love of Christ:

- Looking for Love
- "In Christ there is no failure
- Walk in Love

All about Love:

- Looking 2
- Learning 2
- The Truth 3
- Prayer 3

As I sat at the window I reflected on the days of my youth. Years that I wasted... being promiscuous and partying. Subsequently, I began to ponder on this Scripture...*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). Staring at the rain, thoughts of yesterday caused me to weep. I wasted too many years of my life - I needed to change.

Reflecting on the things I had heard about the goodness of Jesus, I wanted to really know Him. What was the hype? I had recently surrendered my life to the Lord and I had no idea what it meant when the Bible says, *"Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God*

who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose" (Philippians 2:12b-13). This was new to me. The pastor gave the call for salvation and knowing what little I did about a new life in Christ - I accepted. I desired to be saved. I wanted to experience and feel the love that I heard women talking about. What was it? How do you get it? They told me *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8). "I am not worthy", I thought to myself - **"could** God ever love me - **will** God ever love me?" I tried everything...I looked all over to find love...but I had never tried Jesus! At that moment I was reminded of this Scripture: *"And to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may*

be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). I grew up in the church, but I never experienced an intimate relationship with the God that these women spoke of.

I was searching to find who I could go to...what was my purpose...I needed assurance. However, as it is written: *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9). I needed peace - *"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility"*. (Ephesians 2:14). Can you tell me where to go? I am looking for real, true, genuine love!

Learning to Love

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Understanding the love of God means being able to conceptualize what the Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed for you. It means you believe that which the Psalmist says, "He would not come down from the cross just to save Himself; He decided to die just to save me". What kind of love is that? That type of love my sister – is

"a love that won't let go".

Embrace the Word of God as a comfort when you feel unloved...reflect on Calvary. Christ at any time could have come down from the cross, but He did not. The love of God extends beyond one's capacity to understand it. Does that mean you cannot love as Christ loves? No! We are all capable of love when the Lord Jesus Christ is in us. When you accepted Christ as your personal Savior, He became a resident of your temple. *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that*

God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple" (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Remember this: **CHRIST DWELLS WITHIN.** *"Love your neighbor as yourself"* (Matthew 19:19). In order to **Love** yourself, you must **Love** Christ. Ask Christ to help you to completely understand His love in order that you may love others. You can love because the **Lord Jesus Christ first loved you.**

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres **Love never fails**” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).*

The Truth about Love



*The truth about God's love is in His **W**ord the more you read God's word the more you will understand the truth about the love of God.*



*Plan to put God 1st every day. Remembering to read God's Word daily and to pray without ceasing! **God's Love is real** –*

The Love of God is true. When we read the Scripture above, it gives us a vivid understanding as to what God wants us to see and know about love. Society and modern culture wants us to feel that love is almost 100% contrary to all of those things in the Bible. In verse 4, we learn that love is patient, kind, does not envy, and does not boast. However, as women we are taught not to wait, we allow men to treat us unkind (disrespectful), we are jealous of our sisters in Christ and women everywhere. We boast about self, though we should *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up”* (James 4:10). We do not give God the glory and hence, the pride in both women and men hinders healthy Spiritual relationships and courtships. Verse 5 tells us that love is not rude, self-seeking, easily angered or keeps no

record of wrong, however, we have no regard for the feelings of others - we constantly are looking for what we can gain...we are short tempered, recant faults, past pains and disappointments with little or no effort. Verse 6 tells us that love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. However, we are vengeful, find joy in paying back others and are dishonest in order to keep peace. Verse 7 tells us that love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres; meanwhile, we backbite, remain fearful, live hopelessly and give up often. While verse 8 exclaims that love never fails, we negate that word fully by turning our backs on God when we feel that our prayers are not being answered timely. The Word reminds us to hold on when it says, *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”* (Galatians 6:9).

While we insist that we understand what Christ's

love is like, many times our actions are contrary and we walk in ways that are not pleasing to Christ.

Have you ever really stopped to wonder if you are truly operating in the love of Christ? Are you compassionate to your neighbor? Have you prayed for your enemies as the Word reminds us to do, *“But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”* (Matthew 5:44). Are you rushing a relationship? Have you forgiven an offender? The Word reminds us to *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”* (Ephesians 4:32). All of these things are ways in which we fall short in walking in love. *“And this is **love**: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love”* (2 John 1:6).

Think about what God's love really means and make an effort to walk in it daily.

Prayer for Gods Love

Father, how I need you in my life. Heavenly Father, I have not been honest with myself. I have not fully loved and followed your commandment to love. I need your Spirit to fall fresh on me. Holy Spirit please help me to

have a Spirit of love and compassion for others. Help me to love myself and to see myself as you see me Lord. Forgive me Jesus for my sins. Search me oh God and know me. Reveal to me the things that hinder me from loving you that I

may love myself and others. God I acknowledge that you are love and I want to walk in love daily. Lord, help me to put you first and lead me into a love relationship with you, in Jesus name I pray, Amen.

NABCOR WOMEN MINISTRIES

Women's Ministries Board

Women's Prison Ministry

Women's Maturing Class

Women's Grief Support

Women's Comfort Outreach

Women's Card Ministry

Women's Prayer Ministry

D.R.I.V.E.N. Ministry

Diamonds in the Rough

S.W.E.E.T. Ministry

A.C.T.S. of Faith Drama Ministry

Bodies of Clay Dance Ministry

Mom to Mom Ministry

Walk Run Aerobics Ministry

Women Connected in Christ

Titus II Ministry

Ministers Wives

Women's Praise and Worship

Greeters Ministry

Women's Bible Study Classes

LEAD III

Disciple's Prayer Life

Seeking Him

God's Woman

Now That I Believe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES...are requested for future publications. If you are led to submit an article please send via e-mail to BecomingWholeWomenInChrist@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER...is held each Wednesday evening from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Bldg B. Please come out for a time of spirit-filled prayer and praise.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY...Telephone Prayer Line ...We serve a mighty and living God who hears and answers the prayers of His people. The Intercessory Prayer Ministry greatly encourages you to call the prayer line with your prayer request and an intercessor will pray with you on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m....Dial 410.521.6125 or 410.521.6126.

MEMBERS...have you changed your name? Have you moved? Has your telephone number changed? If any of these apply, please contact the church office at 410.521.7866. We are receiving an abundance of return mail due to incorrect addresses and we would like to update the church records.

UPCOMING WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS

October 12.....7:30 p.m.Women's Maturing Class

October 25.....7:00 p.m.Bodies of Clay Dance Ministry will minister at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women

November 2.....7:30 p.m.SWEET Ministry Prayer Vigil

November 9.....7:30 p.m.Women's Maturing Class

November 22.....10:00 a.m.Thanksgiving Day Service

November 24.....6:00 p.m.Ladies Night Out

But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you (1 Samuel 12:24).

¹ Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*, (Harper Collins Publishers, New York, 1991).