

Summing up in Jesus – Part 1

Welcome to Summing Up In Jesus, Part 1, October 3, 2007. In the Kingdom of God we explored grace, the transcendence of grace, then accessing the grace of God—the greater grace that Scripture calls upon us to access through humility. And today we begin the subtopic of Summing Up In Jesus. The will of God can be thought of simple mindedly as including the purposes of God, the plan of God to implement those purposes, while displaying the character of God. The plan of God I think of as summing up all things in Jesus. Ephesians 1:10 uses that phrase—the summing up of all things in Jesus.

So where do we begin? Well, where I tend to begin all things? In the beginning. All things that are summed up in Jesus begins at the beginning because that's part of all things. Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God. Then this God, Who has always been, created the Heavens and the Earth. So who is this God Who in the beginning created the Heavens and the Earth? The New Testament explains what the Old Testament did not. John 1:1-3 (speaking of Jesus says) – He was in the beginning with God, He was God, and all things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. So our creator God is not an abstract theologic entity. He has a name, a personal name, His name is Jesus. That's further verified in Colossians 1:16 (speaking of Jesus says) – For by Him all things were created both in the Heavens and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things have been created by Him. Then this verse tosses in a concluding prepositional phrase to extend it a bit further. All things have been created by Him and for Him. So everything that has been created was created by Jesus and everything that has been created was created for Jesus. That includes you. If you want a simple answer as to why you were created, and how you were created, you were created by Jesus and you were created for Jesus. Your whole purpose is all summed up in Jesus. Now what is the only thing in existence not covered by that verse? Since it covers every created thing, then the only thing not covered is the only uncreated thing—that being God Himself. So everything apart from God Himself was created by Jesus and created for Jesus. That's part of the summing up of all things in Jesus as the plan of God as revealed to us. But that's only the beginning.

Does Jesus stop at creating all created things? No. Colossians 1:17 – and in Him all things hold together. Now our brains cannot possibly comprehend all that may be implied by that verse. But the verse tells us that He holds all things together, not just some things. Now we know using our human intellect that gravity holds things together, that magnetic forces will hold things together, and such forces as these hold the atom together and hold the universe together. Scientific statements like that do not negate the spiritual fact that Jesus is holding them together. Recall that science cannot ever tell us what a force is. Science can only observe them by observing their actions and describing how they function as a result of those observations. That's akin to John 3:8 – the wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and do not know where it is going. The point is we cannot see the wind, but we can see the impact of the wind and we can measure the impact of the wind. Likewise when scientists do their scientific experiments, they cannot see the forces. They can only see the impact of the forces and measure the impact of the forces and describe that impact of the forces. So commonly, the way I think, they disavow Jesus while studying Jesus. That can be part of Isaiah 42:16 – And I will lead the blind by a way they do not know; in paths they do not know, I will

guide them. Now simply put, they do not have eyes to see. Why do they not have eyes to see? Because they think that they know. And I Corinthians 8:2 reminds us that the man who thinks he knows doesn't know as he ought to know. They think they know, thus, they do not know as they ought to know. They think that describing the forces by measuring their impact tells them what the force is. But they cannot tell us what gravity is; they cannot tell us what magnetism is. They can only tell us the impact of these forces, but can never tell us what the force is.

So scientists speak of "laws of nature" which is fine because that's as far as they can see; because they're seeing through natural eyes. But Christians would prefer to speak of laws of Jesus that nature is compelled to obey at all times. We know that that is what is behind that which science is studying. That's part of the summing up of all things in Jesus. The creation by Jesus, remember, is not limited to the physical universe. He created all things visible or invisible including nonphysical things meaning the spirit realm. That includes our spirit, our immaterial selves which is what we are. It includes angels and anything else included under the term Heavenly host. That's part of the summing up of all things in Jesus.

Since all created things were created by Jesus and all created things were created for Jesus and all created things are upheld by Jesus, then let's spend a little time looking at the only uncreated thing, namely God Himself and ask ourselves the question, "Does God Himself sum up all things in Jesus?" If so, how does God sum up all things in Jesus? To understand that, we must look at the Trinity. Recall that the word Trinity does not appear in the Bible; but the concept of the Trinity is throughout the Bible. Trinity is simply a word of man used to communicate a Biblical concept. The concept of the Trinity begins in the first chapter of Genesis. Genesis 1:26 – Then God said let Us make man in Our image according to Our likeness. Thus, the one God is expressed in the plural Us and Our when describing the unfolding creation of man. The Trinity is a concept that cannot be fully understood, cannot be fully explained. But that's not a problem for Christians. It's akin to a God Who has always been. It's akin to God's speaking creation into existence. It's akin to Jesus being fully God and fully man. It's part of the mystery in God. But we function in faith that it was simply God's good pleasure to reveal Himself to man in this way. That's part of entering the rest of God. But if we're to rest, we will have many issues where we must rest in His holiness, in His other thanness; because we'll not be able to rest if we insist on understanding everything in order to rest. So we seek to understand without having to understand in order to stand in faith in our holy, other than God.

Ephesians 4:4-6 tells us that there's one God, one Father, one Lord, one Spirit, one faith, one body, one baptism. Thus our one God has revealed Himself to us in three Persons. That's the doctrine of the Trinity, namely Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Now we need to understand that in our one God there is oneness in many things. There is oneness in such things as essence and value and purpose. There is no hierarchy in relation to these. That's the horizontal axis of the Trinity that I've shown where Father equals Son equals Spirit. But God, in order to present Himself to man, as part of showing man how to relate to God and how to relate to man within the authority structure of God, also presents to us a vertical axis. The Trinity of God remains one in essence, value, purpose, and so on, even while assuming a separation of function and a separation in positional hierarchy that demonstrates how these function in three hierarchical positions expressing the perfect essence and unity of our one God to fulfill the plan of God through the principles of humility and agreement. We must understand this to see how the

Trinity Itself sums up all things in Jesus. And this is the ultimate model for us and particularly in the spiritual principles of humility and agreement.

So let's begin with the Son as we walk through this. The Son for eternity has been one with the Father. That's what Jesus meant in John 10:30 where He says the Father and I are one. That's also what He means in John 14:9 where He says if you've seen Me you've seen the Father. Because every essence, value, purpose, desire and "omnis", presence, omniscient, and everything that is a part of being God is in Me. For eternity past, Jesus the Son and the Father were one in essence. They remain one in essence. So if you've seen the essence of Jesus, you've seen the essence of the Father. And by essence I mean essential attributes such as power, love, righteousness, purpose, desire, and so on. But in revealing God to man, the Father and Son relationship is used for God's good pleasure. This presents God in terms of a positional hierarchy as relationship and as varying functions. Well that can help us to understand other Scriptures which would appear to be contradictory. John 14:28 – for My Father is greater than I. Well obviously if the Father and I are one, how can the Father be greater than I? But when we're one, He's speaking of the horizontal axis. He is God. But when the Father is greater than I, He is speaking of the vertical axis where Jesus has subsumed the lower position, if you will, in the Trinity. So Jesus remains one with the Father in essence, value, purpose, and so on; but He now functions in the role of a Son relating to His Father. Thus, God, in the person of Jesus, demonstrates humility to voluntarily position Himself in a role subservient to the Father. This models for us how an omniscient God would humble Himself before a holy God. It shows us how we are to humble ourselves before our holy God and it shows us how we as sons on Earth are to humble ourselves before our earthly fathers. So this stratification of the Trinity done voluntarily is part of the purpose of God to reveal Himself to man by modeling for us how we're to walk out our relationship to God and our relationship to each other.

This oneness in essence while functioning in humility is addressed Philippians 2:5-8. The Scripture tells us to do what Jesus did. Well, what did He do? Well, He humbled Himself. He didn't consider equality with God a thing to be held onto. He humbled Himself to come in the form of a man in the subservient position to do only the will of the Father. What did He let go of? Equality with God. That's the horizontal axis. So when He came as the Son of man, He humbled Himself, voluntarily positioned Himself in the subservient position under the Father. He did not give up His essence, His value, His purpose, and so on. But He humbled Himself to take on the subservient position and to perform certain functions. God as the Father remained in Heaven in the form of God. Jesus as the Son left Heaven and came to Earth in the form of a man. But He did not come to Earth leaving the Father so to speak as the prodigal son did in rebellion. Jesus remained one in character, love, value, purpose, and so on. After leaving He obeyed every step of the way to the end, to the point of death, even death on a cross. Why? To accomplish the purposes of God. Well, what were they? Why did Jesus come? To seek and to save that which was lost, to usher in the abundant life to those who came to be found, and thereby to destroy the works of the devil who opposed both, in a global sense to display the grace of God for the ages to come. So what did Jesus the Son do every step along the way? John 5:19 – Truly, truly I say to you the Son can do nothing of Himself unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does the Son also does in like manner. So Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing. So do you want to see obedience modeled? Look at Jesus. Do you want to see humility modeled? Look at Jesus. Do you want to see how an omniscient God

would view a holy God? Look at Jesus. Do you want to see how God Himself would serve God? Look at Jesus. Do you want to see how God Himself glorifies God? Look at Jesus. Do you want to see how God Himself would function in agreement with God? You look at Jesus. Do you want to see how we are to view God? Look at Jesus. Do you want to see how fathers and sons are to relate on Earth? Look at Jesus. It is all summed up in Jesus.

So what was the Father's heart toward the Son? John 5:20 – For the Father loves the Son. Well what is part of love? Love holds nothing back. That's why the verse continues – And the Father shows the Son all things that He Himself is doing. Well what did the Son do with these things that were revealed to Him by the Father? John 8:28 – I do nothing on my own initiative; but I speak those things as the Father taught Me. John 8:29 – I the Son always do the things that are pleasing to Him the Father. That means that Jesus every millisecond of His life on planet Earth as the Son of Man lived a lifestyle of “not My will, but Thine be done.” That was not just a onetime utterance at the Garden of Gethsemane. And that's to be our walk with Jesus. So if you want to know how we're to walk before God, look at Jesus. It's all summed up.

So understanding these considerations helps us to understand other Scriptures. John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him (the Son) should not perish but have eternal life. Then John 8:42 – For I (the Son) have not even come of My own initiative (My will); but He the Father sent Me. So viewed from that one frame of reference, the Father sent the Son. But this was not a heartless Father forcing His Son to go to a cruel death. Oppressive force did not compel the Son to come, and oppressive force is not how we're to function in authority here on planet Earth. The Son came voluntarily. Well, why? Because He remained one with the Father. In essence, value, purpose, love, righteousness, and so on. Philippians 2:8 has already told us that Jesus humbled Himself to come and to be obedient unto death, even death on a cross. There was no element of being forced to come by the Father. That's further verified by Matthew 26:53-54 (Jesus says) Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father and He will at once put at My disposal more than 12 legions of angels? In other words the Son went to the cross voluntarily.

So it is true the Father sent the Son. It is also true that the Son humbled Himself and was in total agreement with the will and decree of the Father to come. Had the Son asked, the Father would have baled Him out. But since Jesus as the Son remained totally one in essence, value, purpose, and so on with the Father, then they had the same desires namely to redeem a fallen world and while doing so to display the grace of God for the ages to come as we're told in Ephesians 2:7. Well that is our model. Our unity is not in position; our unity is in essence. Our unity is not in position; our unity is in love. The unity is not in position; but is in common purpose. The unity is not in position; but in common desire. That is our model in the church. We differ in position; but we are to be one in essence, value, purpose, and desire. The one in a position does not lord it over others as we're told in I Peter 5:3 - nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. But this proper authority to fulfill the purposes of God cannot function in any meaningful manner so that things are done decently and in order as we're told in I Corinthians 14:40, unless someone under the position is in unity of love, purpose, righteousness, desire and so on. If everyone simply does what is right in his own eyes then confusion and chaos is the result. There is no chaos in the Godhead. There is no confusion in the Godhead and the Godhead is our model; but it only works because the Son humbled Himself

and did only what was pleasing to the Father. And the Spirit, as we'll see shortly, humbled Himself and did only that which the Son gave Him to do. That's part of the summing up of all things in Jesus. Even how we're to relate in the church is all summed up in Jesus. How we're to relate in our marriages is all summed up in Jesus. How we're to relate as parents and children is all summed up in Jesus. And the Trinity is the model for us for all of these concerns.

There are even more lessons for us in the Trinity. Look at the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God. He is the same God in essence, value, purposes, love, desire, and so on. However, He expresses specific functions of God as they are revealed to man. The Holy Spirit acts in ultimate humility because He takes even the lower position in the hierarchy of the Trinity of how God reveals Himself to man. Insofar as I can find in Scripture, the Holy Spirit almost never speaks of Himself in the first person. He wrote the Bible through human agents but not by preferentially saying, "I the Holy Spirit." He almost always has others do the speaking directly or by having others quote Him, the Holy Spirit. A rare exception is in Acts 10:19-20 – and while Peter was reflecting on the vision the Spirit said to Him: Behold three men are looking for you; but arise, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings for I have sent them Myself. But that is a distinct exception to have the Holy Spirit speaking in the first person. Even here, when speaking to Peter, the reason for doing so was to send Peter to the house of Cornelius in order to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and to open Peter's heart to the revelation that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was going to be for all men, not just for Jews. So the point of "I the Holy Spirit" sending you was to open the eyes of Peter that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was going to be for the great population of the world and not just the tiny nation called the Jews. Well, why is this? Because the Holy Spirit does not call attention to Himself because He is one in essence, value, purpose and desire with the Father and the Son.

So what is the primary purpose that is on display? Well it's the primary purpose for which Jesus came. Luke 19:10 – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. Well who came to do that? The Son, not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is fully involved as the Trinity always is; but the Holy Spirit did not die for our sins. The Holy Spirit is not the one mediator between God and man. The Holy Spirit is not our Savior. So if the Holy Spirit dwells on calling attention to Himself then He would deviate attention from the primary purpose of the Godhead which is to seek and to save that which was lost through the price paid by the Son of God on the cross. So what does the Holy Spirit do? He humbles Himself to the extreme. John 16:13-15 (in the New American Standard) – But when He the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth for He will not speak of His own initiative. But whatever He hears, He will speak and He will disclose to you what is to come. He the Holy Spirit shall glorify Me (Jesus) for He shall take of Mine (Jesus) and shall disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are mine; therefore, I said that the Holy Spirit takes of mine that which is of Jesus and will disclose it to you. Notice the Holy Spirit does nothing of His own initiative, nothing of His own will. In the King James Version, it says that the Holy Spirit will not speak of Himself. This is humility to the extreme. Does that make Him a lesser being? No. Don't ever forget the horizontal axis. He is one with the Father, one with the Son in essence, value, purpose, and so on. He remains one in all those things, but models humility in order to accomplish the purpose namely the redemption of mankind; because purpose is more important than position.

I Corinthians 14:33 – For God is not a God of confusion. That includes no confusion in the Godhead about the purpose and about the plan, about the method used to implement the purpose. The purpose being to seek and to save that which was lost; the plan being to sum up all things in Jesus Christ; and to the global purpose of displaying the grace of God for the ages to come. So the Godhead Itself, is our model of humility. Father, Son, and Spirit—one in love, one in all the essences, one in purpose, one in value, one in righteousness, one in desire. The entire purpose of God would be sabotaged if Father, Son, or Spirit walked in pride and demanded the bulk of the attention or fought over the control. We can't conceive of God doing that; we should also not be able to conceive of the children of God doing that. How did they do this? By the spiritual principle of agreement; the Father, Son, and Spirit are in total agreement. The attention will all be summed up in the Son. The Son of God is the one Who came as the Son of Man and only a Son of Man could redeem the human race as the second Adam since Adam, the first human, has brought about the fall of man by obeying Satan rather than God while choosing to walk in self determination.

So God the Father says, I will and decree within the Godhead. It is My will to display Myself to man and to redeem man because I love him that much and I'm going to use it as an avenue to display My grace for the ages to come. Then He verbalized the voice that Isaiah heard in Isaiah's Heavenly vision. Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah says – then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, whom shall I send and who will go for Us? Notice the plural Us. Who will go for Us? Then Jesus effectively in the Godhead gave the same answer that Isaiah gave. Here am I, send Me. Then the Holy Spirit said, then after You have been sent and You have died on the cross to redeem the human race, after Your time on Earth is over, I, the Holy Spirit will give the same answer that You gave which is revealed to us by Isaiah when the Father says Who will go for Us, the Son says I will go for Us to redeem the human race. And the Spirit says after Your time on Earth, I will go for Us and I will bear witness of You. And I will reveal You as truth and I will thus walk in the plan of the Father Who has willed and decreed to fulfill the purposes of God Himself, to redeem the human race out of love and to display His grace for the ages to come.

So the Father did send the Son. John 3:16 – For God (the Father) so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes on Him (the Son) shall not perish but have everlasting life. Then the Father summed up all things in Jesus. Listen to the Father. You remember when Jesus was baptized, the Father said this is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased; but now He adds a second phrase. Matthew 17:5 – This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him. So the Father gives us the directive in these latter days as He has spoken to us in His Son; the Father sums up all things in Jesus by telling us, human beings on planet Earth, listen to My Son. So why did the Father say that? Jesus tells us in John 14:6 – I am the truth. So what is truth? Truth is what God is and how God views everything else. So Jesus is how God views everything else. So after the work of Jesus on Earth was finished, the next step occurred and both Father and Son were involved in this. John 14:16-17 – And I (the Son) will ask the Father and He (the Father) will give you another Helper that He (the Holy Spirit) may be with you forever. So the Son asked and the Father gave. John 15:26 – When the Helper (the Holy Spirit) comes (this is Jesus now) Whom I will send to you from the Father. So notice the sequence. The Son asked; the Father gave; but everything that the Father gives us is through the Son. The Father gave the Holy Spirit; but Jesus sent the Holy Spirit Whom the Father had given. And that's the model for us. The Spirit then gives to us only that which is

given to Him by the Son; because the Spirit will bear witness of the Son. The Spirit will glorify the Son. The Spirit will take which is of the Son's and give it to us. The Spirit will do nothing of His own initiative. So the Father gave the Son. All that the Father gives us thereafter will be through the Son. Then the Spirit gives to us only that which the Son gives the Spirit to give to us and that is part of how the Trinity sums up all things in Jesus. So the Trinitarian model understood in the horizontal and the vertical shows us how the Godhead Itself is telling us the plan of summing up all things in Jesus as is referred to in Ephesians 1:10. And it doesn't just sum up all things in Jesus as a point of salvation, it sums up all things in Jesus by showing us and modeling for us how God Himself would humble Himself and serve God to the glory of God, to tell us how man is to relate to God on the vertical axis, to serve God and glorify God and shows us then how man is to relate to man; because we'll always have our authority structure. We'll always have our positions and they will differ; but we're one as Christians in essence and value and purpose and desire and so on to fulfill the plan and purposes and will of the Father. But to do that we have to be willing to humble ourselves, take up the secondary, supposedly inferior position in order to be one in purpose to fulfill the plan of God. That's true for our relationships as brothers and sisters in Christ, that's true for our family with parents and children. That's true for our marital relationship and that is true for how we're to function as Christians serving our holy God. And it is all summed up in Jesus and is displayed so vividly for us by the Trinity.

So my time is up for today and we'll take that up next time.