

Southern Adventist University
Knowledge Exchange

The Main Thing Devotional

Office of Ministry and Missions

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Made for Wholeness

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“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise,” Deuteronomy 6:4-8, ESV.

Made for Wholeness

Have you been feeling a little discombobulated and disconnected lately? Struggling to keep up with everything and feeling dissociated from yourself as a result? Maybe you compartmentalize things in an effort to keep up with the demands and pressure. You’re not alone. Many individuals find temporary relief in this approach, the problem is however, that we don’t just do this with our time, responsibilities, and duties, we often separate our identity into various categories as well.

Don’t get me wrong, there is something beautiful to celebrate in your race, gender, gifting, etc. But we are not just the sum of our various parts. Since we are made in the image of God, we are also made to reflect His wholeness and unity. And when all of our identity isn’t integrated within us, we’re often prompted to search for meaning and purpose because “wholeness comes when the parts of your life work together because they have been united by something greater than themselves: when they have been united by God’s own wholeness.”^[1]

God’s wholeness refers to the fact that He is three distinct persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and He is still one God. Not only this but God’s wholeness means that His love and His righteousness are not in opposition to one another but work in peaceful unison. God is Justice and He is Love and He is Truth and He is Grace. And so on.

During ancient Israel’s time, this concept of one God which portrayed all of these various characteristics and attributes was a countercultural fact. Those who lived around the Israelites worshiped different gods based on different attributes and functions. So when Moses echoed God’s command to Israel in Deuteronomy 6, the Israelites were being invited once again to live according

to their true reflection of the image of God – to live in wholeness. This invitation wasn't just for the Israelites at that time; this invitation reverberates throughout the generations to us today as Paul reminds us that Jesus came to this world to “unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth . . . [because] He Himself is our peace.”^[2]

This week, as you make The Main Thing, the main thing in your life, may you invite God to take up residence within – to unify every part of your identity in Him and bring you wholeness and peace.

Reflection

1. Read Ephesians 2:14, & Colossians 2:9 – What does this teach you about the nature and the work of Jesus Christ to bring us unity, harmony, and peace?
2. According to James 2:16 we cannot adequately care for a person unless we care for their whole person. How is God inviting you to care for your whole self – physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 – How do you feel after reading this passage and what is your response to God?

News and Resources

- Join us this week for Vespers in collaboration with BCU at 6:30pm and 8:30pm in the University Church.
- Find a meaningful sense of belonging by joining a student or faculty/staff LifeGroup today: [click here](#).
- If you are feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.