

Center of Attention

Despite my best efforts, I now have a couple of friends who are new Harley owners. You've heard about my friend, whom we will call "Jim," and his new Harley. The other day the guy who bought his old bike called to find out who the bike's therapist is. It is really difficult to get over that kind of rejection. Another friend, whom we might call "Bill," snuck out and traded his old bike for a newer Harley. If he was as close-mouthed about it around his old Wing as he was with the rest of us, I doubt that his ride was even aware of impending changes. Chances are that it will be "good as new" with a tune up and some tires. Another of our friends, whom we could call "Doug," rides a trike with a Goldwing front end, and a Pontiac Fiero rear end. We have been teasing "Doug" that he needs to upgrade to a Harley front side, so he can be part of the group.



In telling this little "true" story, I emphasize that all this trading was done despite my best efforts. Not that I was overt or anything, but I often tried to encourage these guys to be content with what they have, and just enjoy riding the wind on a motorcycle. In forty-some years of riding, the make of the bike was never a major deal for me. It was the riding! But, for the sake of honesty and all, I have to admit that not encouraging a change for these friends included the pride of riding down the road on the best looking/riding bike in the bunch, and being the center of attention. When we would go places, the people we would meet were seeing a couple of "regular" bikes, and Ol' Blue, which made Ol' Blue look really good. Sparkling Metallic Blue and chrome really does stand out next to black and chrome, and people notice. That is, until we started riding with that friend, whom we call "Doug."

One thing that my friend, whom we call "Jim," anticipated was that his new Black Cherry Harley next to Ol' Blue would draw a lot of attention. I told him that was OK with me, because people usually don't steal what they don't notice. This plan of "Jim's" was working well until our trip to the Mississippi River for pizza, and I think it was "Jim" who suggested that our friend, "Doug," come along. At every stop - fuel, rest, and the pizza place, EVERYBODY was interested in "Doug's" "hybrid" trike. Many people had never seen a trike constructed out of a car body, and most people had no memory of a Pontiac Fiero. Poor "Jim." The most beautiful bike of the bunch, and nobody's looking. They want to know about the "Hondaferio" because it is unique and hardly anyone has ever seen one. It might be even better as a "Harleyferio," though.

I originally was going someplace else with this illustration, but now I see that it perfectly shows how God has planned to change the course of this world through the One, whom we call "Jesus Christ." In much the same way that "Doug's" trike has combined features of a motorcycle and an automobile, God combined the best features of humanity with the spiritual characteristics of His own Son, to form a godly human being who lived upon this earth as a perfect man. Many in that day took notice of Him, and others were jealous of Him because He was so unique that people were drawn to Him. Some even conspired to kill Him, which they did 2000 years ago, on an ugly cross. Jesus had said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32) Three days later, He came back to life, and now lives forever as the Savior of all who will call Him, Lord Jesus. In the middle of all the beauty and wonders of the vast Universe, this "Hybrid-Human" will be the One for whom everyone and everything created will stand up and take notice. God wants us to get to know the Son, Jesus Christ, and find out why He made us the way He did. What unique role does He have for us to play in this Universe? He wants us to know that our destiny doesn't have to be the everlasting junkyard, if we will turn from our worldly ways and come to Jesus Christ to be restored.

Because of the life which the unique Son of God lived among men, the Bible states the following:

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11.

Since we will ALL take notice of Him sooner or later, wouldn't it make sense to do so NOW, and reap the benefits of Eternal Life with Him?

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