

## Using your Head

I once rolled Mark Gerber's car. Fortunately I was not injured, and what was miraculous was the fact that Mark was not injured either, since he was riding on the roof of the car at the time.

I would suppose that a note of explanation would be appropriate at this time. You see, this event took place fifty years ago when Mark and I were both nine years old. Many of the boys in the neighborhood had little wooden "cars" designed for a one person occupancy scenario. These "cars" had one seat inside a wooden body built upon old wagon wheels and frame. There was a steering wheel. Brakes were for "weenies", and would have put too much weight on the "car", so these were thought of as an optional accessory and thus were not included. The only way to stop the "car" was to either run into something soft and cheep, or roll it. Mark was on the roof because he had to push to get it rolling down the sidewalk of Dartmouth Street and, since he was then, and probably still is, as agile as a cat, he climbed on the roof of the brakeless little wooden "car" in order to ride along. In climbing up on the roof he set the "car" to rocking; I could not regain control, the rocking motion of the car was exacerbated, he jumped off and I rode out the "roll over".

Two of the biggest "worry warts" in the world are mothers and doctors. His mother spoke Yugoslavian and mine spoke Bohemian. When they found out about what they called a "brush with death" it sounded a bit like a United Nations Convention. They thought that sailing blindly across busy intersections with no brakes on the "car" and one person on the roof was asking for an injury. The roll over of the "car" paled by comparison to the "aftershock" of the matriarchal "expressions of concern". Had this concern been expressed in English it might have been more meaningful. Mark and I just smiled and nodded.

Nine year old boys are not well known for their abilities to think things through. As nine year old boys, we lived in a parallel situation to Israel prior to their getting a king. We did what was right in our own eyes[1]. Sadly, most of humankind follows suit to the thought pattern of nine year old boys. The concomitant failures of mankind to gratify and satisfy their evil desires are demonstrative that all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God[2]. The depraved behaviors we have in our society[3] are a reflection of a society which is in the line of fire of the wrath of the God Whom they have offended[4]. Starting in the Garden of Eden, [5]this sin has acted as a barrier to our divinely intended spot, eternally giving praise to the Author and Perfector of Life. God, seeing this Sin, has condemned us, asserting that the wages of our work of sin is death[6]. Doing what seems right in our own eyes has failed miserably, not only when we were nine year old boys, but also as members of a supposedly sophisticated society living by the worldly wisdom which governs our society. It is this society which is lost under its own power which establishes the standards governing the rules for the relationships between the people living within it. Obviously we need a different authority than one of a self governing body.

Enter Jesus Christ. It is He through whom the world was created[7], Who by His indwelling Holy Spirit, instills within us the Fruit of the Spirit[8], thus giving the lives of us, His believers, a sense of purpose and being loved. We no longer have "knee jerk reactions" to the fear, discouragement, and despair accompanying the specter of life in sin. We realize that we are sinners, and that on our own this sin leads to death. However, as believers in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, we also accept the freedom from the condemning curse of sin and the free gift of God, namely life eternal in Jesus Christ our Lord[9]. Our lives are changed because we no longer fear condemnation since we are in Christ[10]. Now we can do what God expects us to do without fear: reach others with the good news of forgiveness in Christ, and rejoice in the fellowship we have with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit Who indwells us upon acceptance of Jesus as Savior and Lord.

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[1] Judges 17:6

[2] Romans 3:23

[3] Galatians 5: 19-21

[4] Romans 1: 18-32

[5] Genesis 3: 1-24

[6] Romans 6:23a

[7] John 1:3

[8] Galatians 5:22-23

[9] Romans 6:23b

[10] Romans 8:1-4