

Fixing It

Why don't we fix things any more? It is a given that acquired items have a limited lifespan but, when they break, we throw them away. It is an unfortunate fact that products now don't have the resilience and quality they once had – or, at least, that's what we have been told by former generations who speak so highly of the excellence of all things past. Of course, there is another perspective, one that is not nearly so flattering, but quite possibly too true to be ignored: we have become lazy.

Now, I'm not advocating the blanket statement that every last individual of today's generation is one big ugly sloth dangling sedentary from societies low hanging branches – there are exceptions to the rule – but I would argue that, as a culture, instant gratification and accepted, even expected, mediocrity is much more palatable than holding feet to the fire, whether it be those marketing the goods or those who labor toward their production, and demanding better a better product. That would be rude; how dare one expect a job well done.

God does not operate on so subjective a sliding scale. His solutions are all sourced from perfection and revealed in the same manner; there is no compromise for the sake of convenience, kinfolk or conflict avoidance. When God directs us to know, employ and maintain a certain standard in our existence, He will not accept second best (cf. Malachi). Now, that may seem to be anything from a bit overbearing to overtly stringent, especially to the unwashed heathen but, frankly, to the Christian who understands Luke 17:7-10, the concept is not only quite reasonable but very understandable.

What God, the Father, did in giving His Son, what Jesus did in dying on the cross and what the Holy Spirit is doing in perfectly preserving this Divine record brings us to the undeniable conclusion that we cannot fix ourselves (Isaiah 59:1-2). The silly notion that time will fix what ails us or that we can repair our flaws with enough industry and ingenuity is a lie. Jesus is the fix!

The failure to distinguish between works rendered in gratitude for the grace of God and the hubris of self-help soul-salvaging is a bridge too far (Matthew 7:21-23). Claiming grace is not passive and a working faith is not a merit badge. Obedience to Jesus fixes it.