

KIRBSTONES

ALONG THE NARROW WAY

curb-stone (kürb'stön') - *noun* - one of the stones or a range of stones forming a curb, as along a sidewalk or roadway. Historically, the curbstones were placed vertically along the edges of the roadbed and the paving material was backfilled against the row of curbstones. The curbstones served ⁽¹⁾to hold the material in the roadbed, ⁽²⁾to prevent the scattering of the material along the edges, and ⁽³⁾to define the road itself from all the adjoining areas.

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT.
¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT." - MATTHEW 7:13-14 - NIV

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God is ready, willing, and able to remove all the sins that stains our lives and the sinful nature that separates us from himself. And, God can transform us by weaving himself through and into our lives. It is in our (1) *accepting* the fact that Jesus suffered and died for each one of us, who would believe, (2) *receiving* him as the Lord of our lives, and 3) *realizing* that God loves each one of us so much that he sacrificed his Son for us.

The act of weaving can be an effective metaphor illustrating how God works in the lives of Christians and in the Christian community. We believe God is our Creator *and* God created us in his image.

On close examination of a piece of cloth we notice threads or yarn laid out in a longitudinal direction. We call these threads the *warp*. To make fabric there is an additional set of threads or yarn woven over and under each longitudinal thread from side to side. We call these threads the *weft*. The warp and the weft form fabric.

If we take this metaphor a little further by renaming the longitudinal fibers *humanity*, and let the weft represent *God*, we have a really great illustration of how weak, ineffective, and unable we are to carry out God's plan without his presence woven throughout our plans, our activities, and our lives. In other words, for us to be about God's will in our lives and God's work in the world, God must be inextricably and indivisibly woven throughout all we are about as his creation.

It would be utter nonsense for us to try to use the warp fibers alone like cloth—*without the weft fibers*. We would *not* be able to wear it. We would *not* be able to sleep under it. We would *not* be able to dust with it. The warp fibers alone would not remain together as an effective piece of fabric for our use in the world.

In the same way, humans without God woven throughout their lives are of no use to God. In order to make us useful for his purposes in the world God takes the warp of humanity and weaves himself in and out of our lives to bring us together and to strengthen us for his use in the world.

Taking the weaving metaphor one step further let us imagine the *warp* fibers as our individual and collective *human effort*. Regardless of how much work we put into our endeavors we cannot stand on our own and we will not remain a cohesive and effective unit able to carry out God's purposes.

However, once we introduce the *weft* of the *God factor* everything changes. We become stronger as individuals and as a congregation. We immediately realize that we are more organized and we are interconnected in ways we have never experienced, and we suddenly become more useful to God in the world.

Just like a tightly woven piece of fabric, the more tightly our *human effort* is interwoven with the *God factor*, the more we can accomplish. The more (1) we *depend* upon God, the more (2) we are *thankful* to God, and the more (3) we *realize* that God is present with us, the more we will see God's work among us *and* in the world that he created.

Does this metaphor work for us? Does it make sense within the corporate life of our church? As we embrace this we will see one miracle after another as God works in our midst.

God will work his promises through and with his people and persons who are faithful to him. Psalm 68:35 teaches the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Will we be counted as his people? Will we be faithful to God, as we expect his promises in fulfillment of this Old Testament teaching?

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***29 You are awesome, O
God, in your sanctuary; the
God of Israel gives power
and strength to his people.
Praise be to God!
Psalm 68:35 — NIV***