

Contact:
Pastor Roland Banks
Windermere Presbyterian
104 Windemere Road
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-791-5966

Note: This sermon was written and submitted by Pastor Roland Banks and used during Donor Sabbath in November, 2004. Pastor Banks invites you to contact him with questions and/or comments in order to assist in personalizing your sermon.

John 3:16-17 "Donor King"

Today is Christ the King Sunday when we point to the Lordship of Jesus. As we just sang, one day in the future "every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." So in anticipation of this great event to come, we Presbyterians take this day to proclaim what we know to be truth: Jesus is Lord, He is the creator of the whole universe, our provider, our law giver, our savior/deliverer; therefore all praise and honor and glory and obedience are due Him. Let us take this day to proclaim Jesus as Lord of all. Amen.

Today we proclaim Jesus as lord, but the question remains: exactly what kind of king is this Jesus? Some call Jesus the servant king, others the victorious king, others the king of kings. To me Jesus is all of these things and more. To me Jesus is also the donor king. If you look up the word "donor" in the dictionary you will see that it means; the one who gives, gives blood, tissue, organs, bone, corneas, etc. In essence you can sum up the concept of donorship by saying simply that a donor is a giver of new life. After my sermon today you will hear from Lynn Krupcy, about the new life she has experienced after an anonymous donor gave her two lungs. To me this is a perfect analogy for Jesus, for He is the ultimate giver, He is the donor King that sets the example for all us.

Let's take a moment on this Donor Sabbath to see what the Bible says about this issue of donating and transplantation. As we read in Genesis 2, God as the Great Physician actually performed the very first transplant operation. Did you realize this? It was a rib transplant. See Genesis 2:21; "So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, (here we have Divine anesthesia) and while he was sleeping, God took one of the man's ribs (or part of his side) and closed up the place with flesh." Then God used that bone and flesh to bring forth new life, see verse 22; "Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib/side He had taken out of the man." Now the best part, post surgery, when Adam woke up he rejoiced...his joy overflowed...for two reasons; first, because he knew that he had been the donor that helped to bring forth new life and secondly, when Adam saw this new life he also rejoiced because...WHAT A NEW LIFE it was! Hubba Hubba! Adam said and I quote; "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman' for she was taken out of man." In Hebrew the word for man here is 'ish', therefore woman is called; 'ishah' for she is part of man, a recipient of a vital life giving part of the man.

When I do premarital counseling I always lift up this passage and pray that the couple will understand this special bond that they share together from God in the very beginning. How man had to give up something in order to get a suitable helpmate. And so it is true today, every husband must give up something in marriage. Man had to be a donor, a giver first, in order to receive joy in the form of woman later. Couples must know that it takes three to make new life, in this case, a marriage/family; it takes giving and receiving, a donor and a recipient, and of course the Lord God above, the great physician orchestrating it all to his glory according to his plan.

But we mustn't stop here, the story continues as God the creator of everything good had to watch His good creation go bad, as sin and death and evil entered into the world. But God's love for his creation never failed, it was ever faithful, God's love did not die or diminish no matter how bad the world became. God continued to shower the world with blessings, the sun and the rain and the air, etc. But finally as the world sank deeper and deeper into sin God just had to intervene. Just as the world was about to expire, to admit its last dying gasp, God acted in love, amazing love, for He gave His world New Life. As we know from John 3:16 the most famous of all verses of Scripture; "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."

God so loved the world that He sent Jesus to be our King, not only to rule over us but to show us how to live and then to be our ultimate donor, what I call the donor King, to give up His life so we can have eternal life. And here God sets the example for all of us to be givers of life also. Can we not give our own organs, tissues, bones and corneas when we no longer need them so that others may live a better life if it be God's will. We must always acknowledge God is all this, for He is the great physician and the Donor King.

And please be assured of one thing, we would not be talking about organ donation if the need wasn't so great. Did you know that every 12 minutes a new patient is added to the national patient waiting list for organ transplants? Did you know that every day 17 people on this waiting list die because of the lack of available organs? The national list increased 100% between 1987 and 2000; reaching a record high of nearly 87,000 patients. And just last week we rejoiced in worship when Debbie Packer announced that her daughter's fiancé's father had received a new heart.

Won't you decide today to become an organ donor, to become a giver of new life, to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.