

## TOGETHER MAKING SEVEN

One of the things I enjoy about handing out candy on Halloween is getting the opportunity to talk with some of the children in our neighbourhood. I see many of these children often throughout the year waiting for the school bus, or playing at the park when I am walking our dog, Daisy. I do not get the opportunity to talk with them on these occasions, but they are willing to talk on Halloween if I just delay handing out the candy to them for a slight minute.

When two of the children came up the driveway last Monday night, I recognized them right away and took a moment to catch up with them about what grades they were in now. The oldest sibling shared she is in Grade 5, and her younger brother said he is in Grade 2. What they said next caught me by complete surprise. They said, "Did you know 5 and 2 make 7?"

I was not expecting a response like that. I thought it was fitting coming from siblings identifying that together they make 7. I had a good laugh about this interaction as they went off to the next house after getting their candy. If you are wondering, I did not give the oldest sibling 5 chocolate bars, and the other 2. I might have if I thought about it then as opposed to now as I am typing this. It would have been interesting to see how these siblings would have handled that math equation.

I have been thinking a lot about what these two siblings said. Adding five and two together is just one way to come to the number seven. There are other possible combinations too:

- $7 + 0 = 7$
- $6 + 1 = 7$
- $3 + 4 = 7$

All four of these combinations can be used to add up to seven.

As I focused on the seven, I was reminded of how in the Bible this number has a symbolic and deeper meaning attached to it. Seven is not the only number from Biblical times that carries with it a symbolic meaning, but it is the number most often used in this manner in the Bible. This number appears over seven hundred times in Scripture. One of the deeper meanings associated with this number has to do with completion and perfection.

The first instance we see of this in the Bible comes in the creation account found in Genesis 1. This opening chapter to the Bible describes how God created the heavens, the earth and everything in them including humans. It was over a period of six days that God did His creating, and then on the **seventh** day He rested. We see the perfection aspect brought out in God's observation at the end of the sixth day:

**Then God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was very good! (Genesis 1:31)**

Completion is represented on the seventh day by God resting from His work done during the previous six.

Another instance where we find this symbolic meaning associated with the number seven is on the cross. When we read through the four Gospel accounts of Jesus' on the cross, we can find seven different statements Jesus made before He died. The seven statements reveal Jesus completing the task He came to do for us, in particular with His words, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). Perfection can be found in how He remained without sin even on the cross in order to fulfill His Father's plan to be the One to die for our sins so we could be forgiven and could have a relationship restored with Him leading to eternal life.

If we need one more example of the deeper meaning behind the number seven, we can find it in the Lord's Prayer. This is the prayer Jesus taught us to pray which includes seven petitions. It is the perfect prayer to guide and complete our day with Him. In the Bible the number seven is symbolic for perfection and completion and a few more meanings if a mid week message would permit.

If I were to ask right now on a scale of 0-7 how complete and fulfilled your life feels at this moment, what number would you choose? It is very likely many of us would choose a number somewhere between 3 and 6. Maybe there are some 7's among us, but there also could be a few who have put themselves as low as a 0, 1 or 2. God desires for us to live our lives in a more fulfilling and complete way. The perfect way for us to do this is in a committed relationship with Him. Life will not be perfect for us until we experience eternal life but that does not mean we cannot experience a more fulfilling and complete life now.

I think we see the answer lies in what my neighbour's two children shared with me on Halloween. If we join ourselves together with somebody, we can achieve seven. **Maybe it is time for us to join ourselves into a closer and deeper relationship with God right now in order to reach a more fulfilling and complete life.** Maybe it is time we **join with one of Christ's churches** in order to find more fulfillment and completeness in our lives. Math may not come easy to some of us, but this is very simple addition. If we simply **join ourselves together with our Lord**, it will lead us to experience what the number seven is meant to signify: a fulfilling and more complete life with our Creator. Perfection will come for us at a later time, but at least for now we are joined with the perfect One Himself to help us feel more complete.

Five plus two making seven may have been the combination these siblings had as they went house to house on Halloween. I think when they got home that number changed to eight. Why eight? Together they probably "ate" a lot of candy that night. Pardon the humour.

Keep Safe and God Bless

Pastor Dean