

may 3

"behold, i was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." psalms 51:5 no, david's mother was not any more sinful than others. we have all been conceived in iniquity every since sin was introduced into the world. that is the reason we all need to have a redeemer. that is why our Lord had to die as a sacrifice from all sin committed from the beginning of time until it ends.

how do i know we were conceived in iniquity (other than the Word telling us)? look at the children - the most innocent of the innocent. Jesus says we must come to Him as little children; believing, trusting, dependent. and yet, how quickly that sin nature begins to rear it's ugly head. the possessive, "it's mine" is only the beginning.

perhaps a few of us can remember experiencing rejection, the wanting to belong. i was very fortunate. i always had a best friend to hang with and withstand harassment. but what happens when there is no "best friend" or when they have moved away? the one is left to withstand alone. "for if they fall, one will lift up his companion. but woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up." eccl 4:10

even now, there are many children being bullied in school. some even to the point of threatening to kill themselves. if harming oneself is not the immediate response, it is often something dreadful as well; revenge, to fight back, to harm others. it is more

common than we know, though, not acted upon as often as it might be.

how do we expect one living in those conditions to cope? how do we counsel them? especially when we know they are living among and witnessing the darkening of this world as we too are witnessing. this requires a maturity and stability even many adults do not possess.

"a man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." prov 18:24 as with everything else, Jesus is the answer. He will not only stand with you, He will be your defender. He alone knows how to pierce the heart of another. that piercing can bring conviction that may well make an enemy a friend.

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" rom 10:14 you are your child's preacher. you are the Jesus he can see until faith leads him further. "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." prov 22:6 we must claim that promise for our children.

the path through this world is treacherous enough without a companion, for adults and children. get them grounded in knowing that ultimate friend. it will be protection in the here and now, and eventual entrance into life eternal.

i hope we all pray for children going through such torment. childhood should be a time of learning and

finding one's place in life; of finding and knowing God. pray also for wisdom, strength and peace for their families as well.

"these things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. in the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." john 16:33 indeed He has, and we are all overcomers in Him!