



Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

Vol. XI.09

Submitting One to Another Part I

The question is, "Lovest thou Me?" (Jn 21.15, 16)

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" aligns with the question asked of Peter in John 21.14, 15. Reflecting on Luke 22.33 when Peter said unto the Lord, "I am ready to go with thee, both into prison and to death," is a statement of Peter's love for the Lord. (A later message will explain this in conjunction with John 21.)

Love is the basis for obedience to the Lord God. This is not about wives submitting to husbands – as is understood by some to be what Ephesians 5.21 is about – which, in their thinking removes them from submitting to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, lest what they are directed to do that which they feel is beneath their self understanding of who they are and what they do not have to do because of who they see themselves as being (Eph 5.25). It is about the Word of God and the depth of the Word for all who truly have repented of their sins and desire to follow the Lord. It is out of love for the Lord Jesus Christ only that we can obey the Lord, that we can submit to the Lord, and, in turn, submit one to another in the fear of God.

Submitting is to yield to the will of God, working together. Romans 16.1 is written by St. Paul who presents a co-worker, Phoebe, who was a deaconess/minister, who has need of assistance in which the Greek reveals it is possibly concerning a legal matter that has taken her to Rome. Hear what Paul writes:

I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: **The Greek word is deaconess, minister – who is a servant.**

That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also (Rom 16.1, 2).

The Greek for succourer reveals she was "set over others." Paul understands well what he writes though others would not study to receive the beauty of the depth of his writings. Paul understands well, submitting one to another – for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, how Paul writes of his helpers in the Lord in verse three is also powerful. The primitive church understood the meaning of submitting one to another for the glory of the Lord that His Name would go forth into the world,

Submitting one to another is not to submit to Satan and his followers. It is not to submit to the ways of the world, the sin that doth so easily beset us. It is walking with the Lord Jesus Christ as one in the body of Christ.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Peter Scholtes

(Acts 13.35)

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

that His love and mercy would be revealed in a measure that changes people's lives.

Ephesians 5:21 is about each follower of Jesus Christ submitting one to another as the body of Christ, that the body shall flow together to accomplish the will of the Lord. It is about each person seeking the Lord, a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ that we might walk as the body of Christ together in the fear of God.

Submitting one to another in the fear of God is lacking in the body of Christ today as people, to include husbands and wives, see it, I fear, as "who is in charge," "who has the authority" – and tries to prove whom they believe has the authority with ways that may serve to inflict pain on another in vexing ways.

The Holy Word of God is about submitting one to another that we might serve the Lord Jesus Christ in our daily lives as one in Him. It is not about power and who has the power and who has the authority. Remember the Lord teaches love as "Christ also love the church, and gave himself for it." It is laying our lives down, giving our lives unto the Lord for His glory.

I have read and heard that Ephesians 5:21 is about wives submitting to their husbands in the fear of God. It is amazing how the Bible is taught and teachings given forth for the benefit of the one teaching their "thoughts" that has nothing to do with what a verse, chapter, or book of the Bible says.

My colleague and I attended a church in a sizeable state one Sunday during our years of ministry of traveling coast to coast. There were a good number of people present. It seemed they were so enthralled with the pastor's understanding of words they, themselves, failed to understand; and, therefore, failed to see the error of the teaching.

James 5:4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

He had a hidden agenda, it did seem, as he taught that "the Lord of **sabaoth**" is the Lord of the Sabbath, and began *preaching* about the Sabbath.

The brief definition of Sabaoth, both from the Hebrew and the Greek languages, is as follows:

Hebrew: 1) that which goes forth, army, war, warfare, host
1a) army, host

Greek 1) "Lord of Sabaoth"
1a) Lord of the armies of Israel, as those who are under the leadership and protection of Jehovah maintain his cause in war

Awaken, People of God in Christ Jesus! Let us be much in prayer seeking the wisdom and knowledge of God before trying to impose a belief that does not align with the Word of God – and, that is self serving to get people to believe your teaching versus the Word of God, that may make others feel good and powerful and in charge or whatever the agenda is.

We need first of all to experience "The Love of God" that we walk submitting one to another for the ministry to which we each are called as a member of the body of Christ (I Cor 12).

Let us walk humbly with our God, the Lord God Almighty. We need to lift up our hearts unto the Lord with our ears fine tuned as an instrument to the "hearing" of the Word of God, and eyes ever turned to the Lord to experience His glory. When we are one with the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be one with the body of Christ - and in the home. We will realize that it is the Lord Jesus Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *[us]*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *[our]* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:1,2).

The Lord Jesus Christ endured the cross, the shame, because of His great love for us. He, Who is love, goodness, being God, did not in anyway descend to our frailties of sometimes *feeling that a work is beneath us* and that someone else needs to submit to that specific experience – not us.

Oh, the Lord taught us in His life that we need to submit one to another – not to the enemy, but one to another as the body of Christ.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you (Jn 15:12-14).

Love of God in each of us submits one to another, and places us each as a member of the body of Christ – reaching out together that we each will, as one in the Lord, submit to another, thus submitting to the Lord God Almighty in love.

Does not submitting come out of our love for Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel)? We as the body of Christ are subject unto Christ. Is not the love of God in a sanctified marriage a microcosm of the body of Christ walking together as one.

Oh, people of God, Christ loved His Church so much that he gave His life for the Church, His body. How can we walk away from His love and not share it one with another as we walk as the body of Christ for the glory of His precious Name, that we might edify the body of Christ, that we might live seeking to be sanctified by the Lord that we might, as a member of the body of Christ, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our daily walk with the Lord. St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach always, and, if necessary, use words."

When the world sees us walking as one in Christ, walking in the love of God, submitting one to another that the will of the Lord God be accomplished, allowing the love of God in Christ Jesus to flow in us and through us, this world would be changed into the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ.