



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*

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Submitting One to Another Part II

Too long we have talked of the local "churches," trying to organize it, align the organization, all too often, with the worldly businesses understanding – and, measuring success by their standards. The hierarchy of the business world is seemingly the standard for the "churches," and success is based on production, numbers, and employees. We see how that there are jealousies within the business world's ways, and everyone is striving for the highest position with the highest remuneration – as that is the measuring rod of success. How often have you heard the phrases, "Dog eat dog"?

The standard of a good preacher/pastor is the numbers brought in on Sunday morning, number of attendees as well as monies. The world has taught the "churches" all too well the ways of the enemy; however, the "churches" have tuned their ears, have bent their ears, towards the enemy, the ways of the world to measure their success rate – all too often.

Need I explain this further in light of Christ's Holy Church?

There is also the individual measuring rod as people vie for promotions for those positions that pay more, that may even have some authority over others – which also are a part of the measuring rod, the standard of the "right" position, giving more credence to a person who is given such a position.

Then there are those who will befriend the newly promoted person strictly for their selfish motive to be available for such a promotion themselves, that their newly promoted friend will speak on their behalf as a future reference for a position with greater authority and remuneration – which is seen as greater power in their own life.

However, there are those who will work against the newly promoted person from among their own circle. They will choose to endeavor to make life miserable for the newly promoted person, perhaps make errors in their work to reflect poorly on the newly appointed person who has been given greater authority.

Need I explain this further in light of Christ's Holy Church?

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Mt 6.33).

Oh, how weak we are, how self-centered we are. Our eyes are not on Jesus Christ; our hearts are not seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Oh, Lord, forgive us for failing to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. May we go forth from this day forward living the life to which we each are called knowing that "None Is Above Another." When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, what a glorious day that will be. If we could begin to comprehend that this life is neither about me, nor you, but about the body of Jesus Christ walking as one in the Lord to give honor and glory to His Name.

Let us go forth with joy, walking, living, as the body of Christ for His glory and know that we are called to "Submit one to another" rejoicing what the Lord is doing in each of us – and, as the body of Christ, that others shall come to know Him as Lord and Savior (Jn 17.21).

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

If we, if each member of the body of Christ were to "seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness," can you imagine the change in each of us, the change in the body of Christ? If we, if each member of the body of Christ were to "seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness," can you imagine the change in the world, no not just where you live, though that alone would be a miracle, but can you imagine the change in the world in every nation as the nations would be seeking first the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus, the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, of Israel! Oh, what a miracle that would be – and it would be because of the obedience of each member of the body of Christ walking humbly with the Lord God, and seeking first the Kingdom of God in each one's life.

Christ's Holy Church understands that when we walk together in fellowship in the Lord as they did in Acts 2.41-47, we find the body moving together for the glory of the Lord; we find the body of Christ hungry for more and more of Him; we find the body of Christ desiring to walk together in Holy Communion, walking as one in the Lord, realizing that none is above another when our eyes are upon Jesus, and the ministry to which we are called personally that is a part of the whole body of Christ fitly joined together in Christ.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *[unto them]* about three thousand souls.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles (Acts 2.41-43; read also vv 44-47).

Fellowship in the Greek (*κοινωνία*) is "the right hand as a sign and pledge of fellowship (in fulfilling the apostolic office)." This is about walking together in the Word of the Lord, breaking of bread and praying together for the will of the Lord Jesus Christ in our personal lives as we are one in the Lord.

Paul goes on to write concerning the body of Christ, how the body is one in the Lord, working together in the ministry each one has that when seen from a higher perspective, is one body working to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, as the body is edified in this ministry as the body reaches out to a lost and dying world.

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *[even]* Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness (Eph 4.15-19).

Let us look once again at the text, Ephesians 5.20, 21.

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

There is no greater joy for the body of Christ than *κοινωνία*, walking together in Holy Communion, *Holy Community*, that we might each be edified as we walk humbly with our God, walking together to give glory and honor to the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He hath shewed thee, O man, what *[is]* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Mic 6:8)

What is it like to walk humbly with thy God? The prophet Micah writes that the Lord requires that we do justly, that we love mercy, as we walk humbly with the Lord God Almighty. Walking in the Hebrew language is to live the life of the Lord in obedience. "To do justly" is to do what is right in the sight of the Lord God. "To love mercy" is goodness, kindness, and is to be faithful in walking in this calling.

How can we not see our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus and love them with the love the Lord has bestowed upon us? I sometimes wonder why so many treat the world, the followers of Satan with more kindness and understanding that is given to the family of God in Christ Jesus. It seems that we too often carry with us that same attitude of jealousy, bitterness . . . when we take our eyes off of Jesus, and see how the Lord is using another person whose work may make them more visible.

I think of Peter when the Lord told him by what death he should die, Peter turned to the Lord, and asked, "what *[shall]* this man *[do]*?"

Interestingly, "Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, **what *[is that]* to thee?** Follow thou me." Oh, how many times we concern ourselves with that which is "none of our business." We are busy taking care of, looking into the business of others – and fail to take care that we are walking with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry *[thee]* whither thou wouldest not.

This spake he, signifying by what death [Peter] should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what *[shall]* this man *[do]*?

Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what *[is that]* to thee? follow thou me (Jn 21.18-22).

Let us once again look at another scripture that shows forth the members of the body of Christ failing to walk with the Lord when they get sidetracked with watching others' lives, then questioning the Lord.

And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!

And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest (Lk 22.22-24).