

Rom. 14:19 So
then let us follow
after things which
make for peace,
and things
whereby we may
edify one another.



LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 and ye
shall know the
truth, and the
truth shall make
you free.

**March
10
2019**

IS SUBJECTION TOO DIFFICULT?

Jim Stauffer

In the well known text of **Ephesians 5** we see an allegory of the church as the bride of Christ and the husband and wife relationship. *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."* (**Eph. 5:25-27**)

What the apostle demonstrates for the Ephesians and all who follow, is that Christ is the head of the church just as a husband is the head of the wife. There are such phrases as, *For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church.* This, he says is because He is the Savior of the body. Jesus purchased the church with his own blood according to the same apostle in **Acts 20:28**, as he addressed the elders of the church at Ephesus. Corresponding phrases such as, *But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.* The relationships parallel one another and each party to that relationship has certain responsibilities.

It is imperative that each member of the union, husband and wife, church and Lord and Savior honor the role they have been given. The husband, for instance, is reminded in the verse we have cited above to love his wife to the same extent Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of all mankind (**2 Cor. 5:14**) and through this death provided redemption by way of a propitiatory sacrifice (**Rom. 3:24-26**) allowing man forgiveness of his sins through obedience to his commands (**Acts 2:38**). When man obeys the command to repent and be baptized he is then saved and added to the church which means he has been purchased by the blood of Christ (**Acts 2:47; 1 Pet. 1:18,19**).

Now he is a part of the bride of Christ and will as a

part of that unit become subject to Christ. We should not struggle to understand subjection. We don't in the earthly counterpart of marriage. We don't in other relationships such as responsibilities to the government, whether local, statewide or national. So as we understand our government has the responsibility to set in place laws that govern life in this republic, we should understand the role Jesus has in establishing the guidelines of life in His kingdom, His body, His church (**John 18:36; Col. 1:18**).

Yet, the battle rages on various levels, where men find it difficult to accept His authority and submit to it.

Recently, the United Methodist Church has suffered serious disagreement which may lead to division within that body, because some (a rather large, yet minority group) have decided the Biblical teaching on homosexuality should not be followed. Who do we think we are when we can look directly at His word, the Savior of the body, the church, and say it is no longer necessary. Now, the United Methodist Church has many more issues than just this one concerning faithfulness to His teaching, but this one is the current one and illustrates men are willing to surrender to cultural pressures of society rather than subjecting themselves to Christ as the apostle has taught.

The marriage will not endure that does not have both parties fulfilling the obligations of their roles. Christ who was given *all authority in heaven and on earth* (**Mat. 28:18**), has authorized the New Testament as the revelation of the mind of God (**John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:10-13**) and we as the bride of Christ (the church) must subject ourselves to Him in obedience if we wish Him to authorize our salvation (**Heb. 5:8,9**).

Do we understand what is meant by confession and denial in the following verses? *"Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven."* (**Mat. 10:32-33**)

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life." (Galatians 6:7-8)

That, as the old expression goes, leaves the ball in our court. Will we or won't we?

Healthy Churches by Carl McMurray

Among church growth students over the last three decades there has been a consensus that church growth parallels church health. Just like any physical body, when there is good health and the absence of disease and hindrances, growth naturally follows. A recent article I noticed followed up on this idea, *Seven Secrets of Healthy Churches*, by Thom S. Rainer. Although I don't believe these are "secrets," putting my own spin on his main ideas, I do believe he makes valid points when he says that healthy churches...

...possess leadership and membership that have a high view of Scripture. If we are not always holding up the Word, we will soon lose our focus on it in the distractions of this world (2 Timothy 2:15).

...seek to be relevant. We cannot help others with the gospel of salvation if we neither speak their language nor understand their needs. The date is NOT 1965 and the culture is not the same as it once was (1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 10:33).

...hold to the primacy of preaching. That is the method God chose for saving men. Shall we trade it for entertainment? Should we compress the meat out for a diet drink of milk? (1 Corinthians 1:21)

...have a healthy, small group structure. It is in the relationship of small groups that we have the opportunity to ask questions, confess ourselves, and build relationships with others. Bible classes, contact groups, home studies or hospitality opportunities; those who don't use small groups lose their ties to their brethren and opportunities to grow spiritually (Ephesians 4:16).

...emphasize corporate prayers and the ministry of prayer. Prayer is a fear killer and confidence builder. It is direct, heart-to-heart communication with our Father. It becomes the ability to see God working for us and with us. Jesus said it was the way that our Father gave us good gifts (Matt. 7: 7-11; 1 Thess. 5:17).

...take membership seriously. Membership without accountability and responsibility is not membership at all—it is visiting! Healthy churches know the difference between members and visitors and act on that difference. Christians are not orphans and should not be acting like we have no family (Acts 9:26-28).

...are highly intentional about evangelism. Healthy churches are motivated by heaven and hell to reach out to a lost world. Bible classes, advertising, outreach, and planning all have as their impetus sharing the good news of Jesus the Christ (John 4:34-35).

Are you a member of a healthy church? What are you doing to make it more so?

PASSING ON YOUR FAITH

"I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. Therefore, I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands" (2 Timothy 1:3-6).

The oft quoted words of English poet John Donne, "No man is an island entire of itself," remind us that we are all part of something; we are part of the world we live in; we are a part of a whole. Like it or not, we are part of something bigger than ourselves. We live and operate in a certain sphere of influence; what we say and do affects others. We sometimes overtly set about to interact with others; sometimes our lives imperceptibly invade those around us. The Apostle Paul said it best: *"For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself"* (Romans 14:7).

Consider the influence Lois and Eunice, grandmother and mother, had on their young charge. Paul's words about Timothy, indicate early, consistent training in the ways of the Lord. Paul's conscience was clear; he wanted the same for Timothy. Timothy, a clean heart will always take you in the right direction. Hold on to your genuine faith. If you waver, think of the faith of your loved ones. Their sacrifices, their interest, their perseverance took hold in Timothy. Timothy was Paul's child in the faith; he was also Paul's fellow worker. Over time, Timothy proved himself worthy. Paul knew of no one such as Timothy (Philippians 2:20-21). Paul didn't keep his faith to himself. Neither did Timothy's loved ones. They passed on to Timothy a part of what they were.

The influence of parents on their children is great, whether that influence is for weal or for woe. Without arguing about Paul's words *"stir up the gift of God which is in you,"* can we see the need to encourage, teach, lead, and model God's will before our children? Paul tells fathers not to *"provoke"* their children (Ephesians 6:4). Instead of putting out the early flames of love and interest in the Lord, we must fan the flame, stoke the

fire, and not dampen the impulses of interest shown by those round about. A lone ember in the fireplace can be slowly coaxed into a roaring blaze. What Paul saw initially in Timothy and his loved ones (**Acts 14**), he continued to see and encourage.

The time arrived in Timothy's life when he had to decide whether he would or would not follow in the steps of faith left behind by his family. Perhaps we are correct to see some reticence in Timothy (**2 Timothy 1:7** "*fear*" and **1 Corinthians 16:10**). Still, his work in Ephesus continued for a time longer after Paul's departure. And Timothy is included in the greeting of Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, styled as "Prison Epistles." Surely Timothy was with Paul in Rome when these letters were sent out. Somewhere, at some time, Timothy was imprisoned (**Hebrews 13:23** "*has been set free*"). He started out as a young man with faith; he no doubt remembered the love of mother and grandmother; he walked hand in hand with the aged Apostle Paul. It seems, doesn't it, that Timothy wasn't an island all to himself. He is still passing on his faith today. Are we?

Randy Harshbarger

Things I Learned, #1

Those of you who know me personally know also that for the last six months I have been trying to improve my overall health through Intermittent Fasting and weightlifting. So far I've been far more successful than I ever thought I would be. My motivation for this was not to improve my spiritual life beyond the notion that I have been given ONE body by my Lord to get me through this life and it belongs to HIM, by right of Creation, **John 1:1-3**, and by right of purchase according to **Acts 20:28**. My initial motivation being not spiritual but earthly should not, however, blind me to spiritual lessons that I may observe from the effort, so for a couple of weeks I will share some things with you that I have learned over the last few months.

The first thing I noticed is how much of our life is conducted by habit. (For an excellent discussion of this topic read James Clear's book, "Atomic Habits".) We all intuitively know this but to see it play out in your own life and affecting an effort you are making just brings reality home! I lost count of how many times in an evening I went to the fridge to get something to eat, not because I was genuinely hungry but merely out of habit, a habit that eventually led me to add dozens of pounds of needless weight.

Now, the fact that habits exist is not evil. On the contrary it can be very, very good. It merely depends on what the habit is, for example, Bible Reading is a good habit to have. We simply must examine our habits and see which direction they are pushing us in life. After all,

We Can Control of Our Habits!

Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.

The Embarrassed Church

Robert F. Turner

A young lady "came forward" and told the preacher she had "embarrassed the church, and wished to make it right." He dutifully reported this to the congregation, a prayer was offered in her behalf, and everyone seemed happy. Others might say they "brought reproach upon the church," or "have not been faithful to the church." In one sense "the church" or "called out" saints **represent** the cause of Christ; and misconduct on the part of professed saints makes it more difficult to promote that cause. But is that our concern and emphasis?

A subtle change in emphasis may take place. **Our** personal or corporate reputation may be at stake. Are we more interested in preserving **our** image than in correcting sins against Christ? Why do we not say, "*I have sinned against heaven...*" (**Lu. 15:21**). David said, "*I have sinned against Jehovah*" (**2 Sam. 12:13**); and Nathan said he had "*given great occasion to the enemies of Jehovah to blaspheme*" (**v.14, Cf. Rom. 2:24**). **God** has been reproached, not man. Or, when Simon had sinned (**Acts 8:18-24**) Peter seemed more concerned with Simon's lost condition than with the reputation of the saints. Is this our concern? Have you noticed a difference in treatment of the little-known sinner, and one from a prominent family? In well known but non-sensational sin, and one that made headlines — especially if "the church" was mentioned? In such cases each member must examine his conscience, making a sincere effort to put the cause of Christ and salvation of a lost soul before personal or corporate pride.

True saints are converted to **Jesus Christ**; being baptized into **Christ**, striving to be faithful to **Christ**. If they ignore the command to assemble they ignore **Christ's** command (**1 Cor. 11:23-f**). Fornicators and adulterers break their marriage vow to **God** (**Jas. 4:4, 1 Cor. 6:15-f**). When our miserly contribution lies about our prosperity, we lie to God (**Acts 5:3-4**). Certainly we have failed our brethren with whom we have covenanted and who depend upon us to "do our part"; but it is a **sinned-against Christ** whom we must meet in final judgement, not an "embarrassed church."

"And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is Jehovah of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts." (**Isaiah 6:3-5**)

Let us be reminded to pray for those we support who are preaching in other areas of this country and also of the world. Remember to pray for Kyle Bennett in Boston Ma., Matt Hodge in Marshfield, Mo. and Cleveland Reddinger in El Dorado, Ks. Overseas we need to remember, Wilfredo Pelino and Jonathan Sapitula in the Philippines as well as Moses Tivane in Mozambique.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK, STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRACY RICHARDSON, LORENE PARKER AND TRUDY MULLEN.

BIBLE CLASSES SUNDAY MORNING:
THE PSALMS - RON PECK - TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING:
HEAVEN AND HELL
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY SERMON: ELDERS LEAD; THE FLOCK FOLLOWS

SPRING GOSPEL MEETING:
MAY 17-19
ROGER SHOUSE



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10