

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 39, No.24, June 11, 2013 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter**— a weekly Bible Study, plus news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church... sent forth to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide who receive the Newsletter), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."**

ESSENTIALS for Southside— Jesus our only Head! ONE WAY JESUS MODELS His HEADSHIP is by SUBMISSION! Surely the Biblical teaching of **submission is a CORE ESSENTIAL** about which we must ponder, pray, adjust, and yield— for we are to be those who are, ***"Submitting yourselves one to another in the FEAR OF GOD!"*** (Eph. 5:21)

I. SUBMISSION IN THE GODHEAD

It is interesting to note that in the first five days of creation God simply said, ***"Let there be..."***, and it was so. However, before the creation of man, God said, ***"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."*** (Genesis 1:26) In Hebrew the word for **God in Genesis 1:26** is ***Elohim***— a uni-plural word revealing that God is ONE and yet three or triune. In the **Godhead** [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] there was and is perfect agreement, total submission, and full acceptance— thus, ***"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."*** (Genesis 1:26)

THE SUBMISSION OF JESUS the SON:

When the Eternal Son left the glories of heaven, veiled Himself in flesh, and dwelt among men— He confirmed the divine order of total submission in the Godhead. In John 5:19 we read, ***"The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do."*** This does not mean that He has no ability— but in the eternal purpose of God and in divine order of the Godhead, He would not act or speak apart from the will of the Father. In John 12:49, Jesus says, ***"I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent me, He gave me a commandment, what I should say and what I should speak."***

JESUS EMPTIED HIMSELF (Phil. 2:6-8) — When the JESUS, the Son came to earth, He laid aside His personal divine prerogatives and placed Himself within the limitations of man. He did not cease to be God; but He took on Him the form of a servant; in this lowly state, as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death.

When Jesus was illegally tried and falsely accused before Pilate— He offered no defense. ***“When He was reviled, He reviled not again: when He suffered, He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.”*** (1 Peter 2:23) APPLICATION: Verse 21 says that He left us an example that we should follow in His steps!

The Holy Spirit moved Paul to say, ***“For thy sake we are killed all the day long.”*** (Romans 8:36)— are we? Or are we saving ourselves? **SO OFTEN we Christians fall short because we place limitations on expressing humility.** We will only take wrong for so long, after which we feel justified to rise up and defend ourselves or to fight back, etc. **DRINK DEEPLY:** Not only was Jesus obedient unto death, but unto the death of the cross. Whoever was killed in this manner was counted accursed. Jesus could not have taken a more shameful place than that.

TOTAL DOMINION THROUGH TOTAL SUBMISSION!

Because the Son emptied Himself, and made Himself of no reputation, became a servant, and humbled Himself even unto the death of the cross— God has highly exalted him and has given Him a name above all others, and has given Him dominion over all creation so that, ***“Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that JESUS is LORD!”*** In submission to the Divine plan, when Jesus was arrested, tried, spit upon, beaten, and hung on the cross— HE LOOKED LIKE A HELPLESS, PITIFUL, MISGUIDED FOOL— **BUT NO MORE AND NOT EVER AGAIN! Godly submission will always bring a godly fruit and an eternal reward!**

GOD THE FATHER SUBMITS:

“The Father judgeth no man, but has committed all judgment unto the Son: that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father.” (John 5:22) The Son and the Father are in total submission, the one to the other.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SUBMISSION:

In John 16:13-14, we see the Holy Spirit in Submission: *“Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify Me [JESUS]: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you.”*

LET HIM HAVE DOMINION: Man is not wrong in seeking to gain dominion over the earth. It is an inherent part of his life. He was so created, Genesis 1:26. His error lies in his manner of gaining dominion. The common image that comes to us of man seeking dominion is that of Kings ruling over nations; the strong suppressing the weak, the clever outwitting those not quite so alert, the “haves” exploiting the “have-nots”, etc. **All too often this same type of image takes on but a more dignified form among the professing redeemed:** Men aspire to places of leadership and bring large organizations and denominations under their domain. (See Matthew 16:24-25; 23:1-12) This is not the image of dominion found in the Bible.

II. SUBMISSION IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The first family was placed in a beautiful garden with all manner of fruit to eat. In the middle of the garden were **two trees which represented two manners of life**. There is no virtue in innocence. Adam and Eve must make a choice to establish their virtue. They were thoroughly instructed by God. **The tree of life** was a representative of Christ, being totally dependent upon Christ, living by faith in Him, submitting their wills to Him in all their deliberations, moving only by the impulse of the Spirit of God. This way of life held for them unlimited possibilities. **The tree of the knowledge of good and evil** represented a life of total independence, making their own decisions, following their own desires, going their own way, doing as they pleased. This was and is the way of satan. Adam and Eve were forbidden to choose this way. MOREOVER, if they chose the way of rebellion, they would forfeit all fellowship with the Father and with the Son. They would die. They did.

THE TRUTHFULNESS OF GOD'S WORD: From the first attack in the garden until this hour, satan has been busy seeking to undermine man's confidence in God's Word. **First**, he projected a doubt, **"Yea, has God said?"** **Second**, it was a flat denial, **"Ye shall not surely die."** **Third**, he deceived them, **"Ye shall be as gods."** (Genesis 3:1-5) SATAN so magnified their immediate gain that they lost sight of their present ABUNDANT BLESSINGS and their looming loss— separation from God.

NOTE: What satan promises never lives up to its hype; moreover, when satan promises he never reveals the PRICE TAG!

MORE REALITY: When sinners by grace receive Christ as Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit brings and empowers a NEW submission: **Romans 6:1-23!** BUT LET US ALSO REMEMBER that prior to sin, ruling by submission was and remains the divine order revealed in the Godhead. The Son, who knew no sin, Jesus said, **"As the living Father has sent me, and I live by the Father, so he that eateth Me shall live by Me."** (John 6:37) Jesus modeled the 'Divine Order' of submission. **GOD'S SAVING GRACE restores the Divine Order in us!**

SUBMISSION, FAITH and Obedience: Think about it— Faith is released by submission. The experience of God's promises requires a measure of obedience. **REALITY:** Too often we have gone through the motions of obedience, but did not submit. HOW SO? Christian obedience is much more than outward conformity. It is a heart attitude. How many times have we gone through the motions of obedience, but at the time murmuring and complaining? This was not submission.

YOU KNOW THE STORY: Little Johnny came to school from a very undisciplined family. He found it difficult to stay seated at his desk. The teacher called him back to his seat several times. Finally he defied the teacher and started walking for the door. She got him by the coat collar and bounced him down hard on to his seat. He remained there for the rest of the morning. At noon the other boys laughed because he had to sit down. Little Johnny's reply? "I was still standing up inside." How many times have you and I stood up inside while giving outward obedience? **Submission is accepting without reservation and with a godly attitude... like the Psalmist: "I delight to do thy will, O my God."** (Ps. 40:8)

III. SUBMISSION IN THE HOME

Concerning the home, the Holy Spirit moved Paul to write in Ephesians 5:22, ***“Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto Christ.”*** Frankly, many wives become very troubled and/or even rebellious over this Scripture because of the kind of husband they have! They might say something like, “I don’t mind submitting unto Christ. . . but that man? NO WAY!” I ask, “Do you find fault with Christ?” “Why, of course not!” “Do you always submit to Him?” “Well, n-no!”

So the real root problem is not just the husband, but submission! When dealing with others, Jesus said, ***“Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me.”*** (Matt. 25:40)

Basically, my problem is not people, places or pressures, but my lack of having a right attitude and showing a proper spirit.

I can only have this as I submit to Jesus Christ afresh and draw upon Him for grace that is needed in the immediate situation. **The measure of my submission to Christ will be the measure of my submission to the people involved in my circumstances.** Does a woman have any recourse who is married to a brutish, selfish, inconsiderate husband? **Every situation gives rise to two questions,**

1. What does God have in this for me?

2. What does God have in this through me?

IN THE FIRST PALCE, difficult places and people reveal what sort of spirit rules me, such as, 1. Pride - I became very angry because my dignity is offended. 2. Self-righteousness - I know I am right, therefore I do not have to take it. 3. Self-pity - I feel so sorry for myself because I am so badly abused. 4. Impatience - When is this ever going to change? 5. Fear - I am so afraid of what is going to happen. . . to me.

Any of the manifestations mentioned above, and many others, reveal a very definite need in my own life. **God has allowed me to become entangled with certain people so that these needs will be exposed in my own heart.**

In my unwillingness to face up to myself, I deep digging away at the faults and failures of others. HERE IS THE POSITION I REALLY NEED TO TAKE: As far as I am concerned, God is not interested in what is wrong with the other fellow. He wants to deliver me from all of my own fleshly attitudes and deeds.

SECOND, if my SPOUSE is really as bad as I think he is, then no doubt I am at my spouse’s side to reveal the true life of Jesus Christ.

In I Peter 3:1-6, Peter tells the wife to submit (commit herself without reservation) **to her husband for the express purpose of winning him to Christ.** This is to be done **not by** an outward display of attractive clothes, **but by** a revelation of true Christian character; inward beauty, a meek and a quiet spirit. God confirms that such effort will bring forth fruit. I MUST bring my own spirit into subjection to Christ, by faith, along with all wrong thoughts and imaginations!

THIS PROCESS IS WAR: II Cor. 10:4-6.

We are forever accusing the other person. God says my problem is ME! My heart attitude must be right! He will deal with the other person in his own time and way! (Romans 12:14-21)

A few years ago a lady came to a pastor to get his sanction for a divorce from an irresponsible drunkard of a husband who left her to provide for nearly all of the needs of their family for over twenty years. **She was full of bitterness from the abuse she had taken.** To her chagrin, she was told that her problem was not her husband, but herself. After a thorough study of submission she was willing to continue keeping house for her husband, but of course she could never love him. The need of manifesting the love of Christ revealed the true attitude of her heart. Bitterness, resentment, religious pride, etc., were confessed and repented of unto God and in the presence of the pastor. She then went and confessed her wrong attitude to her terrible husband. This really broke the ice in her own heart and it began to melt his. A few years later he was not only saved, but became the Superintendent of a Sunday School. Over twenty years of insubordination brought only heartache and resentment. A few years of submission brought great joy and happiness.

She learned to rule by submission. “God is in readiness to avenge all disobedience when our obedience is fulfilled.”

What should a wife do if, after a thorough discussion, her husband takes a course of action which is not wise and will bring loss? Submit!!!

First, the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. A right attitude on her part is of more importance than material gain.

Second, it is the husband who must answer before God for what happens in their family affairs. This is an almost forgotten factor in the average Christian home.

Husband and wife have equal access to God for their personal lives and relationships. But when it comes to things of mutual concern, the wife answers to the husband and the husband answers to Christ, for Christ is the head of man, and the man is the head of the woman, I Cor. 11:3.

. . . Since the husband is the head of the home, does that mean he is free to demand and dominate at will? Sad to say, this is what happens so very often, even in Christian homes. However, in Eph. 5:25, the Holy Spirit through Paul says that husbands are to love their wives **even as** Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. To love as Christ loves is only possible by the grace of God. **The husband who gives himself for his wife as Christ did for the Church** will not intentionally nor deliberately do anything to bring hurt, shame, or disgrace his wife. **THE HUSBAND’S LOVE IS TO BE ONE OF DEEP SUBMISSION, FOR IT IS THE KIND OF SUBMISSION CHRIST MANIFESTED IN GOING ALL THE WAY TO THE CROSS— even for the undeserving, the unlovable and the unresponsive!**

If the wife is in disagreement with her husband and refuses to submit, is he free to insist that she obey? As she can only rule over her circumstances by submission to her husband, so **the husband can only rule over his affairs by submission to Christ.** He must hold the matter before the Lord until an agreement is reached. If time is running out, and a decision must be made, then the husband must make the decision

in the fear of God, following what he believed to be the will of God, asking his wife to co-operate.

He does not rule simply because he is the husband, but out of submission to Christ.

IN SUBMISSION TO CHRIST the husband's focus will always be on sacrificial serving AND not on ruling or 'lording over' as do the heathen!

IV. SUBMISSION TO LAW AND ORDER

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man, FOR THE LORD'S SAKE." I Peter 2:13-20. Everyone knows that it is law and order that keeps us from anarchy. Finite man will of necessity make finite rules. We dare to believe that for the most part men set up regulations according to the best of their understanding. We might have much better suggestions, but since we were not consulted, it is for us to abide by decisions that have been made until such a time that a change can be brought about. Is there sometimes a note of contempt among us because certain laws, and men in public life, fall so short of our personal evaluations? Let us consider the emphasis of our text again.

Submit (that is, commit yourself without reservation) yourselves to every ordinance of man: not for the law's sake, not for the man in offence— ***but "For the Lord's sake."***

V. SUBMISSION IN THE CHURCH

In Hebrews 13:17 we read, ***"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."*** Notice the double emphasis, obey and submit (commit yourself without reservation to the wishes of another). The constant reason given for not submitting is that the leadership is wrong. No doubt, at times this is true. But it is also obvious that an honest appraisal will reveal that leaders are not as badly off in their judgment as often as they are charged to be.

This problem is as old as the Bible. John the Baptist did not mingle freely with the people and they said he had a devil. Jesus associated with all and they called Him a gluttonous man and a wine-bibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. (Luke 7:33-34) There may have been faults in John the Baptist and no doubt are in leaders today. There were no faults in Jesus. Though faultless, yet within 3 ½ years after He began His public ministry, they crucified Him. The problem with Him was certainly not leadership. It was insubordination, lack of submission, by those who opposed Him. **After telling the Christians at Ephesus how to maintain spiritual strength, why did Paul have to spoil it all by his next statement, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God?"** Eph. 5:21 (18-21)

Jesus Christ laid aside His personal divine prerogatives, placed Himself within the limitations of humanity, and committed Himself totally to the will of the Father in every situation of His life. He placed His faith fully in the Father; who brought forth His eternal purpose, for, in and through the Son, by the Spirit, in every circumstance. Because of this God has highly exalted Him. Phil. 2:9-11.

Let us, you and me, come out of the prison of our independent little selves, submitting ourselves fully to the leading of the Holy Spirit and come into the greatness of our God.

(Article is edited from Vernice Smith, Logos Magazine, Australia... in the 1970s)

Grace to all! James Bell

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES for JUNE!

LADIES SUMMER BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS: 6/18; 7/16; 8/13— Cindy Bell teaching!

1. WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! / YOUTH: Wednesdays, 6-8pm @ Southside Church building!

2. Thursdays @ 6:30pm: OUTREACH 3. Saturdays @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study

SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY JUNE 16

1. 9:30am- Sunday School 2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church

3. Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish} - [Third Sunday, Lord's Supper @ 1pm]

4. 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service /

June 16— IS FATHER'S DAY! During the Morning Worship service we will **HONOR FATHERS!** We encourage the giving of GIDEON BIBLES in honor of Fathers.

During the 1pm service we plan to observe the LORD'S SUPPER...

SCHEDULE FOR MAY JUNE 23

1. 9:30am- Sunday School

2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church

3. Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish}

4. 1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service

NOTE: JUNE 23— DURING THE 1PM EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE:

A church family Conversation II This is a re-scheduled FOLLOW UP on our Recent Church-wide CONVERSATION. There were several important matters we did not get to discuss.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR MAY JUNE 30

1. 9:30am- Sunday School

2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church

3. Noon Fellowship Meal {Covered Dish}

NO Early afternoon 1:00pm service!



The Creation Guy John Mackay Yes, once again we will be very blessed to have 'The Creation Guy, John Mackay in our midst, **June 30, beginning at 4:30pm:**

WHERE: Southside Baptist Church

WHEN: June 30, 2013 @ 4:30pm-5:30pm and at 6:00pm-7:00pm

Contact: Southside Baptist Church,

1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, Tennessee / Call: 615-452-5951

TOPICS: GOD'S DESIGN! THE EYES HAVE IT! SKEPTICS HAVE LOST THE PLOT!

See the living and fossil evidence this man has collected which he uses to demolish the atheists in debates around the planet.

HOW TO DEFEAT AGGRESSIVE ATHEISM! Based on Darwinian Evolution, modern atheists are dominating politics, literature, sport and education, and using them to attack Christianity across the globe. Find out how to expose them from a man who defeats them worldwide.

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>

Southside Christian School Please call us at: 615-452-5951