



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – September 11, 2022

The Things Above ...

In a time of difficulty and uncertainty, have you noticed that the noise of the world feels like it is turned up to max volume? Emotions run higher, words become more biting, actions more selfish, conversations turn into arguments, and anger explodes into rage. Does any of this sound familiar? These traits characterize the world’s response to troubles and conflict. As followers of Christ, it can be easy for us to be swept away in the same pattern of behavior. However, we are called to something higher. ***Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.***” (Philippians 4:5) The word “reasonableness” means, “not insisting on every right” and denotes a willingness to “act kind, gentle, courteous, and yielding.” (Greek-English Lexicon) Is this how we are perceived by our families, co-workers, social media followers, and Church family? Or do we have the reputation of slandering and mocking anyone who dares disagree with us; always expecting others to listen to us without ever listening to them and humbly considering their points; insisting that we receive every ounce of what we are “due” even at the expense of others and what they need?

Consider Paul’s instruction concerning what Titus is to teach the Church. ***“Remind them... to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.”*** (Titus 3:1-2) Who do “everyone” and “all people” not include? Is it fitting for the Lord’s people to speak evil of those whom they disagree with politically? Is it fitting for the Lord’s people to be in the middle of all the drama and every debate on social media? Is it fitting for the Lord’s people to demand we get “our rights” without giving any consideration to the spiritual well-being of those around us? God desires His people to be reasonable. It is one of the markers that we are operating off the “wisdom from above.” (James 3:17) Let us be more committed to truly listening in a manner that reflects we know we still have much to learn. Let us be more concerned about how we talk to/about others, especially those whom we disagree or do not get along with. Let us follow the example of our Lord who voluntarily laid down His rights for the likes of helpless folks like you and me. Reasonableness is so rare in our world today. It should not be rare among the people of God.

- Kason Lawrence