



“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 – December 27, 2020

To Know Christ...

The act of submission is a degrading word among the lost (even offensive), but it is the path of salvation through Jesus to the saint. The lost would never imagine there is power in submitting to anyone, but to those who will inherit Eternal Life, submission to the all-knowing and all-powerful God gives strength that is beyond full explanation. It is too marvelous and all-encompassing to be fully grasped as to everything it brings. Life, peace, joy, grace to name a few. The selfish refuse submission; their arrogance of “knowing better” than anyone else will not allow themselves to submit, as they think, “who knows more than me!” And arrogance marches straight into sin and death. Are we more like the lost or the saved in Jesus our Lord?

Jesus instructed His eleven apostles in the upper room as He prepared to submit to His Father’s will that would mean death, but also power. Listen to these verses from the lips of the submitting Savior. **“You are My friends if you do what I command you.”** [John 15:14] We cannot sincerely claim Jesus as our Friend, if we turn away from submission to His commandments. And He certainly will not claim us as His Friend either. Then also, **“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”** [John 14:15] In refusing to fully submit our lives to Jesus’ commands, let us not fool ourselves into thinking we actually LOVE Jesus. If you want power to overcome the difficulties of this world and overcome death, we must be those who truly love Jesus as our friend. Therefore, His commands and having this wonderful relationship with Jesus must force us to quickly abandon our thinking and actions when they do not go hand in hand with His commands. The lost abandon the commands of Jesus; the saved abandon their own thoughts in light of Jesus’ commands.

Jesus knows submission by personal experience far beyond our own understanding. Jesus submitted to His Father in trials, temptations, words, actions, motives, even in the midst of fatigue, hunger, and much more, even if it meant death, an excruciating death. **“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,**

even death on a cross. For **THIS REASON** also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.” [Philippians 2:8-9] Why did the Father bestow on Jesus the name that is above EVERY name? Because Jesus humbled Himself to be fully submissive in obedience. Submission to His Father’s will and commands took Jesus to a place only the Father could bestow, and that place includes being given a name that is above EVERY name. That is power and strength! Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (v10-11) Not necessarily here and now for everyone, but in heaven (for those who submitted), on earth (as we submit), under the earth (for the lost who refused to submit). Are we more like the lost or the saved in Jesus our Lord when we encounter His commands versus our own desires? Will you submit following Jesus and His example? Eternity hangs in the balance. Plunge into the deepest depths of submission, and the Lord will provide all the power and strength, also bestowing upon us Eternal Life in Jesus our Lord.

- Carey Terry