

The Servant



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An Anatomy Worship

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ JesusAnd every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil 2:5)

Here we find an anatomy of worship. Involved are the mind, the knee, and the tongue. 1) Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus. I wish many would change their minds about Jesus. What a different world this would be. But equally important, I wish the church would think like He thought, that we all would have the “mind of Christ.” The church is so divided by opinions, positions, plans, and parties. If we had the “this mind” as Paul writes we would be focused, we would be fearless, we would be faithful. “This mind” was fixed on pleasing the Father through obedience, even to the death of the cross. We must make up our minds, nothing is more important than doing the Father’s will.

Jesus understood the importance of what men think. He asked the Pharisees “What think ye of Christ, whose son is He?” (Mt. 22:42). One day they will change their minds, but of course, then it will be too late. When we worship we need to come with our minds. If your mind is “somewhere else” you cannot worship. “Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing every thought to the obedience of Christ.” (2Cor. 10:5).

2) The second part in the anatomy mentioned by Paul is the knee. The knee enables us to walk, but the knee also enables us to bow. The church could go much farther on its knees than on its own two feet. The church on bended knee is a praying church. True worship involves the mind (that’s believing), but it also involves the knee (that’s bowing). Now, the knee is a euphemism for the heart. It is the heart that must bow to God in worship. The story is told of a little boy who was asked to take his seat by his teacher. He did so reluctantly and said “I am sitting down on the outside, but on the inside, I am standing up.” God knows the difference. Our hearts must not be in rebellion against God or His word.

3) The third element of anatomy in worship is the tongue. In worship, we believe, we bow, and we bless God. God inhabits praise. In another place the Bible says, “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thy heart, that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” The Psalmist said, “Let the redeemed of the Lord, say so.” In worship we confess Christ. 


Brothers

“One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.” Matt. 23:8b

If you are born-again, you are my brother (period), no ifs, ands or buts. I do not have fundamentalist brothers, and evangelical brothers, Presbyterian brothers, and Methodist brothers. Oh, you can call yourself whatever you like, and it means little to me. You may call yourself “exclusive” and not want to break bread with me, but you are still my brother. You may insist you have knowledge or powers that make me a novice or a neophyte, but that’s alright too. When I pray for you, I will speak to the Father of “my brother.” And you may divide the religious world in two, trying to keep the amateurs on one side and professionals on the other, but that won’t work either. No matter how high your title, I give you a higher one “brother.”

The prince of this world does not want us on speaking terms and will find a good reason to make it so, but he can not keep me from praying your name before the greater Prince of Peace.

You might not do things like I do. You might do things I do not feel obliged to do. You may have found a text that you may try to use to keep me out, but I shall try to stay close to the Master who walked through walls. You might have higher steeples, many more lettered degrees, and travel in first class, but we are on the same plane. You may settle for a brand of brothers. Jesus left a band of brothers.

Now, not every brother is the same. I am not proud of Jacob and his ambitions, nor of John Mark and his fears, but we have the same heavenly Father. I will not sell Jacob my birthright, and shame on him if he tries to take advantage of me. If John Mark leaves, I do not have to abandon *my* post. One is my Master. Some see the “high” church and others a “lower.” Some think they are “progressives,” and some are happily called “traditional.” Some might even waste their vote in November, but there is a more important election. Some elections are undecided because of hanging chads and uncertain impressions, but let me make myself clear. I ask only, do you Love Jesus? Have you been born-again? Do you remember when you were not? If the answer is yes, yes, yes, then yes, like it or not, I’m your brother. 

Jesus prayed that we be One
Just before He died
By His death my soul is won
Now in Him Abide

Who We Know

“And this is life eternal, that men might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3

Socrates said “know thyself.” That ancient advice has been considered classic wisdom, and passed on from generation to generation through the ages. While it may be good counsel as far as it goes, it is really very shallow. Like Paul’s description of man, it falls “short of the glory of God.” How pitifully small and little is the man who’s measure of life is himself. We cannot really know self, until we know something of the One who made each self. We were made by God for God. The Psalmist says it better than I can “Thou hast made us, and not we ourselves” (Ps. 100:3).

Even the student of self must somehow climb out of self in order to get a better look at the stuff he is made of. We can not know ourselves while living in the low lands of the physical and intellectual self. We must find our spiritual self. Our only hope is to realize that we are camped at the foot of a greater mountain. The incorporeal part of man is much larger than most realize. One ancient divine said it beautifully when he wrote, “my inner man is a thousand times larger than my outer man.” But before you try to climb some religious or spiritual Himalaya, struggling up the ice covered peaks; know that God has pro-

vided a much loftier perch from which to see the whole world as well as our self in one vast panoramic view. This peak is in the highest mountain range known to man. It is the Bible.

He who climbs to its summit is humbled. Socrates advice becomes paltry when compared to the advice of the Holy Book. “Know God.” Here is the greater ambition. Here is the greatest quest, the greatest purpose. After man has studied every single leaf in the jungles of Africa, and every grain of sand on the bottom of the ocean’s floor, and every gene in the human genome, he will still be an ignominium compared to the man who knows God.

In this world, it is (as they say) “not, what you know, but who you know.” Today they call it networking. It’s about having connections. I have only one connection that counts. That is the one I have with God. It is for this reason that knowing God is more important to me than anything. Paul said, “That I might know him.” I agree. This is the Rosetta Stone that enables us to interpret everything. Without the Rock of Ages all is hieroglyphics and a mystery. Once we discover Christ and know Him, we are well connected. No one has a larger life than the person who sets sail on this journey to know Him. ☹

High Tech

There was a time when a telegraph operator would tap out, in Morse Code, a message and the news would travel across hundreds or thousands of miles of Western Union wire. Most people had no idea how it worked, but it did. It was a marvel of the 1840’s. In 1876 (One hundred years after the Declaration of Independence) Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone which could carry the human voice across a wire. Today we have wireless phones and wireless computers. We have Televisions that can receive 500 different stations or satellite signals. We have pagers, and beepers, and video phones. One would think we are well connected. We are not. Never has mankind felt more disconnected. Gone are the days of families gathered around the fireplace, or sitting down at the dining room table “family style.” We live in a world of fast food, fast tracks, and fast access.

While we may have thrown away our old rotary dial telephones, there are some things that will never be improved upon when it comes to being connected. 1) The Bible. If God is going to speak to you today, He will most likely call you using it. Better to forget your Blackberry than the Bible. 2) Prayer. Turn off the TV, unplug the computer, take the telephone off the hook, and find the prayer closet. Enter and close the door. God will meet you there. 3) Conversation. Do you remember what that was? Talk to someone face to face. Forget the chat room, forget the email. Find someone you can look in the eye. Share with another living person what you found in God and in His word today. Help someone get connected. ☹

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