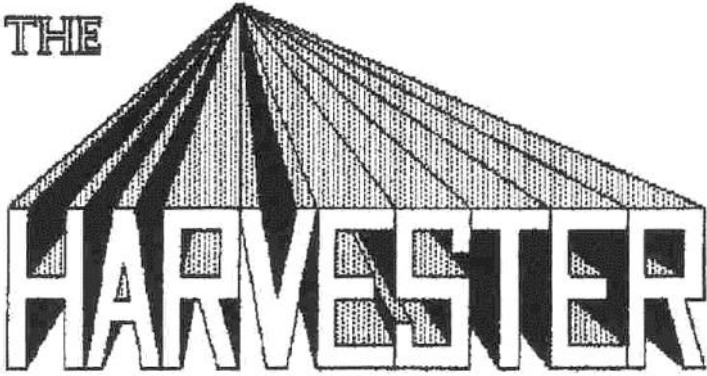


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

February 2014

No. 338

HUMILITY

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (1 Pet. 5:5)

The state of mind to "depress" oneself in placing ourselves lower than others is something that Peter refers to as clothing. We're not born with it, and like little children might not even prefer to have any on at times, but as

THE HARVESTER
1120 Sun Hill Road
Birmingham AL 35215-4106
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



we mature as we realize that "impressing" is a matter of pride that the Lord willfully and at times painfully removes. Solomon said, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*" (Prov. 9:10). After a few "whippings" the heart opens to the will of the Lord and begins to make better choices. Choosing His will in humility brings blessings.

Even in secular society, humility is a desired trait. In *Good to Great* by Jim Collins, a book about great businesses and the time-tested principles that made them so, personal humility was found to be one of the characteristics of great business leaders.

When Paul calls us in Ephesians 4 to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace there is an idea there that is not of this world. When we gave our hearts to Jesus He added us to HIS church, to HIS body, to fulfill HIS will that HE might be glorified and honored as we strive to please HIM. We are being created to be His one body, His future bride. The first and most important thing we need to understand is that He expects us to be ONE! What we are as His church is a vocation offered to be part of an "organization" that cost God being separated from His Son for the first time in all of eternity and have Him put to death in order to initiate the church. Paul calls us to seriously consider our walk together as the church.

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffer-

ing, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph. 4:1-6)

With a humble mind about ourselves and being longsuffering with those that are being developed as well, we endeavor to be 'one', to be united. That oneness is continually antagonized by those that desire to have preeminence, and the results have been nothing but division and destruction as we strive to stay ahead of each other in some silly race of superiority.

A totally different set of priorities is presented by Christ's love. *Agape* is self-sacrificing love by those that willfully put others first. "And being found in fashion as a man, HE HUMBLED himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8). "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:4). Look at Christ's directive to be as humble as children in order to enjoy the benefits of heaven. "Humble" is translated from the Greek word *tapeinoo* meaning "to depress; figuratively, to humiliate (in condition or heart)" and that "depress" in this sense means "to pull oneself down to a lower position". The same root word is also used to describe humility as a position. In Matthew 11 humility was a position that Christ took upon Himself and suggested the rewards of

those who follow His example. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and LOWLY in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matt. 11:29).

The passage in Romans 12:16 is very enlightening: "[Be] of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend (take off together) to men of LOW ESTATE. Be not wise in your own conceits." What a very different perspective than those who feel a sense of elevated worth. Having the unity and desire to have the same care for each other because we are members one of another seems to be dependent on putting ourselves behind others and run with a pack that desire a ministry of agape service while pursuing truth and righteousness. This seems to be what makes Paul such a human attraction, the kind and selfless attitude as he describes himself as the chiefest of sinners. In 2 Corinthians 10:1 he said, "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence [am] BASE among you, but being absent am bold toward you..." His self-sacrificial love expressed in Romans 9 is incomparable to the carnal mind. "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh..." (Rom. 9:1-3).

Humility seems to be the continual theme of those truly in love with God which directs us to love our neighbor as we love ourself. I'd give my soul to save yours, I'd give my life to de-

send yours, my home is your home, I'll take less so you can have more. It is God's Spirit in us that allows us to fulfill the direction given by Peter to clothe ourselves in humility (1 Pet. 5:5).

For willfully taking a lesser position there are many benefits.

- "Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are CAST DOWN, comforted us by the coming of Titus" (2 Cor. 7:6)
- "Let the brother of LOW DEGREE rejoice in that he is exalted." (Jam. 1:9)
- "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the HUMBLE." (Jam. 4:6)
- "For whosoever exalteth himself SHALL BE ABASED; and HE THAT HUMBLETH himself shall be exalted." (Luke 14:11)
- "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other: for every one that exalteth himself SHALL BE ABASED; and he that HUMBLETH himself shall be exalted." (Luke 18:14)
- "Have I committed an offence IN ABASING myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?" (2 Cor. 11:7)
- "I know BOTH HOW TO BE ABASED, and I know how to abound (be in excess): every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." (Phil. 4:12)
- HUMBLE YOURSELVES in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (Jam. 4:10)

- "HUMBLE YOURSELVES therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:" (1 Pet. 5:6)

Only in God's economy does sorrow bring joy, death takes us to something far better than life, giving is better than receiving, and looking forward to be honored in personal exaltation is a manner of choosing to be least.

ALLEN KIRK
Bayfield, CO

APOLOGIA

QUESTION: Does the method of baptism (immersion, sprinkle, pour, etc.) matter?

ANSWER: The word "baptize" is from the Greek word *baptizo*. Let us consult two reputable Bible dictionaries, *Thayer Greek Definitions* and *Strong's Bible Dictionary*. According to *Thayer Greek Definitions* "baptize" means

(1)to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk) (2)to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe (3)to overwhelm.

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

The Harvester

141 County Road 474 * Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221* Email: raymcmanus@hotmail.com

Web Page: www.churches-of-christ.org

From *Strongs Bible Dictionary*, "baptize" means

to make whelmed (that is, fully wet); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism: - baptist, baptize, wash.

The *Merriam-Webster* dictionary indicates that the word "baptize" originates from Anglo-French *baptiser*, from Late Latin *baptizare*, from Greek *baptizein* to dip, baptize, and from *baptein* to dip, dye.

It seems from these three definitions that immersion or dipping would be the method to baptize.

Now look to the Bible in Acts 8.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. (Acts 8:36-38)

Notice that both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water implying immersion. There would be no need for Philip to enter the water if sprinkling or pouring were used.

There is no example in the Bible indicating any method of baptizing other than immersion. In fact, the Greek word for "baptize" means immerse. As Christians we are to follow the Bible pattern thus the method of baptizing is immersion.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Why did Moses' hand become leprous?
2. Which tribe of Israel received no inheritance of land?
3. What object did Gideon place on the ground to receive a sign from God?
4. Which disciple brought the boy with five loaves and two fishes to Jesus?
5. With what affliction did Paul strike Elymas the sorcerer down?

...and remember last month's questions?

1. How old was Sarah when her son Isaac was born? NINETY (Genesis 17:17)
2. What happened to forty-two of the children who made fun of Elisha's baldness? TWO BEARS CAME OUT OF THE WOODS AND KILLED THEM (2 Kings 2:24)
3. Who instructed her daughter to ask for the head of John the Baptist? HERODIAS (Matthew 14:6-8)
4. Who lied about the price they received for a piece of land and died as a result? ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA (Acts 5:1-11)
5. Whose twelve year old daughter did Jesus raise from the dead? JAIRUS (Luke 8:41)