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Morning Service

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Teaching Elder

Life In The Household of God

The Bible illustrates the Body of believers in several ways; as sheep who hear His voice, the bride of Christ, a physical body composed of members, or a family living in a household. Today we are considering the latter. How are we to live in the household of God?

What we think about something shapes how we act. Thus what we think about a household determines what kind of members we will be. The construct of household is simple. A household has a head and it has members. The members are bound together under the head of the household and are to conduct themselves under the direction of the head to accomplish the will of the head of the household.

As believers, we are in the household of God. Our Lord and Savior is the head of our household. The mission of the household is to conform all its members to glorify God so they may enjoy Him forever. We accomplish this by remembering how Christ summed up the entire Law for us. We are to love God and we are to love others. We love God by keeping His commandments, and we love others by striving to love others as Christ loved us.

This all sounds simple and if followed perfectly would be Utopian. However, we are all fallen men. We love God, or others as we should. This causes turmoil and conflict in the Household. Christ promised we would all have stumbling blocks. No man knows his own nature, so how could we as fallen men perceive the nature of others? We will do wrong to others and others will do wrong to us. The only thing that will overcome these wrongs is to give and seek forgiveness as Christ instructed. Likewise, the only way to prevent these occurrences from ever happening is through encouraging the spiritual growth of the household.

Today's message presents the direction Paul gave the church of Galatia as they struggled with difficult relationship issues in their church body. As you listen consider how you might react to situations, or others in certain situations. Does your reaction line up with Christ's instructions? How can you help yourself and others be better members of the household?

Notes

The Christian life has called us out of the bondage of the world and sin, yet we still remain fallen sinners and will bring the World into the fellowship. We can mitigate the damage by keeping the following in mind.

- It's not natural for us to love others as we should. We will never do it perfectly. We must constantly be seeking and asking forgiveness.
- We as Christians should proactively seek to nurture the growth of our fellow believers.
- Only God can judge the motives of us and others. Our default reaction to any adversity must be forgiveness.
- We are to treat others as Christ treats His own, not as the World treats its own.

Scripture References

Galatians 5:13-6:10 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (14) For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (15) But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. (16) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (17) For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. (18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. (19) Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, (21) envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (26) Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. (6:1) Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. (2) Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. (3) For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. (4) But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. (5) For each one will bear his own load. (6) The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*. (7) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (8) For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (9) Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. (10) So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Matthew 18:7-10 "Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes! (8) "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. (9) "If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell. (10) "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Luke 17:1-4 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come! (2) "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble. (3) "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. (4) "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

James 4:6-12 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (7) Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. (11) Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*. (12) There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.