

Authority and Leadership

Part II

Possessing Our Promised Land

Banner Verse- “Oneness” “...that they may be *perfected in unity*...” John 17:23

Purpose of this “Oneness”... “so that the world may know...” John 17:23

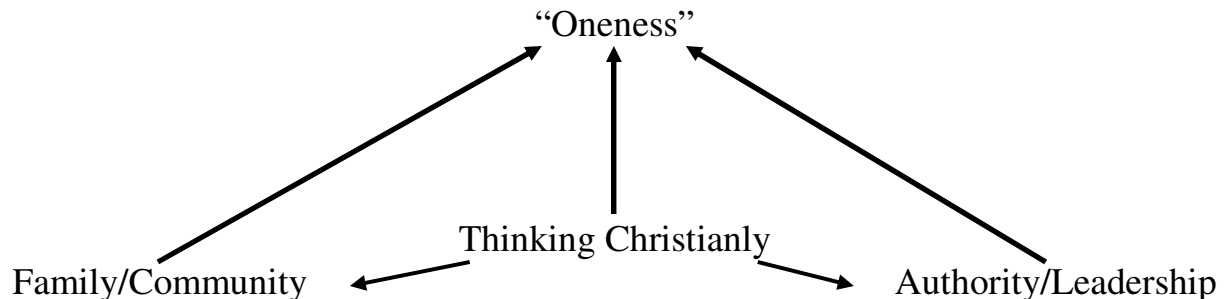
Aspects of the “Oneness” Christ is talking about.

●Philippians 2:2

“... make my joy complete by being of the *same mind*, maintaining the *same love*, *united in spirit*, intent on *one purpose*.”

●1Corinthians 1:10

“... but that you be made complete in the *same mind* and in the *same judgment*.”



“Perfected in Unity” with Authority

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17 NAS)

“obey”- Greek word used 64 times, only 4 times translated as “obey”

- Means persuaded by, convinced, won over
 - Elders and priests *convinced* the people to choose Barabas- (Matt 27:20)
 - Paul preached in the synagogues *convincing* many (or persuading many) to believe in Christ (Acts 18:4, 19:8)

- I am *convinced* that the Lord who has begun a good work in you will perfect it till the day of Christ (Phil 1:6)
- Notice it is *not* telling leaders to persuade or convince the people, it is telling the people to be persuaded by or won over by the leaders

“submit”- used one time only in NT, means “yield under”

- other words used for submit mean “subordinate” or “place oneself in rank under”

“Let them do this”- more accurately is “In order that they may do this”

“grief”- “groaning”

So my expanded translation...

“Allow yourselves to be persuaded by your leaders and yield under them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Have this attitude in order that they may do this (watch over your souls) with joy and not with groaning, for this would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17 expanded)

What is it going to take?

- Humility of mind-
 - Phil 2:3- “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with *humility of mind* regard one another as more important than yourself.”
- Placing an increased faith in God instead of leadership and ourselves

Faith in the leader

- Disappointment or failure by the leader destroys basis for our faith
- Guaranteed to be let down at some point
- Our fears and “giants” have power because our leader is not powerful enough to deal with them
- Going into the unknown is scary because we are depending on our leader
- Look to the leader to fix problems, overcome obstacles, meet our needs, etc.
- Blame the leader when things aren’t looking like we expect
- Limits our expectations because leader has limited power, knowledge, abilities, etc.

If we place our faith in the leader, then naturally it becomes critical that we find the right leader... the best leader... the perfect leader!

Faith in God

- Disappointment by leader doesn't destroy the basis for our faith
- Can't be let down
- Fears and "giants" have little power
- Going into the unknown is less scary because we are depending on God.
- Look to God to fix problems, answer questions, overcome obstacles, meet our needs, etc.
- Wrestle with God instead of the leader when things don't look like we expect
- There is no limit to our expectations because there is no limit to God's power, understanding, wisdom, abilities, etc.

If we have faith in God, we no longer need the perfect leader. The only thing that matters is that it is the leader God has chosen.

How can we help our leaders?

- Pray for them
- Follow their example as they follow Christ
- Seek God *with* them to help them
- Look to God and not to them... place our faith in God and not in them
- Do whatever we can so that they will be able to give the best report possible when they are called to give account for watching over our souls