

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

JUNE 6, 2021

## MAKE ME A SERVANT

by Jim Stauffer

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45) “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,” (1 Peter 2:21)

We sing a hymn called the Servant’s Song that pleads with God to make me a servant just like your Son.

So, I ask the question. How many, even of the children of God, truly desire to become a servant. We have been transferred *to the Kingdom of His beloved Son* in order to be rescued from Satan’s kingdom and receive the forgiveness of our sins (Col. 1:13,14). Are we ready to become servants to the King?

Jesus teaches a lesson on servitude in **Luke 17**. He explains how the servant works in the field all day and then comes in to clean himself up in order to serve his master dinner. When he has completed his service of the master, then and only then can he care for himself. This principle is summed up in **Luke 17:10**, “*So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.’*”

One of necessary attributes of a servant in humility. That which our Master requires of us will demand humility. Humility will allow us to follow in His steps. “*But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.*” (Hebrews 2:9) Jesus provided the greatest service of all to mankind of every age when He died on the cross. A very humiliating death necessitated by our sin. “*Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He*

*became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,”* (Hebrews 5:8–9)

We too, then must humble ourselves to learn obedience if indeed we hope to please Him Who is the author of our salvation.

As we humble ourselves we can then carry out the tasks assigned to the servants of the Lord. Humility is necessary for us to conduct ourselves appropriately toward one another. “*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;*” (Philippians 2:3 cf. Eph. 4:1-3) Quite the opposite of the warning Paul gave in **1 Cor. 10:12**, “*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.*” Peter tells us God will exalt those who are humble at a time He chooses (**1 Pet. 5:6**).

If I am to be saved from sin and rewarded with the inheritance promised to those who are in Christ, I must accept the role He has designated for me. I will be called to suffer as Christ did. I must trust God and remain faithful while here to be with Him there. There is a crown of life awaiting those who are faithful in their service (**2 Tim. 4:7,8; Rev. 2:10**). But I must come to accept the need for humility and servitude in order to be faithful.

This warns me to avoid the idea that I have achieved something of myself when I become a child of God. It warns me to avoid the pompous hypocrisy of the Pharisees of Jesus’ day. Why would He teach us so much about this attitude if it were not a serious threat to the child of God? He says the parable of the Pharisee and the publican is for those *..who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt* (**Luke 18:9**). In that story, the publican, who humbly acknowledged his sin *went to his house justified rather than the other* (vs. 14).

With a clear understanding of my relationship with my King, I say, make me a servant, just like your Son. Help me to recognize my dependence upon God and Christ for my hope in eternity. And with that recognition, may I humble myself to serve as He chooses.

## Portraits of Discipleship

Scripture uses a number of figures and metaphors to paint portraits for us that illustrate what being a disciple of Christ is about. Consider three examples of these portraits of discipleship.

**Soldiers of Christ** – In **2 Timothy 2:3**, the inspired apostle Paul used the term *“good soldier of Jesus Christ”* to describe the faithful Christian. This imagery is the basis for a number of well-known hymns, including *Soldiers of Christ, Arise; Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus; Onward, Christian Soldiers*; and *Sound the Battle Cry*.

The Christian’s *“fight”* is in a spiritual battlefield (**Eph. 6:12**). The enemy Christ’s soldiers fight is Satan (**Eph. 6:11**). As our adversary, Satan attacks us by launching *“fiery darts”* (**Eph. 6:16**) (i.e., temptations to sin). Our adversary is vicious (**1 Pet. 5:8**), but also cunning (**2 Cor. 11:14**). The seriousness of our enemy and his tactics necessitates training, preparation, and watchfulness on the part of Christ’s soldiers.

While the enemy is vicious, our Almighty Commander assures victory for those who stand steadfastly with Him (**Eph. 6:13**). To *“stand against the wiles of the devil,”* we must put on all of the *“armor”* God supplies (**Eph. 6:11**), and thus *“be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might”* (**Eph. 6:10**).

The *“armor of God”* includes several references to the Word of truth, which we must be prepared to use, defend, and share (**Eph. 6:14-17**). The armor also includes the *“shield of faith,”* which involves unwaveringly trusting our Commander (**Eph. 6:16**). If we trust and obey the orders Christ has given us, follow His lead, and petition Him for assistance, we need not fear defeat.

Obedying our Lord is especially important when the spiritual battle is tough. A *“good soldier of Jesus Christ”* endures hardships with perseverance and constancy in well doing (**2 Tim. 2:3**).

Moreover, a good soldier of Christ has firm loyalty to Him. This leads to avoidance of distractions that would hinder us from dedicating the time and attention needed to fulfill the duties He gives us (**2 Tim. 2:4**).

**Members of a Body** – A second portrait of discipleship is seen in **1 Corinthians 12:27**. There, the inspired

apostle Paul told the church at Corinth, *“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”*

Just as the physical body has a head that makes decisions for the rest of the body, the same is true with the body of Christ. As our Head, Christ has full authority to direct us (**Eph. 1:20-23**). We must submit (**Eph. 5:24**).

While members of Christ’s body (Christians) have a variety of backgrounds and talents, all faithful members enjoy equal access to God and equal importance to Him.

**1 Corinthians 12** teaches these principles. The immediate context deals primarily with a misunderstanding of miraculous gifts given in the 1st century before the written Word was complete. These gifts have been done away with (**1 Cor. 13:8-10**), but the principles taught in **1 Corinthians 12** can relate to non-miraculous gifts that Christians have today.

For instance, a Christian who can’t do something(s) another Christian can might be tempted to be discontented with his or her role in the body, or even envious of the person who has a “more desirable” role. To this attitude, one could respond, *“If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?”* (**1 Cor. 12:15**). While a foot cannot do much that a hand can do, the foot is just as much a part of the body as the hand is. Moreover, the foot provides unique value to the body. The point is that just because a Christian can’t do some things another Christian can, this does not make either one less a part of the body. Nor does it give the member who seems to be more important cause for haughtiness. All members of the body are necessary (**1 Cor. 12:21-22**).

The necessity of all members of the body infers that each Christian must do his or her share for the body to function as God desires. This is exemplified in the Holy Spirit’s teaching about local church growth. For the body to grow, each member of the body must be growing (**Eph. 4:15-16**).

The need for each member of the body to do his or her part is amplified by the fact that members have differing talents, functions, etc. (**Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:17**). Though these differences exist, there is one body of Christ, which all members are united together in (**Eph. 4:4**). Unity with fellow members is thus something to strive for (**Eph. 4:1-3**), as is proper treatment of those Christ unites us with (**cf. 1 Cor. 12:25-26**).

**Sojourners and Pilgrims** – A third portrait of discipleship is alluded to in **1 Peter 2:11**. There, the inspired apostle Peter referred to Christians as *“sojourners and pilgrims.”*

These words emphasize the fact that this world is not our permanent home. The faithful Christian understands that while our time on earth has great significance, it is

just a temporary pilgrimage. We may have temporal citizenship of some place here on earth, but ultimately *“our citizenship is in heaven”* (Phil. 3:20). Given that Christians are sojourners and pilgrims on earth, we ought not *“mind earthly things”* like those condemned in **Philippians 3:19**. Instead, we should set our *“affection on things above, not on things on the earth”* (Col. 3:2).

Since this world is not our permanent home, sojourners and pilgrims must refrain from the worldliness that most people are given to. This is connected to the exhortation given in **1 Peter 2:11**. After referencing Christians as *“sojourners and pilgrims,”* the inspired apostle Peter commanded, *“abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.”* The lusts of the flesh are of the world (**1 John 2:16**), but the Christian sojourner is not. Sojourners and pilgrims live in the world, but are not of the world. Christ’s faithful followers belong to God, rather than to the world (cf. **John 17:15-17**).

The differences of those who don’t belong to the world are noticed by those who do. These differences are not something to be ashamed of, but can help lead those in darkness to the light (cf. **1 Pet. 2:12**).

This isn’t to say that the differences in the lives of sojourners and pilgrims yields no hardships. Many who are of the world express hatred toward those who are not (**John 15:18-19**). Overcoming this is aided by looking to the permanent dwelling place of the faithful (cf. **2 Cor. 4:18**).

May we appreciate these and other portraits of discipleship “painted” for us by God, understanding the depth of both the commitment and the blessings associated with being a disciple of Christ.

**Michael Hickox**

### **For Lack of Knowledge**

God has always wanted people to learn more about him. **Hosea 4:6** says: *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. ... Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”* **2 Timothy 3:7** describes a sad condition: *“always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* The cause of this condition is revealed in the previous verses: **2 Timothy 3:2-5** *“For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, ... haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.”* The next chapter shows the result: **2 Timothy 4:3-4** *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4*

*and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”* Some teach things that are not in Scripture: *“and in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”* (**Matthew 15:9**) **2 Corinthians 3:14** says *“But their minds were blinded”*. (even in the reading of the Old Testament) How can we make sure we are not falling victim to being blinded or led astray even as we read scripture?

First we need to pray for wisdom (**James 1:5**). Then we should search the scripture diligently to find out if what we are taught is true as those in **Acts 17:11** are complemented for doing. The Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says *“...when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ.”* (**Ephesians 3:4**) Direct your love of God toward getting a knowledge of Him (**Romans 10:2**), schedule a study today!

**Matt Hodge**

***Are you interested in a Bible Study?***

***Would you enjoy studying the Bible in your own home?***

***We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.***

***Call Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ***

***We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.***

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.”* (**James 1:17–18**)

**Psa. 1:1** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

## **HOURS OF WORSHIP**

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study  
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship  
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship  
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

***Visitors welcome***

***We conduct in home Bible Studies***

***We offer Correspondence Courses***

## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.  
Lenexa, Kansas 66216  
913-620-0563

***Check out the following websites:***

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

**Elders:**

**Ron Peck**

**Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons:**

**Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Joe Hurd**

### **News and Notes:**

#### **Sick in need of Prayers:**

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick,  
Denese Goring, Pat Gaines,  
Brooklyn Boyer, George Root, Tracy  
Richardson, Gerry Sandusky,  
Randy Harshbarger, Jordan Moody  
and Don Craig.

#### **Bible Classes:**

**Sunday Morning - Proverbs -**  
Bill Miller

**Wednesday Evening - Hebrews -**  
Jim Stauffer

**Sunday Sermon:**  
**How is Jesus Glorified?**



## ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10