**June 30, 2019**

**Session 11: The Sonship Checkpoint of Romans 12:1-2**

So, in the early stage of the DoGG, the spiritual gifts of healing were given to someone in a Gentile assembly as a confirmation of what God was now doing in turning to the Gentiles. This was for the purpose of getting some Jews to put their faith in Jesus Christ, just like the miracles were for the purpose of getting some Gentiles to believe in Jesus. In other words, these were the gifts that help to grow the church.

God was giving the Jews 3 opportunities to change their minds:

* Paul magnified his office to provoke them to emulation
* The gift of healings
* The gift of tongues

Just as the Jews inside the land got 3 opportunities during the EoM, the Jews outside the land got 3 chances as well, but theirs was during the early stages of the DoGG.

Now, let’s go look at I Corinthians 13 and as we do, remember that what we have just read is the list of spiritual gifts. It is with those in mind that Paul writes chapter 13.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

If we take Paul seriously, the issue of godly charity is important, necessary and non-optional. Why? If we do not operate on godly love and charity, then what we are doing is pretty much useless. In what way is it useless? It is useless in that: 1) it does not prepare you for your heavenly vocation, 2) it negates the benefits of other’s role in the body, 3) it works out of our flesh and therefore cannot be godly labor, 4) it utterly fails to accomplish God’s operations in the world and His goals with the body of Christ.

If godly charity (the right motive!) is not behind what we are doing, we become something we did not intend (sounding brass, etc.).

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, **I am become** *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Without it, Paul says he is nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And no matter what good act you do, if it is not done out of godly charity, then there is no profit to doing it.

1 Corinthians 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

When we get to vv. 4-7, we have a list of 15 characteristics of godly charity, 15 examples of what godly charity looks like.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Don’t replace the word “charity” with the word “love.” God’s most excellent work is to produce charity in us.

It is not my intention to take us through the details of 1 Corinthians 13, but I am making the point of just how important godly love and charity are. Godly love is what we are supposed to do (as that is the essence of our Father’s wisdom) and godly charity is why we do it (the motive behind our actions). As you know, there are 3 Levels to our education as sons. The completion of Level One makes us into Simple Sons (or Daughters). Level One has two phases.

Sonship Checkpoint: Romans 12:1-2

**Romans Education**

Wisdom - 12:3-16

Justice - 12:17-13:7

Judgment - 13:8-14

Equity - 14:1-15:7

**SONSHIP EDUCATION: LEVEL ONE**

**SSonship Orientation**

Romans 8:14-15

(Abba, Father)

**SSonship Establishment**

Romans 8:16-39; 9-11

(Persuaded)

Simple Son

Adopted Son

PHASE ONE

PHASE TWO

We have completed Phase One of our Simple Son education. Since Romans 12:3 begins a new package of doctrine, there is a necessary checkpoint in vv. 1-2 which must be passed before we can proceed to Phase Two of our Level One Education. For now, we will only focus on vs. 1.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Before we begin our education proper, our apostle beseeches us to do something. In view of everything we have been given in Christ (the mercies of God) and particularly in view of those things which concern our adoption as sons; we are asked to signal our readiness to begin our education by presenting our bodies a living sacrifice.

The presentation of our bodies in Romans 12:1 is the third time we have been asked to do something in response to what we are being offered. Or to say it another way, for the third time we are being asked to make a decision. We refer to these events as “Volitional Testing Points.” But no matter what you call them, we need to make sure we realize what is being required of us.

VTP #1: The Cry of Abba, Father (8:14-15) Yes to sonship

VTP #2: The Full Persuasion of God and His word (8:38-39) Confidence in it

VTP #3: The Presentation of our bodies (12:1)

The presentation of our bodies is the signal that we are ready to get our education underway. But this is not merely us saying that we are ready. The presentation of our bodies involves an understanding of some issues which indicate that our presentation is an informed, intelligent decision which we are honestly and sincerely making.

In verse 1, there are some details our Father is looking for as we make this presentation; details which indicate we know what we are doing and that we are doing so honestly from our heart. Can you pick out those details? As a hint, I will tell you there are three of them.

**Session 12: Presentation Requirements**

1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The addition of these three details make all the difference. Notice the verse does not say: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

In order to begin our education, our Father is waiting for us to do something which demonstrates we understand the commitment we are about to make to our own education.

In Romans 12:1, there are three terms which describe the intelligent genuineness of our commitment to get going with our education. Don’t read over that last sentence lightly. The “intelligent” part of our commitment means that we understand what we are doing by presenting our bodies. The “genuineness” means that we are making this presentation honestly from our heart and not just faking it. These terms demonstrate that we understand what it means to present our bodies so that our education can begin.

So, what are the terms that indicate the intelligent and honest presentation of our bodies to our Father and our desire for our education to begin? They are: a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable.

These three terms are the product of the effectual working of the doctrines which constitute Phase 1 of our education. These terms describe what should already be at work in us from our Sonship Orientation and our Sonship Establishment. Or, to say it another way, these three issues are the reasons (or the manner) in which sons and daughters present themselves to the Father.

Now that have that general overview of what Romans 12:1 is about, let us start going through the verse.

Romans 12:1 **I beseech** youtherefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Paul does not “command” anything in Romans 12:1-2. Instead, he “beseeches” us. By his beseeching, we are being exhorted to do something in response to the doctrine that established us as sons.

George Crabb: Beseech is a species of asking (beg, solicit, entreat, implore, etc.). Beseeching has an urgency to it while entreating is more argumentative to persuade by strong reasoning.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you **therefore**, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

The “therefore” refers us back to the sonship orientation and sonship establishment doctrines. There are two things to take notice of with regard to the “therefore.”

- And I point this out because this is a technique of our English language—(and of our KJ Bible) - whereby the more that the word therefore gets placed further and further into a sentence or a verse—the more emphasis and the more force and the more importance is being underscored as to what is being said!

1. The further along in the sentence the “therefore” occurs, the greater the importance and emphasis of what is said
2. The further along in the sentence the “therefore” occurs, the further back it reaches

In this case, it reaches back to Romans 8:14-39; the issues of Phase One of our Simple Son Education; the issues of our first two Sonship Volitional Testing Points.

Romans 12:1 I beseech **you** therefore, **brethren**, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Because of the context, I take the “brethren” to be more than those who have been JUEL. My understanding is that these “brethren” are those who have followed Paul right up to this point; they have made the cry of Abba, Father and gotten themselves fully established as sons. In other words, they recognize they are fellow sons.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by **the mercies of God**, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

We went over this in detail back in Sonship Review, part 10 on prayer. We should have been praying about the “mercies of God” all along from early on in the book of Romans. Because we recently did this work, we will not go back into the details of it here, but I would refer anyone who is unfamiliar to stop here, go back to sessions 59-64 of the Sonship Review, part 10 and make sure you have these “mercies” working in you as part of your prayer life and then go back to your orientation and establishment doctrines and make sure you have them working in you, by prayer, to generate the proper enthusiasm for your education.

Since this is important, we should step aside here for a moment and talk about this issue just a bit.

In Romans 8:14-15, we are introduced to adoption. We know that being adopted means we are no longer being treated as children, but as adults; we are no longer limited in our decision making and contingent upon our cry of “Abba, Father,” we are being trained in our Father’s business.

In a nutshell, the “mercies of God” are all of those things which we received “in Christ” as an automatic and free gift of grace in response to our faith in Jesus Christ. These all have an impact on our love for our heavenly Father which is the first of the two issues upon which hang all the law and the prophets.

But when it comes to longing to be educated as God’s son, the yearning to have our Father’s wisdom installed in us, the desire to labor with our Father in His eternal business and to impact the heavenly places to the glory of God, those things will be further promoted by the effectual working of the things found in Romans 8:14-39, such as:

1. Our adoption as adult sons
2. This present time as adopted sons and daughters
   1. our sufferings will be exceeded by a glory revealed in us
3. Our future as adopted sons and daughters in:
   1. the prospect of our joint-heir inheritance
   2. our initial work in the creature to deliver it from the bondage of corruption
   3. our hope of a redeemed body
4. Our corrected way of praying which is in alignment with our Father’s will for this DoGG
5. The Comfort of the certainty of the Sonship Process
   1. The Five Probing Questions which tell us:
      1. If God is for us, it matters not who is against us
      2. God has not withheld anything to our success
      3. Failures in sin will not derail our sonship life
      4. Failures to comply with the doctrine can be fixed
      5. Satan’s attacks are all taken into consideration
         1. We are more than conquerors
   2. The absolute persuasion of trust in our Father and His word as sufficient to deal with any situation or circumstance which threatens our sonship lives

These should be the subject matter of our prayer life, especially as we get into Romans 12. And those issues should never drop out of our prayer life, for we will constantly be building on and increasing in our godly desire to function as adult sons and daughters.

No matter how much you understand right now, as we progress through the education, the depth of our understanding will increase so that we not only see things with more clarity, but with a wider application as well.

So, what are some of the things in Romans 8:14-39 should have worked in us to produce a sufficient desire and enthusiasm for being educated as sons that we would naturally “present our body” in three particular ways?

Some of those things would be:

Having an appreciation for all that has been done for us by God by knowing that God had this in mind before the foundation of the world…

Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was **kept secret since the world began**,

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, **which God ordained before the world** unto our glory:

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

…should tell us something about the crucial nature of this as part of God’s plan and purpose from the beginning.

Understanding the great lengths to which God has gone in order to ensure our success as sons…

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

…should make us understand just how vitally important this issue is to God and therefore how important it should be to us.

Being duly impressed with the secret nature of this program and the mystery element of what Christ provided for on the Cross and interruption of God’s prophetic program with Israel along with the ushering in of a completely new dispensation of grace, and the calling out of a unique apostle to oversee it and the writing of 13 epistles to provide instruction in it, and the hatred of it by Satan and his minions along with the provision by our Father to handle all of those attacks to our present and future benefit and His glory should give us some measure of the grand scale of what is being offered to us.

Realizing where we will be in eternity and the nature of our work in the heavenly places to repossess them back to God, return righteousness to the heavenly realm, and rule them as sons of God in perfect accord with the purpose for which they were created in the first place, should instill a sense of awe and wonder accompanied by an enthusiasm to get up there and be a part of it.

Knowing the creature is aware of us, is waiting on our manifestation when we get up there and deliver it from the bondage of corruption, is counting on us to be educated to restore function to it and competent to rule over it, should make us realize just how important our role is and what is at stake in us.

Awareness of our joint-heir inheritance and all that goes with that should generate a desire to prepare ourselves for the greatest work we could ever be involved in.

Knowing that God has designed all of this to our greatest benefit both now (on earth) and in eternity (in the heavenly places), knowing that a glory will be revealed in us that is of such a nature that none of the sufferings which we will endure are worthy to be compared to it, and displays the uniqueness of what God is offering us as His sons and daughters.

What are doing here by going over these things? We are talking about the kinds of things contained in Romans 8:14-39 which, when they are positively and properly responded to, produce a genuine desire and enthusiasm to be an educated, edified son which is capable of laboring with our heavenly Father in His eternal business. These are the particular mercies, along with all of the others, which should be working in us to such an extent that “presenting our body” is not only the natural and logical thing for us to do (our reasonable service) but it serves to signal our Father that we are ready for our education to begin.

These are the kinds of things we should be talking with our Father about. And if these things have already done their work in you, you should continue to pray about these things so they are not taken for granted.

What I want you to see is that what Paul is beseeching us to do is the very thing that we should have been wanting to do at this point in our education. Not only that, but it is the thing our Father is waiting for us to do. Your Father is not going to cram the education down your throat. You said “yes” to the education (the cry of Abba, Father), so the natural thing is for you to signal that you are now ready to get going.