

Are We Exclusive Enough?

“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me”, John 17:21-23.

Jesus, praying for the Church, of which He is the foundation, declares three perfect testimonies in His Prayer.

In verse 21 Jesus seeks that as He and the Father are as, the Church will also become one in them.

In verse 22, Jesus seeks that the glory the Father had given to Him, He had passed on to the Church, that the Church would be as one.

In verse 23, Jesus declared that He was in the Church, and that the Father was in Him.

Thus, in the three verses above, we see the exclusiveness that the Father wishes to see the Church using through each and everyone of us individually.

God does not share out His Exclusiveness in small portions, but gives it in its own fulness, that it can be used individually - or collectively - by the Church against the armies of Satan.

The importance of our text is that Faith in Jesus Christ excludes all other options. Yet the fact remains that for many Christians they only look towards Jesus as a last resort, having used all other without arriving at a result.

God is looking for a commitment from us individually, and commitments are not shareable.

Yet many pray to God to advise and lead them. Their next step is generally, ‘Oh, Grandma or Grandpa will know how to do it’.

The message you are sending to God is, ‘They live here, so I am just getting their advice as well’.

That certainly does not show a commitment on our part to God, yet God,

by sending His Son to die for you, made an exclusive offer to you, His Son's Life that you might have life.

Seeking Jesus means that we must exclude Satan, his 'offers' of help, his 'offers' to get us through the mess, and abandon the well trodden path we have taken in the past.

Our exclusiveness has to be built upon the faith we proclaim to have. All other avenues, no matter how peaceful or alluring they look have to be abandoned.

There are no other options.

The Church's biggest problem has been brought about by a lack of obedience to our Lord's Words, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you", Matthew 6:33.

We try to use the Lord, and His Words, as an emergency exit, and complain when He does not respond as an emergency crew with sirens wailing, and lights flashing.

Charles Allen, an American Methodist minister, said 'Faith is like a boomerang; begin using what you have and it comes back to you in greater measure'.

I close with the following questions.

'Why are we not professing our exclusiveness?'

'Why is our boomerang not returning with more than it left our hands with' ?

For Peter, it was simply 'lack of faith'.

For Thomas, who had to see his Lord's wound as a proof, it was simply 'lack of faith'.