

The Grace Of Yielding 4040

Initial Questions

What are two things we are *not* to yield to?

What is the scriptural mark of strength concerning our dealing with weaker members of the body of Christ?

In the Scripture in which Jesus commands us to take up our cross daily, *what is* “our cross”?

What is the balance between claiming our inheritance as a Christian and yet having the Spirit of Christ?

What is God’s promise to Abraham and to us when we are willing to lay “our Isaac” on the altar?

What are our two options with the particular gift God gives each of us?

I. Introduction: The Principle Of Yielding

- A. Two things we are not to yield to: Satan and sin (Rom. 6)
- B. Some situations can only be resolved when we yield
 - 1. It is a mark of maturity to know how to yield
 - 2. We yield when we come to the end of what we can do

II. Scriptures About Strength, Sacrifice And The Spirit Of Christ

- A. Rom. 15:1—The scriptural mark of strength
 - 1. It requires spiritual strength to bear others’ weakness. Opposite of the spirit of this age—example of abortion.
 - 2. Writing off the weak is *not* a Christian answer
 - 3. First century Christians cared for the weak and the sick
 - 4. To write off human liabilities is *not* strength. Our motivation is Jesus, not the standards of the age.
 - 5. We are not to please ourselves, but *deny* ourselves
 - 6. You can’t be a self-pleaser *and* a Christ-pleaser
- B. Luke 9:23—An absolutely universal principle
 - 1. First step in following Jesus is to *deny yourself*
 - 2. Take up cross *daily* (Derek’s comment on Mt. 16:24)
 - 3. What is your cross? Charles Simpson’s statement:
 - a. Where your will and the will of God cross
 - b. The place where you can lay down your life
 - c. Where you can decide not to please yourself
- C. 1 Cor. 1:25—The foolishness and weakness of God
 - 1. The paradox: It’s wiser and stronger than your best
 - 2. Full expression of God’s foolishness and weakness: *The cross*
- D. Rom. 8:9—The Spirit of Christ
 - 1. Mark of a child of God is having the Spirit of Christ
 - 2. Can’t be separated from the nature of Jesus—not arrogant, self-assertive, nor self-pleasing
 - 3. 3 John 2—Getting our inheritance—we don’t get it by asserting our rights
 - 4. The Spirit of Christ is a Spirit that is freely yielded

III. Jesus, The Supreme Example Of Yielding

- A. Phil. 2:6—Jesus did not grasp at equality with God
 - 1. Contrast of Lucifer's grasping
 - 2. Discussion of charismatic movement and Spirit of Christ
 - a. Interval between two waves: Another wave coming:
 - b. It will be orderly, disciplined, Christ-honoring
 - c. It will promote humility and brotherly love
 - d. Acts 17:30—Now God is expecting a change

IV. Examples Of Yielding In Scripture

- A. 1 Kings 3—The two women before Solomon
 - 1. The lesson: comparison of a baby to one's ministry
 - 2. The measure of your love: giving up or claiming half
- B. Gen. 13—Abraham's yielding to Lot
 - 1. After father died, he moved into Promised Land (Acts 7:4)
 - 2. v. 7–9—Abraham allowed Lot the choice
 - 3. v. 14–15—When Abraham yielded, God showed him inheritance
 - 4. *Yielding* spirit receives the inheritance—example of Lydia's work in Palestine
- C. Gen. 22—Steps of Abraham's faith (Rom. 4)
 - 1. Abraham's faith was progressive (Gen. 12–22)
 - 2. Faith received as a gift and *matured* by obedience
 - 3. v. 2—God ordered him to sacrifice Isaac
 - 4. v. 3—Abraham obeyed promptly; got up early next morning
 - 5. v. 7–8—Abraham's faith (Heb. 11:17–19; Gen. 22:5). Statement of faith: They would come back.
 - 6. v. 15–17—The angel of the Lord intervenes
 - 7. God asked them to give Isaac back in sacrifice
 - v. 17: God would *multiply* his seed in Isaac
 - 8. The lesson: Abraham gave Isaac up; got him back *multiplied*
 - 9. God will ask us to lay "our Isaac" on the altar
 - 10. Test of a servant of God with his ministry
- D. John 12:24—The corn of wheat
 - 1. Each of us has our own gift from God
 - a. Choice of keeping it or letting it go
 - b. Applying it to being "busy for the Lord" (Ps. 90)
 - 2. Derek's personal view of Elijah's successors
 - Two options: Do your own thing or invest in others
 - 3. God's standard of success: Let it fall and die
 - Secret hidden place (1 Cor. 2; Ps. 51; Ps. 91)
 - 4. Example of Jesus' self-sacrifice and intercession
 - 5. Are you willing to lay your Isaac on the altar?