



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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“Let all things be done for edification” #1946

by Joe Price Swordtips

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. (1 Corinthians 14:26, NKJV)

The Holy Spirit gave miraculous spiritual gifts to Christians during the initial period of the church, which ceased with the completion of revelation (Acts 8:14-18; 1 Cor 12:11; 13:8-13). We can learn how to be edified even as this passage taught them how they were to use their miraculous gifts in an orderly way to edify the church. Edification results from things happening “when the whole church comes together in one place” (1 Cor 14:23, 26). Edification is the process of building up, of spiritual strengthening. Both miraculous and non-miraculous songs and teaching of God’s word (revelation) was to produce edification. Singing edifies by “teaching and admonishing one another” (Col 3:16). Prayers edify the church through our mutual giving of thanks (1 Cor 14:15-19). The Lord’s Supper edifies us as we remember the Lord’s death and proclaim it to one another (1 Cor 11:23-26). Giving is arranged as a cheerful expression of thanksgiving to God and of devotion to His work and His people (1 Cor 16:1; 2 Cor 9:6-10). Teaching God’s word feeds the church with God’s truth that sustains our lives (Matt. 4:4; Acts 20:32). Edification is not about stirring up feelings (even though emotions naturally result from edification). It is the spiritual strengthening that takes place when we follow God’s word and worship together in spirit and truth.

Finding a Stopping Place

By Philip Strong

“Finding a stopping place” can be difficult- like when you sit down to a meal of your absolute favorite food. The “stopping place” is usually the bottom of an empty serving dish. Once you begin, there’s just not a good “stopping place!” Arbitrarily saying, “I’ll go this far, but stop here” is just not an option. The journey is only completed at the finish(ed) line! In much the same way, it ought to be so with our hunger for and application of bible authority. Once we begin to eat this “meat” (Hebrews 5:12-14), we have to continue on to completion because there is just no “stopping point” short of it.

For instance, if we are willing to appeal to the authority of God’s word to understand what’s “right” or “wrong” about one particular issue, how do we then stop short of God’s authority for other matters? If God’s word is the proper authority to determine one issue of morality, why is it not also the right authority to decide all issues of morality? “For whoever keeps the whole law and stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. For He who said ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not commit murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law,” James 2:10-11. We simply cannot afford to be “picky eaters” or “tasters” of God’s word to determine morality, we have to consume it all.

Let’s take another helping of this same dish. If God’s word is the proper authority to determine issues of morality, how can it possibly be anything less for issues of faith and doctrine (teaching)? When God’s word says there is “one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,” (Ephesians 4:5), how can we say, “Having many differing faiths is a good thing because it allows everyone to find what’s right for them”? Or how can we say, “Baptism is important but not essential”? If having “one Lord” is essential, then so too are “one faith” and “one baptism.”

The same Bible that says murder and adultery are sinful, also says, “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment,” 1 Corinthians 1:10. It also says, “For by one

Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit,” 1 Corinthians 12:13. The only way we can be “one body” is to all eat and drink fully of the authority of God’s word.

We cannot appeal to our own thoughts and ideas for such is “self-made religion” (Colossians 2:23), and making a “god” of our own “appetites” (Philippians 3:19). Neither can we appeal to the thinking of modern culture for authority because 1 Corinthians 1:21 is still true, “....the world through its wisdom did not come to know God....” But, we also cannot be true to God while appealing to uninspired the writings of men, whether new or ancient, as the basis of authority. Jesus condemns this in Matthew 15:6-9, “And thus you invalidate the word of God for the sake of your tradition.... This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men.” There is just no stopping place with appealing to the authority of God’s word short of the bottom of the dish!

Here is one final “helping” of this authority dish. We cannot appeal to the authority of God’s word to determine issues of morality, faith, and doctrine without also allowing it to be the standard for our worship (collectively praising God). Please read your New Testament. It is the authoritative standard for Christ’s church. The Old Testament scriptures were the authoritative standard for Jews living prior to the death of Jesus (see Exodus 20:22; 2 Corinthians 3:7-11; Hebrews 9:1-17), but the “gospel of the kingdom” of Jesus Christ is the sole authority for all men everywhere today, Luke 16:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:14. To worship and please Him, we must do so in the ways and with the means He provides in the authority of His Law. If it isn’t in the New Testament, it can’t be New Testament worship. If we are willing to appeal to the New Testament to determine issues of morality, faith, and doctrine, shouldn’t we also be willing to look to it for authority in worship?

The only “stopping place” to be found with regard to the authority of Jesus Christ is “all the way.” We simply cannot “pick and choose” the parts of His law we are willing accept- we must take and consume/apply it all!

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Larry, Leukemia Diagnosis
- Ray & Ginger, as Ray deals with Alzheimer's Symptoms
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Please take note of the guidelines for our meeting together

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Ben Palmer
Lord's Table – Ray Mitchell

Wednesday

Song Leader – Ray Mitchell
Invitation – Chad Mitchell

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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