

## Oneness in Christ; Lesson #12 “Church Organization and Unity.”

### Memory Verse

**Matthew 20:26–27** (NKJV) *Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—*

### Christ, the Head of the Church

**Colossians 1:18** (NKJV) *And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.*

**Philippians 2:10–11** (NKJV) *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**\*Ephesians 1:22–23** (NKJV) *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,<sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

**Hebrews 2:7–8** (NKJV) *You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands.<sup>8</sup> You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.*

**1 Corinthians 11:3** (NKJV) *But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

### Servant Leadership

**Matthew 18:1–4** (NKJV) *At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”<sup>2</sup> Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,<sup>3</sup> and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.<sup>4</sup> Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*

**Matthew 20:25–28** (NKJV) *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.<sup>26</sup> Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.<sup>27</sup> And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

**Philippians 2:7–8** (NKJV) *but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

**\*1 Peter 5:2–3** (NKJV) *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;<sup>3</sup> nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;*

**Luke 9:46–48** (NKJV) *Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest.<sup>47</sup> And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him,<sup>48</sup> and said to them, “Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great.”*

**Mark 9:33–37** (NKJV) *Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, “What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?”<sup>34</sup> But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.<sup>35</sup> And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”<sup>36</sup> Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them,<sup>37</sup> “Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.”*

### Servant leadership is not the same thing as no leadership.

- When someone says I believe in Jesus but I don't believe in organized religion they're really saying they believe in this organized religion.
- Exodus 18:21–22** (NKJV) *Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.<sup>22</sup> And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you.*

**John 13:14–17** (NKJV) *“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.<sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.<sup>16</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.<sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”*

“Christ was establishing a kingdom on different principles. He called men, not to authority, but to service, the strong to bear the infirmities of the weak. Power, position, talent, education, placed their possessor under the greater obligation to serve his fellows.”— DA, p. 550.

### Preserving Church Unity

**2 Timothy 2:15** (NKJV) *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

\***Titus 1:9** (NKJV) *holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.*

**2 Timothy 4:2–4** (NKJV) *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup> 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; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

### Church Discipline

**Matthew 18:16–17** (NKJV) *But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'* <sup>17</sup> *And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.*

**Acts 15:6** (NKJV) *Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.*

**2 John 10–11** (NKJV) *If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; <sup>11</sup> for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.*

**Titus 3:10–11** (NKJV) *Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.*

**1 Corinthians 5:4–7** (NKJV) *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>5</sup> deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

<sup>6</sup> *Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup> Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

**1 Corinthians 1:10** (NKJV) *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

### Organizing for Mission

**Acts 6:3–4** (NKJV) *Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; <sup>4</sup> but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

**Titus 1:5** (NKJV) *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—*

**1 Corinthians 12:28** (NKJV) *And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*

**Acts 8:14–16** (NKJV) *Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, <sup>15</sup> who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

**Matthew 28:18–20** (NKJV) *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

**Mark 16:15–18** (NKJV) *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*