

August 3, 2024

In Union With The Lord

Much has happened this past week that has left me in a pondering mood.

Since Messiah Conference, we, Jeri and I have had a unified body of Messiah on the mind. Doors being opened, pieces to a much larger puzzle being revealed and opportunities presenting themselves slowly.

First up earlier this week was our monthly Pastor's meeting where several gather together for an informal meal and fellowship. We had not attended the last few meetings but felt led to attend this month after everything we had been experiencing. Our focus to do what is contrary to Scripture where by gentiles are to come alongside the Messianic Jew...

Eph 3:2 I assume that you have heard of the work God in his grace has given me to do for your benefit,

Eph 3:3 and that it was by a revelation that this secret plan was made known to me. I have already written about it briefly,

Eph 3:4 and if you read what I have written, you will grasp how I understand this secret plan concerning the Messiah.

Eph 3:5 In past generations it was not made known to mankind, as the Spirit is now revealing it to his emissaries and prophets,

Eph 3:6 that in union with the Messiah and through the Good News the Gentiles were to be joint heirs, a joint body and joint sharers with the Jews in what God has promised.

Gentiles have become Joint heir, implying they were not before, so they have been brought near, that is they have come along side. A similar image is that of the Olive Tree that I had shared previously.

Rom 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you—a wild olive—were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree,

Rom 11:18 then don't boast as if you were better than the branches! However, if you do boast, remember that you are not supporting the root, the root is supporting you.

Rom 11:19 So you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

Rom 11:20 True, but so what? They were broken off because of their lack of

trust. However, you keep your place only because of your trust. So don't be arrogant; on the contrary, be terrified!

Rom 11:21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, he certainly won't spare you!

Rom 11:22 So take a good look at God's kindness and his severity: on the one hand, severity toward those who fell off; but, on the other hand, God's kindness toward you—provided you maintain yourself in that kindness! Otherwise, you too will be cut off!

Rom 11:23 Moreover, the others, if they do not persist in their lack of trust, will be grafted in; because God is able to graft them back in.

Rom 11:24 For if you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree!

Being brought into something that is contrary to one's nature.

Thus Jeri and I decided to come along side rather than waiting for them to come along side us. We have attended several of these meetings over the last couple of years, yet this month we have a much clearer vision as to our role.

After the meal, it was impressed upon the lead pastor for the meeting to focus on prayer, in light of what had transpired since the last meeting.

As many prayed I listened intently to what was being presented before Adonai. There were prayers for healing, salvation, revival yet there was one thing missing. That which was on my mind constantly...a unified body of Messiah.

Much was said after the time of prayer and it was getting towards the end that I asked to speak. As everyone was praying a passage I have long be in for quite some time became prominent here too...

Php 4:4 Rejoice in union with the Lord always! I will say it again: rejoice!

And I posed this question after I read this verse...

If we rejoice in union with the Lord always...doesn't that mean we are all in union with each other, or at least it should.

There was affirmation to my question.

Yet I asked, where is it? Sharing some of Jeri's drash from last week going off memory, the denominational aspect in relation to a single book.

I conveyed, I don't see the unity because I don't see the power as a result of

unity.

Messiah conveys a message of unity between Himself and His Body of believers...

Joh 15:1 "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener.

Joh 15:2 Every branch which is part of me but fails to bear fruit, he cuts off; and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit.

Joh 15:3 Right now, because of the word which I have spoken to you, you are pruned.

Joh 15:4 Stay united with me, as I will with you—for just as the branch can't put forth fruit by itself apart from the vine, so you can't bear fruit apart from me.

Joh 15:5 "I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who stay united with me, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from me you can't do a thing.

Joh 15:6 Unless a person remains united with me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Such branches are gathered and thrown into the fire, where they are burned up.

Joh 15:7 "If you remain united with me, and my words with you, then ask whatever you want, and it will happen for you.

Joh 15:8 This is how my Father is glorified—in your bearing much fruit; this is how you will prove to be my talmidim.

Where there is unity there is power.

Even in a minority there is power. I had shared that which occurs in the federal government. One party can not have control of all three aspects of the legislature (House and Senate) and the White House, yet still have power.

Within the Senate there is this term called cloture. In order to conclude debate on a bill and bring it to a vote in the Senate, a total of 60 votes are required. When a part has less than 60 votes or seats in the Senate, then the minority has a modicum of power. If there are not 9 votes in the minority to bring forth cloture, then the bill doesn't move forward. Hence there is power in the minority...

The super majority rule has made it very difficult, often impossible, for Congress to pass controversial legislation in recent decades. The number of bills passed by the Senate has cratered: in the [85th Congress](#), over 25% of all bills introduced in the Senate were eventually enacted; by 2005, that number had fallen to 12.5%; and by 2010, only 2.8% of introduced bills became law—a 90% decline from 50 years prior.

My point when I shared this information with the Pastors, is even though we are

not in the majority these days, for the state of Maine does not have a prominent church going population in that between 20 – 35% attend any religious service. We should not look at our position as a position of weakness or being outnumbered but because of the one who has unified us we should be emboldened.

Joh 17:20 "I pray not only for these, but also for those who will trust in me because of their word,

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one. Just as you, Father, are united with me and I with you, I pray that they may be united with us, so that the world may believe that you sent me.

Joh 17:22 The glory which you have given to me, I have given to them; so that they may be one, just as we are one—

Joh 17:23 I united with them and you with me, so that they may be completely one, and the world thus realize that you sent me, and that you have loved them just as you have loved me.

Joh 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am; so that they may see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Joh 17:25 Righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these people have known that you sent me.

Joh 17:26 I made your name known to them, and I will continue to make it known; so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I myself may be united with them."

These and those...Jews and Gentiles are to be unified according to Yeshua's prayer.

Sha'ul conveys the same thing...

Eph 2:11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth—called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised—

Eph 2:12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

Eph 2:13 But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood.

Eph 2:14 For he himself is our shalom—he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us

Eph 2:15 by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make

shalom,

The two becoming one new humanity.

There is a clear mandate given by Adonai, that of being or becoming one. He would unify the nation into one Kingdom...

Eze 37:15 The word of Adonai came to me:

Eze 37:16 "You, human being, take one stick and write on it, 'For Y'hudah and those joined with him [*among*] the people of Isra'el.' Next, take another stick and write on it, 'For Yosef, the stick of Efrayim, and all the house of Isra'el who are joined with him.'

Eze 37:17 Finally, bring them together into a single stick, so that they become one in your hand.

Eze 37:18 When your people ask you what all this means,

Eze 37:19 tell them that Adonai Elohim says this: 'I will take the stick of Yosef, which is in the hand of Efrayim, together with the tribes of Isra'el who are joined with him, and put them together with the stick of Y'hudah and make them a single stick, so that they become one in my hand.'

Eze 37:20 The sticks on which you write are to be in your hand as they watch.

Eze 37:21 Then say to them that Adonai Elohim says: 'I will take the people of Isra'el from among the nations where they have gone and gather them from every side and bring them back to their own land.

Eze 37:22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Isra'el; and one king will be king for all of them. They will no longer be two nations, and they will never again be divided into two kingdoms.

Eze 37:23 " 'They will never again defile themselves with their idols, their detestable things, or any of their transgressions; but I will save them from all the places where they have been living and sinning; and I will cleanse them, so that they will be my people, and I will be their God.

Eze 37:24 My servant David will be king over them, and all of them will have one shepherd; they will live by my rulings and keep and observe my regulations.

Eze 37:25 They will live in the land I gave to Ya`akov my servant, where your ancestors lived; they will live there—they, their children, and their grandchildren, forever; and David my servant will be their leader forever.

Eze 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them, an everlasting covenant. I will give to them, increase their numbers, and set my sanctuary among them forever.

Eze 37:27 My home will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Eze 37:28 The nations will know that I am Adonai, who sets Isra'el apart as holy,

when my sanctuary is with them forever.' "

And within it the New Covenant will convey a unified nation...

Jer 31:30 "Here, the days are coming," says Adonai, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra'el and with the house of Y'hudah.

Jer 31:31 It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers on the day I took them by their hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, violated my covenant, even though I, for my part, was a husband to them," says Adonai.

Jer 31:32 "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra'el after those days," says Adonai: "I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

The message is unity within the nation, unity within the body.

One people..One God.

Then Came Tuesday and the conference entitled Why Now "The Church"

I had a hope going into this yet almost immediately I was taken back and my hope had quickly started to fade. As I looked at the outline for the day and other materials, it came across that the theme for the day was going to be skewed in a political direction.

Upon listening to the first speaker and having read the material provided to us. The word that came to me was chasm.

What is a chasm?

1. A deep, steep-sided opening in the earth's surface; an abyss or gorge.
2. A sudden interruption of continuity; a gap.
3. A pronounced difference of opinion, interests, or loyalty.

With each passing message I was experiencing the same think I had experienced the night before...

"Where is the part about unity within the body of Messiah?"

It was only mentioned in passing towards the end of the day and the unity was a separate but equal type of thing. In essence, we are unified as part of the body through our denomination.

So, how do we overcome this chasm?

Obviously through the Ruach Ha Kodesh.

Yet, that first verse I read...

Php 4:4 Rejoice in union with the Lord always! I will say it again: rejoice!

That if we are in Union with Messiah we should be in union with the entire body...consider the following verses.

Php 4:5 Let everyone see how reasonable and gentle you are. The Lord is near!

Php 4:6 Don't worry about anything; on the contrary, make your requests known to God by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving.

Php 4:7 Then God's shalom, passing all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with the Messiah Yeshua.

Php 4:8 In conclusion, brothers, focus your thoughts on what is true, noble, righteous, pure, lovable or admirable, on some virtue or on something praiseworthy.

Php 4:9 Keep doing what you have learned and received from me, what you have heard and seen me doing; then the God who gives shalom will be with you.

Yet it is verse 8 that provides the key to this unity, if everyone will embrace this...

I believe the first point is what is to be emphasized because everything else will flow from that one key point...

- focus your thoughts on what is true

What do we know to be True?

1. Yeshua: The living Word

Joh 14:6 Yeshua said, "I AM the Way—and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

2. Torah, the Word of God"

Deu 32:4 The Rock! His work is perfect, for all his ways are just. A trustworthy God who does no wrong, he is righteous and straight.

Num 23:19 "God is not a human who lies or a mortal who changes his mind. When he says something, he will do it; when he makes a promise, he will fulfill it.

Thus what do we conclude, but the two are one.

[Luk 24:44](#) Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."

[Luk 24:45](#) Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

Thus from this flows everything else Sha'ul says we are to focus on for being in union with Messiah and thus being in union with each other..

- noble - showing qualities of high moral character
- righteous – doing that which is right
- pure - Containing nothing inappropriate or extraneous.
- lovable or admirable - Having qualities to excite wonder united with approbation; deserving the highest praise; most excellent
- on some virtue - An example or kind of moral excellence.
- on something praiseworthy.