

“The One Not Against Us Is for Us”
(Mark 9:38-42)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Last week, we saw the importance of humility.
 - a. Everyone wants to be great, to stand out, to be remembered.
 - b. In this world, it means taking advantage of your neighbor,
 - (i) Putting yourself forward while shoving others out of the way.
 - (ii) Getting people to look at you, rather than at God.
 - c. It's just the opposite in that kingdom you are now in through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - (i) Here the one who is the greatest is the one who humbles himself,
 - (a) To become the servant of all,
 - (b) Who lifts others up,
 - (c) At the expense of their own credit and glory.
 - (d) And who does all they do
 - (e) For the glory of God.
 - (ii) You take the back seat,
 - (a) You retreat into the shadows,
 - (b) While you do your best to give honor to others,
 - (c) And to put the Lord out in front.
 - (d) Jesus says, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all” (Mark 35).
2. Do you want to be truly great?
 - a. This is the path you must take.
 - b. The same path your Lord took,
 - c. Before His Father raised Him to the place of highest honor.

B. Preview.

1. This morning, we'll learn
 - a. One more thing Jesus wanted His disciples to know before His crucifixion
 - (i) So that they would be better prepared to serve
 - (ii) When He was gone:
 - (iii) And that is how they should view other believers who may not necessarily be in their particular group.
 - b. Now we see the disciples struggling with somewhat of a clickish attitude.
 - (i) They had seen someone casting out demons in Jesus' name.
 - (ii) But he wasn't with them.
 - (a) He wasn't following them.

- (b) He wasn't in their group.
 - (c) And so they tried to stop him.
- c. This was another Providential opportunity to teach them an important lesson:
- (i) He pointed out that if this man had performed a miracle
 - (a) In casting out that demon in His name
 - (b) Then he wouldn't soon turn against Him.
 - (ii) He then went on to say:
 - (a) The one who was not against them was for them.
 - (b) He was really on their side.
2. This is something we need to learn today.
- a. There are many churches,
 - (i) Many who name the name of Christ,
 - (ii) Many who really are Christians.
 - b. Just because they're not with us,
 - (i) Just because they don't see things exactly the way we do
 - (ii) Or don't attend the same church
 - (iii) Doesn't mean they don't belong to the Lord
 - (iv) Or aren't worthy of our love and support.
 - (v) The body of Christ is far larger
 - (vi) Than this particular fellowship or denomination.
3. This morning, let's consider how we should view believers from other churches. We'll see two things:
- a. First, that everyone who believes in the Lord is part of His body.
 - b. And so second, we should make sure we treat them as such.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus is part of His body.
 - 1. Sadly, we often find ourselves with as much of a party spirit as those in the world, maybe more so.
 - a. The two subjects most try to avoid in conversation
 - (i) Are religion and politics
 - (ii) Because their convictions regarding them
 - (iii) Often lead to arguments and ill will.
 - (iv) Being Christians,
 - (a) God's Word is very dear to our hearts,
 - (b) And so we'll most likely be offended
 - (c) When we see His truth being misrepresented.
 - (d) Remember Toplady and Wesley.
 - b. We do need to remember, however,
 - (i) That even though Christians are divided

- (a) Into different denominations
 - (b) Because of differing beliefs,
- (ii) We're all members of the same body of Christ
- (a) If we believe in the same God
 - (1) The One who is Triune.
 - (2) Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - (b) If we have trusted the same Jesus
 - (1) Who is both God and man,
 - (2) As our Savior,
 - (3) And our Lord.
 - (4) If we are looking to both His obedience and atonement
 - (5) To save us from God's judgment.
 - (c) And if we are walking with Him
 - (1) According to His commandments
 - (2) From the heart.
 - (3) This is the purpose of His redemption
 - (4) To turn us from sin to righteousness.
 - (5) How can you call Him, Lord
 - (6) If you refuse to do what He says (Luke 6:46)?
2. If any man, woman or child believes in Jesus,
- a. Whether they're Paedo Baptist or Baptist;
 - b. Presbyterian, Independent, or Episcopal;
 - c. Calvinist or Arminian;
 - d. Covenantal or Dispensational;
 - e. Premil, Amil or Postmil;
 - f. Even if they should be in a church we would consider apostate,
 - f. If they are trusting in the true Jesus alone for their salvation,
 - g. And repenting of their sins,
 - h. They are a part of His body,
 - i. And so members of the one church of Jesus Christ.
 - j. As we read in our meditation,
 - (i) "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise" (Gal. 3:26-29).
 - (ii) Paul writes, "For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 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. For the body is not one member, but many" (1 Cor. 13:12-14).

- B. This means, among other things, that you should treat them in some respects as you would Jesus Himself.
1. You may not be part of the same denomination
Or particular church in that denomination,
But you are part of the same body.
 - a. They may not be in your church family,
 - b. But they are your brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - (i) You have the same Father, the same Savior,
 - (ii) You all partake of the same Spirit (1 Cor. 12:11).
 - (iii) You are one in Christ.

 2. And so how should you treat them?
 - a. For one thing, you should try to help them serve the Lord, and not stop them
 - (i) As the disciples tried to stop the man in our passage.
 - (ii) Even if they're not doing it the way you would,
 - (iii) They are still trying to do His work,
 - (iv) According to their best understanding.
 - (v) A former member used to say, "I like the evangelism you're doing better than the evangelism I'm not doing."

 - b. If they're doing His work, why would you stop them?
 - (i) If they're not against you, they're for you.
 - (ii) They're helping to get the work of the kingdom done.
 - (a) We can't do it all on our own –
 - (b) We need help.
 - (c) We need all our brothers and sisters
 - (d) In the body of Christ.

 - (iii) If what they're doing is in fact hurting the work,
 - (a) Then you need to correct them,
 - (b) But you need to do it gently.
 - (c) Not only will this be more effective,
 - (d) If it wasn't for God's grace,
 - (e) You would be doing the same thing (Gal. 6:1).

 - c. You should also consider them to be as precious as Jesus does.
 - (i) He says, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea" (v. 42).
 - (ii) He may be speaking here of actual children who believe in Him,
 - (a) As we saw last time,
 - (b) But the same would apply to true believers of whatever age.

 - (iii) If they are precious to Jesus
 - (a) They should be just as precious to you,

- (b) And so you should do everything you can
 - (c) To keep from stumbling them
 - (d) And everything you can
 - (e) To encourage them and build them up in Christ.
- d. Even more, you should receive them as you would Jesus.
- (i) Jesus identifies Himself with His children.
 - (a) On the Day of Judgment,
 - (b) He will say to His sheep
 - (1) “Truly I say to you,
 - (2) To the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine,
 - (3) *Even* the least of *them*,
 - (4) You did it to Me” (Matt. 25:40).
 - (c) He will also say to the goats,
 - (1) “Truly I say to you,
 - (2) To the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these,
 - (3) You did not do it to Me” (v. 45).
 - (ii) Jesus said in the previous verses of our passage,
 - (a) “Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me” (v. 37).
 - (b) And He says, just as He did in the passage dealing with the final Judgment,
 - (1) That those who show kindness to them
 - (A) Because they are His people,
 - (B) Will receive a reward:
 - (C) “For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as *followers* of Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward” (v. 41).
 - (2) The same is true of what you do
 - (3) For others as members of Jesus’ Body.
3. What about the differences that exist between us? How should we deal with them?
- a. Sadly, because of our sin,
 - (i) We’re not going to see eye to eye on every issue.
 - (a) That’s one of the reasons so many denominations exist,
 - (b) Though it’s not the only reason.
 - (c) We’re not going to agree on everything.
 - (ii) This will likely be the case as long as we’re on earth,
 - (a) Which means that denominations will exist
 - (b) As long as we’re on this side of glory.

- b. But even if we can't agree on everything and so do everything together,
 - (i) We can still do the things that are most important:
 - (a) We can pray,
 - (b) We can evangelize,
 - (c) We can do the work of missions,
 - (d) We can advance the kingdom of heaven.
 - (ii) We can also do our best
 - (a) To encourage one another in this work,
 - (b) And to pray for one another,
 - (c) Until the work is done,
 - (d) And we finally see things as they really are
 - (e) When we are together forever in heaven.
- c. Even though we disagree, let's not forget
 - (i) That we are brothers and sisters in Christ,
 - (a) Members of the same body,
 - (b) Engaged in the same work,
 - (c) Empowered by the same Spirit.
 - (ii) We have the same Lord
 - (a) Who has given us the same command:
 - (b) To make disciples of all the nations (Matt. 28:18-20).
 - (iii) May the Lord help us to do what we can
 - (a) To help every member of His church
 - (b) To serve and honor Him. Amen.

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