



LESSON 10: WE REJOICE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Leadership, Humility, and Submission

Jesus Christ is our Lord, the One we obey and follow. He led not by the sword and strength, but by humility, even to death on the cross. His life, crucifixion, and resurrection serve as the model by which we are to lead our lives, in contrast to the world's model of grasping after power.

*Whom or what do I obey?
What are the effects of disobedience and obedience in my life?*

PRAYERS

OPENING PRAYERS—CANTICLE FOUR FROM THE VESPERS FROM THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE:

“The Word humbled Himself to the form of a servant, showing that humility is the path to exaltation. Every man, then, who humbles himself after the Lord’s example, is exalted on high. The Pharisee fell, exalted in his righteousness, while the Publican was abased, defiled by many sins; yet against all expectation, he was exalted, and so was justified. Though he was rich in virtues, foolish pride brought the Pharisee to poverty, but in his great need the Publican was justified through humility. Let us also gain this humility. You have warned us that You resist the proud, Master and Savior, but give grace to the humble. We pray You to send Your grace upon us now, for we have humbled ourselves. Ever leading us to divine exaltation, our Savior and Master, by His own deeds revealed to us the humility that exalts us, with His own hands, washing the feet of the disciples.”

CLOSING PRAYERS—PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11:

Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you. You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another. I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind. Don’t do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another’s interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have



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is the one that Christ Jesus had. He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—his death on the cross. For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PASSAGES & PRAXIS

Ephesians 5:21-31: Submit yourselves to one another because of your reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the church; and Christ is himself the Savior of the church, his body. And so wives must submit themselves completely to their husbands just as the church submits itself to Christ. Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it. He did this to dedicate the church to God by his word, after making it clean by washing it in water, in order to present the church to himself in all its beauty—pure and faultless, without spot or wrinkle or any other imperfection. Men ought to love their wives just as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself (None of us ever hate our own bodies. Instead, we feed them, and take care of them, just as Christ does the church; for we are members of his body.)

As the scripture says, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.

Philippians 2:5-11: The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had. He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death— his death on the cross. For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Peter 5:6-7: Humble yourselves, then, under God’s mighty hand, so that he will lift you up in his own good time.

PATRISTICS

CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

St. Augustine: “One will possess the Holy Spirit only in proportion to his reverence for and adhesion to the Church of Christ.”

St. Jerome: “If the soul is not clothed with the teachings of the church, it cannot have Jesus enthroned inside of it.”

St. Augustine: “He cannot have God for his father, who refuses to have the Church for his mother.”

PARTICIPATION

Volunteer to help the priest or bishop performing his duties, as an example of leadership by service.

Discuss the model of leadership by service with their parents or other married couples.

Be prepared to act as a mentor to younger students, to demonstrate and guide them to be respectful of the Church and its institutions (clergy, icons, services, music, the altar, etc.).

Visit the web site of the Leadership 100:
<http://www.L100.org>.

Visit the web site of International Orthodox Christian Charities: <http://www.iocc.org>.

Read pertinent selections from the Bible.

Read the Nicene Creed.

