

Joy has Dawned

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation; God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation. Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory, but a humble gift of love, Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels, as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable. Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness, cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory. Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story: gold—a King is born today; incense—God is with us; myrrh—His death will make a way; by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of Man, given as a ransom, reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty champion! What a Savior, what a friend, what a glorious mystery! Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Luke 2:1-20

Song #177 ~ Joy has Dawned

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 64:1-10

Song #187 ~ O Come, All Ye Faithful

Scripture Reading: Psalm 65:1-13

Prayer

Sermon ~ Romans 14:16-19

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #230 ~ Before the Throne of God Above

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.

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Text: Romans 14:16-19

Theme: Present yourself as a sacrifice to God.

I) When the stronger in faith uses his liberty to partake in lawful things to the destruction of his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, he has let his liberty be spoken of as evil by the weak in faith (v. 16).

A. How do you crush your brother or sister in Christ?

1. When you partake of something lawful (i.e. eating meat offered to idols) and your liberty encourages the weak in faith to go against his conscience, you crush your brother in Christ.

2. It is possible to embolden your fellow brother in Christ to go against his conscience without even knowing it.

3. As parents, we must be incredibly careful. We can easily encourage our own children to sin against their conscience when we participate in lawful things.

B. Instead of crushing your brother in Christ walk according to love (cf. v. 15).

1. This is not an emotionally-based love, but rather a sacrificial love.

II) When you crush your brother or sister in Christ by partaking of your liberty, you have forgotten the Kingdom of God (v. 17-19).

A. What does it look like to pursue your kingdom?

1. When you have a hard time giving up your Christian liberty, you are all about your kingdom.

B. What does it look like to pursue the Kingdom of God?

1. To pursue the Kingdom of God means that we encourage righteousness among our fellow Christians.

a. Instead of encouraging our brothers in Christ to go against their conscience, we ought to encourage them to pursue righteousness by submitting to their conscience.

2. To pursue the Kingdom of God means that we encourage peace among our fellow Christians.

a. Instead of encouraging division in the local body, we ought to promote peace by giving up our Christian liberty.

3. To pursue the Kingdom of God means that we encourage joy among our fellow Christians.

a. Joy does not come by enjoying our Christian liberties, but rather by finding our satisfaction in Christ alone.

C. When you pursue God's Kingdom by serving the conscience of your weaker brother, you are serving Christ (v. 18).

1. This service is acceptable to God.

2. This service is approved by your fellow Christians.

D. Instead of pursuing your Christian liberty, pursue peace and pursue the building up of the body (v. 19).

1. What does it look like to pursue your Christian liberty instead of building up the body? You will find yourself arguing with others about your viewpoint. You will find yourself despising the weaker brother (cf. v. 3). Instead of hearing them out, you will disregard them.

2. Have you considered that maybe one of your children could be the weaker brother or sister in Christ?