

## Chapter 3

### **“WE ARE SEATED”**

**I**n the last chapter on the heart I mentioned something at the beginning of the chapter that is a topic of great importance when it comes to the true New Testament worship of God. The statement was that our heart attitude towards God and **our fellow man** is one of the key focal points of Jesus’ ministry.

I think it’s important to note that not only is our attitude towards God important but Jesus clearly taught that our attitude towards our fellow man is equally as important. Jesus went so far as to say if you come with a gift to the altar yet you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there and go and make it right. **Before you worship the Lord** have your relationship between you and your fellow man reconciled (Mathew 5:23, 24). Imagine a God who is seeking men to worship Him saying don’t do it until you are reconciled with your fellow man. Sounds like your attitude can’t be totally right for worship unless your relationships are in order. Jesus also said that the world would know who we are by our love one for another (John 13:34). Not just how well we sing and lift our hands. True worship is deeper than that.

This Chapter is named “we are seated” with the emphasis on we for the reason above stated. As I study the Scriptures I have noticed some things that happen to the body of Christ only as a whole.

For example in 1Thessalonians 4:17 it says we will be caught up **together**. In Mathew 18:20 Jesus said when two or three are gathered **together** he is in the midst of them. He was not talking about only physically being together, for we often gather together as Christians and yet are not in one accord. To say that just being in the same place means that He is there would be hypocritical. Not Jesus’ style at all. It says in Ephesians that he made us alive **together** and that he raised us up **together** and made us sit **together**, that we are framed **together** and grow unto a holy temple and that we are built **together** for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

These scriptures clearly indicate that God has raised us up together. In fact it says He made us to sit together. I think He did that for a reason. We need to get along, even more than that we need to prefer one another. It even says that we are being built together into a holy habitation. That means we are going to have to grow together, not apart.

It says in Philippians chapter 2 verses 3-8, that Jesus gave up His place in glory and came down and became a man and even died for us. In verse 3 Paul admonishes us to esteem others better than ourselves.

You see God's heart is for men. He gave his son for that reason. He created the earth and the fullness thereof for us to enjoy. Everything that we behold shows the love and mercy that he has for us, for God so loved the world that he gave.

Over time I have come to understand that if our focus is not turned towards others then it ends up on us one way or another. Even when it comes to worship, we spend enough time in worship to get released from that burden, or feel fulfilled, or get us through the next day or week and it lacks that love for mankind that is the father's heart. The kind of love that will cause us to desire the best for our enemies as well as our friends is what God desires.

Jesus said:

*“ But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and the evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your father also is merciful.”*

Jesus clearly teaches in Luke's gospel chapter 6 verses 32-36, that; if we love those that love us what credit is that to you. He says even the sinners do that. And if we lend to those in whom we expect return, what

does that prove? If we just love our brothers and sisters in Christ or the brothers and sisters in Christ that love us only, what does that say about us? You see the church at large has not looked any different than the world in some aspects. God says pray for those you don't like. Give to those you don't like with the expectation of nothing in return, then we will be sons of the Most High.

God knows it's a long road to travel in our hearts from avoiding some one, to heartfelt prayer and giving to them with the prospect of nothing in return, yet it is Gods desire for us.

Yes we are seated in heavenly places together with Christ but for that to become a New Testament reality, the we part needs to be something that is, first of all done in the body of Christ and then the world with heartfelt compassion.

How far has the Church strayed away from these concepts? The heart of a true worshiper can not ignore or deny these things. It is at the core of his very nature. For he knows full well no matter what position he holds in the body of Christ that we are mere men and the only thing that sets us apart from the world is our being in fellowship with the King of Glory and each other.

For God is seeking men of this condition of heart to worship Him that way.