

## CONSEQUENTLY, WE REGARD NO ONE FROM A HUMAN POINT OF VIEW

Paul, a devout Pharisee, was indeed a persecutor of those who followed YAHSHUA'S teachings, as he estimated Him from a human point of view. The outsiders of the Christian faith who persecute them, have no sight to see, neither understanding of the spiritual things to act and judge those for what they are in their faith in God, consequently, they persecute and kill them. They eliminate the Christians from the earth in their erroneous and prideful ways of estimating others for their faith. In Acts chapter eight and nine, we read a report concerning Paul's persecution of the Christians of his days, where we read much hatred for them: And Saul was consenting to [Stephen's] death. On that day, a great and severe persecution broke out against the church which was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. (vs. 1). Meanwhile, Saul still drawing his breath hard from the threatening and murderous desire against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and requested of him letters to the synagogue at Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way he might bring them bound to Jerusalem (9:1-2). The way that he regarded the Lord YAHSHUA as human and not as God's Son was reflected on his treatment of the YAHSHUA'S disciples.

A child of God, he who has experienced the new birth in YAHSHUA, is a new creation, born of the Spirit and not of the flesh. YAHSHUA told Nicodemus, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God. What is born of the flesh is flesh; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not at My telling you, You must all be born anew (John 3:5-7). YAHSHUA clearly confirms the process of the new birth. Once we are born into the family of God, we are new creation; the old is gone, all is made new, said Paul. That is of great significance in the lives of those who have believed; theirs are the privileges of children of God; theirs are also the behavior that is required to reflect their position as children of God. And as such, they are to behave as God's own chosen, who are purified and holy an well-beloved, tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling a lowly opinion of themselves, gentle ways, patience, gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has forgiven them; and above all these [put on] love and enfold themselves with the bond of perfectness (Col. 3). A child of God, united by the bond of love that emanates from YAHSHUA Himself, must not regard each other in terms of natural value standard, or from a purely human point of view, as those of the world do, blinded by it, for lacking spiritual discernment. We are knit together as one in our Lord YAHSHUA, Who is the head of the church- one church. *We are one body and one Spirit- just as there is also one hope to the calling you received; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of Who is above all, pervading all and in all (Eph. 4:4-5).* Paul says, We who are strong [in our convictions and of robust faith] out to bear with the failings and the frailties and the tender scruples of the weak; and not to please ourselves; let each one of us make it a practice to please his neighbor for his good and for his true welfare, to edify him. For Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written, the reproaches and abuses of those who reproached and abused you fell on Me (Rom. 15:1-3).

When those of strong faith stand above those of weak faith to criticize and to judge, they are elevating themselves, crushing down one's faith. When the Bible tells us that God's Son offered Himself as a sacrifice to redeem the world, it implies that we are all sinners and in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. The pointing of fingers toward the sins of others makes us hypocrites in view of God's grace and forgiveness to all. Only dressed in love we will be able to acknowledge everyone's position in YAHSHUA the Messiah. Love is the bond that keeps the church of Christ together, united in one purpose to build each other up in the bond of peace. For God's intention for His church was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints...toward building up Christ's body, that we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the knowledge of the Son of God (Eph. 4). In YAHSHUA there is no tradition of religion, but oneness of the Spirit of God, guiding and teaching us in the level of spiritual maturity we are found to be in. The old is gone, all is made new in YAHSHUA, *consequently, we must regard no believer in Christ from a purely human point of view [in terms of natural standards of value] (II Cor. 5:16).*

Walking together hand in hand in our thinking, in agreement with the Word that is above all words, the living Word of God, lifting up each other when needed in all occasion it surfaces, so that the Holy Spirit's ministry will be effective collectively in the church of YAHSHUA, His bride. So that she might be sanctified to fulfill the purpose of God for her in the world, *when He might present her to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things* (Eph. 5:27). The bride of YAHSHUA will be dressed in His righteousness -her wedding dress in that day when God's beautiful plan will be finally consummated in her as a wife of YAHSHUA. That's the future for all believers in YAHSHUA -His body. For this reason, and more, we should honor and regard them as our brothers and sisters, members of God's family, and as purely in our human point of view, even when fallen into sin, for that is the fate of all of us. Paul advises a self-denial for the sake of others: Now, we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. For even YAHSHUA did not please Himself; but as it is written, "the reproaches of those who reproached you fell on Me, for whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15: 1,3-4). God's family is here in this world to lift each other up in the bond of love of our Lord, YAHSHUA; to build each other up to spiritual maturity. The body of Christ is equipped with everything necessary to perform that which He intended for us to do until He comes for us.

There is a sure and definite call for those who are spiritually strong, that of not to live for self, but to live also for those who are spiritually weak. Not to condemn them, but to bear their problems with them in order to fulfill the law of our Savior and Lord, YAHSHUA – the law of love; be careful lest anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall (I Cor. 10:12). For all of us are subject to the same weakness; our strength comes from God and from Him alone as Paul said, But God forbid that I should **glory**, save in the **cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world (Gal. 6:14). We should take no credit for the righteousness that was imputed to us by God, when we were born again. It was through His Son's sacrifice that we were reconciled to the Father and given eternal life; it was not of ourselves. Be gentle and forbearing with one another; tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind

feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, and patience (Col. 3:12-13a). United as one in Christ, we will fulfill the law of God in humbleness of spirit, not condemning those of weaker faith, but building them up into a relationship with YAHSHUA their Savior and Lord and with others. The Bible says that we believers are given *a position with YAHSHUA in the heavenlies when He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together in the heavenly sphere (Eph. 2:6).*

**THINK ABOUT IT!**