



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 14:1-23
- I Timothy 4:1-5
- Matthew 22:29
- Colossians 3:23-24
- I Cor. 8:1-13; 10:23-33

Title:

IDENTITY POLITICS:

BE FULLY CONVINCED

- One Lord
- One Love
- Bonus: Serving Leader or Selfish Lord

SEED:

“Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.” Romans 14:4 NKJV

“For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For **if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.** Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.” Romans 14:7-8 NKJV

“So then **each of us shall give account of himself to God.** Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather **resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.**”

Romans 14:12-13 NKJV

FRUIT:

“...Let each **be fully convinced** in his own mind.” Romans 14:5 NKJV

“Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. **Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.**” Romans 14:22 NKJV

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:

“To serve or to self?” that is the question. With more clarity, might your position be best described as serving leadership or selfish lordship? Serving leadership is godly leadership; selfish lordship is anything but godly. It is a shaming, guilt-inducing and degrading brand of lording over another. The pagans are good at that; don’t you be! It’s one thing to be handed the keys to the kingdom and to go out as His ambassadors to the world to represent Christ as if your words are His words. It’s altogether different and downright wrong to become so enamored with your position that you begin to build your own kingdom occupied by your own words. The former glorifies the One and only Master of the universe; the latter smacks of self-glorification. If you travel down that road for even a moment, you risk developing the belief that you are judge, jury, and executioner—a position God has abdicated to no man.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!” The quintessential truth: there is one God, and there is no other but He. There is one Lord; He is Father of all; He is above all, He permeates everything and

is the reason you exist. Yes, there is One God, and it's not you! Certainly you are empowered to be the voice of Christ in the earth, and His hands and feet. Go preach; go baptize; go teach; go minister; go serve; go provide; go be an example to the flock in word and deed. Imitate Christ for sure, but don't hold yourself out to be God. Satan did that; Pharaoh did that; and King Herod did that. And it did not turn out well for any of them.

Instead of usurping God's authority, your role as His ambassador is to be a loving example, not a source of prideful condemnation. Remember, receiving condemnation is not an option for God's children. Nevertheless, the identity politics here is a double-edged sword. On one razor-sharp edge sit Christians in leadership. If you identify with a leadership position, how you represent God is crucial. Who are you as a leader; what is your role, and how will you exercise your God-given authority? The other edge is equally as sharp, and Christians who sit atop its blade are following those Christian leaders, and they too must be crystal clear on their identity. In other words, it is critical in the Church that both Christian leaders and those who follow them have a solid identity doctrine. In plain language, good identity theology is this: whether you are a shepherd or a sheep, you must be fully convinced in your own mind who you are and what you believe!

Nevertheless, it's safe to say that shepherds have a greater responsibility than sheep and will be judged more harshly by God. Again, leaders must be an example to the flock in word and deed. Shepherd the flock of God, serving as supervisors, not driven by greedy impulses because there is something to gain by lording over others whom God entrusted to you. And worse yet is when your selfish desires are fueled by inauthentic motives. Instead, be willing and eager to be a Christlike example to the flock. What does that look like exactly? If you desire to lead, you must put yourself below those you intend to serve. That's precisely what Y'shua did; He came to serve, not to be served. Think about it... He was the Teacher of teachers; He was the Master of the universe, and yet He knelt before His disciples just hours before His horrific torture and crucifixion, and He washed their filthy odorous feet. He taught us why; "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." That is serving leadership!

But, if you instead choose to otherwise serve yourself in your honored leadership position, to mislead God's sheep at all, this is what the Lord has for you; "Woe to the shepherds who injure My sheep in any way or cause them to feel lost! I will punish you for your evil choices. If you cause even one of My little children to stumble by leading them into sin, it would be better for you if you had a 1,500 pound stone attached to a noose around your neck, and you were tossed into the ocean and dragged to the bottom." Remember, there is One God, and it's not you! And if the one-and-a-half-ton millstone yanking you by the neck to the bottom of the ocean is not graphic enough to describe the consequences of leading God's people astray, consider more closely the depth of the Mediterranean. Sink to the lowest point and there will be 7,500 pounds of pressure per square inch crushing your skull. Yes, shepherds have a greater responsibility than sheep and will be judged more harshly by God, so I implore you to be a serving leader, not a selfish lord. Or, as Paul so eloquently states, "Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves."

ONE LORD

1. Serving Leader or Selfish Lord

A. Weak in the Faith or Strong in the Faith

(1) Demeaning Judgment or Helpful Instruction

(a) Loving Example or Proudful Condemnation

1. "Receive one who is **weak in the faith**, but **not to disputes over doubtful things**. For **one believes he may eat all things**, but **he who is weak eats only vegetables.**" Romans 14:1-2 NKJV
2. "What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly **because to them were committed the oracles of God.**" Romans 3:1-2 NKJV
3. "Therefore remember that you, **once Gentiles** in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— **that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near** by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:11-13 NKJV
4. "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding **to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth**. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." I Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV
5. "Jesus answered and said to them, **"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures** nor the power of God." Matthew 22:29 NKJV
6. "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. **But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**" Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV
7. "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for **the interests of others.**" Philippians 2:4 NKJV
8. "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference to one another;**" Romans 12:10 NKJV

9. **"If you love Me**, keep My commandments." John 14:15 NKJV
10. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but **all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**" Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV
11. "Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore, why **do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples** which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: 'After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.' "Known to God from eternity are all His works. Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to **ABSTAIN FROM THINGS POLLUTED BY IDOLS, FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY, FROM THINGS STRANGLED, AND FROM BLOOD.** For **Moses** has had throughout many generations those who **preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.**" Acts 15:6-21 NKJV
12. "For **Moses** has had throughout many generations those who **preach** him in every city, being read in the synagogues **every Sabbath.**" Acts 15:21 NKJV
13. "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being. **Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake;** for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness." If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, **eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.** But if anyone says to you an example of one who is weak in the

faith], “This was offered to idols,” do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience’ sake; for “the earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness.” “Conscience,” I say, not your own, but that of the other [the one who is weak in the faith]. For why is my liberty judged by another man’s conscience? But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks? Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.” I Corinthians 10:23-33 NKJV

14. See comments on I Timothy 4:1-5 (pages 43-44) “For **every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused** if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”
15. See comments on Mark 7:1-23 (pages 45-49) “There is **nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him**; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.” “It does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, **thus purifying all foods?”**

B. One Judge, Jury, and Executioner

- (1) Who is the servant and who is the master?
 - (a) Who are you to judge another’s servant?
 1. “**Let not him who eats despise** him who does not eat, and **let not him who does not eat judge** him who eats; for **God has received him**. Who are you to **judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls**. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for **God is able to make him stand.**” Romans 14:3-4 NKJV
 2. “Owe no one anything except to **love one another**, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. **Love does no harm** to a neighbor; therefore love is **the fulfillment of the law.**” Romans 13:8, 10 NKJV
 3. “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference to one another;**” Romans 12:10 NKJV
 4. “**“You shall not hate your brother in your heart**. You shall **surely rebuke** your neighbor, and **not bear sin** because of him. You shall **not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge** against the children of your people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV
 5. “And above all things **have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.**” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, **minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**” I Peter 4:8-10 NKJV

6. **“If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life** for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.” I John 5:16 NKJV
7. **“Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,** let him know that **he who turns a sinner from the error of his way** will **save a soul** from death and **cover a multitude of sins.**” James 5:19-20 NKJV
8. **“Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge.** Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him. **Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing** in the world, and that there is no other God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many Lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. **However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol [the one who is weak in the faith],** until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and **their conscience, being weak, is defiled.** But food does not commend us to God; for neither **if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.** For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, ***will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?** And ****because of your knowledge shall the weak brother ***perish,** for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and **wound their weak conscience,** you sin against Christ. Therefore, **if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat,** lest I make my brother stumble.” I Corinthians 8:1-13 NKJV

C. Be Fully Convinced

(1) Confidence in What You Believe

(a) Know WHO You Are and WHAT You Believe

1. **“One person esteems one day** above another; **another esteems every day alike.** Let each be **fully convinced** in his own mind.” Romans 14:5 NKJV
2. **“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24 NKJV
3. **“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”** I Corinthians 10:31 NKJV

4. "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **'The feasts of the Lord**, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, **these are My feasts.**" Leviticus 23:1-2 NKJV
5. "So **Moses declared** to the children of Israel **the feasts of the Lord.**" Leviticus 23:44 NKJV
6. "So **let no one judge you** in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, **but the *substance **is of Christ.**" Colossians 2:16-17 NKJV

D. Days and Food

(1) To One Lord...

(a) We Celebrate and Eat

1. "He who **observes the day**, observes it to the Lord; and **he who does not observe the day**, to the Lord he does not observe it. **He who eats**, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and **he who does not eat**, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks." Romans 14:6 NKJV
2. "The **righteous eats to the satisfying** of his soul, But **the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.**" Proverbs 13:25 NKJV
3. "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, **contrary to the doctrine** which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such **do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly**, and by smooth words and flattering speech **deceive the hearts of the simple.**" Romans 16:17-18 NKJV
4. "For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires**, because they have **itching ears**, they will heap up for themselves **teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth**, and be turned aside to fables." II Timothy 4:3-4 NKJV
5. "For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive **a different spirit** which you have not received, or **a different gospel** which you have not accepted—**you may well put up with it!**" II Corinthians 11:4 NKJV
6. "Jesus answered and said to them, "**You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures** nor the power of God." Matthew 22:29 NKJV
7. ""Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.**" Matthew 5:17-18 NKJV
8. "(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but **the doers of the law will be justified;**" Romans 2:13 NKJV

9. "Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through **whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
10. "**Imitate me**, just as I also **imitate Christ**." I Corinthians 11:1 NKJV
11. "He who says he abides in Him **ought himself also to walk just as He walked**." I John 2:6 NKJV
12. "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding **to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth**. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is **received with thanksgiving**; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." I Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV
13. "**in everything give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." I Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV
14. "**Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God**; and the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV
15. "'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for **He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak**; and He will tell you things to come." John 16:12-13 NKJV
16. "And **whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men**, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24 NKJV
17. "Therefore, **whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God**." I Corinthians 10:31 NKJV

E. Life and Death

(1) For/To One Lord We Live and Die

(a) **You** no longer belong to **you**!

1. "For **none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself**. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, **whether we live or die, we are the Lord's**. For **to this end Christ died and rose and lived again**, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living." Romans 14:7-9 NKJV

2. "Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**" John 6:67-68 NKJV
3. "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?" II Peter 3:11-12 NKJV
4. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**" I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV
5. "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; **for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.** If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." I Corinthians 3:9-17 NKJV
6. "For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so **now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**" Philippians 1:19-21 NKJV
7. "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed **I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having** my own righteousness, which is from the law, **but that which is through faith in Christ**, the righteousness which is from God by faith;" Philippians 3:7-9 NKJV
8. "Or do you not know that as many of us as **were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into

death, that **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** For if we have been **united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,** knowing this, that **our old man was crucified** with Him, that the body of **sin might be done away with,** that we should no longer be slaves of sin." Romans 6:3-6 NKJV

9. "I have been **crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live** in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside **the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.**" Galatians 2:20-21 NKJV
10. "Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? **Was Paul crucified for you?** Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" I Corinthians 1:12-13 NKJV
11. "John answered and said, "**A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.** You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. **He must increase, but I must decrease.**" John 3:27-30 NKJV

F. One Judge One Justification

(1) All Equal at the foot of the cross

(a) Naked before God

1. "But **why do you judge** your brother? Or **why do you show contempt** for your brother? For **we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, **Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess** to God." Romans 14:10-11 NKJV
2. "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is **to search out a matter.**" Proverbs 25:2 NKJV
3. "He answered and said to them, "Because **it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,** but to them it has not been given." Matthew 13:11 NKJV
4. "Then **God saw their works, that they turned from their evil** way; and **God relented** from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it." Jonah 3:10 NKJV
5. "But **it displeased Jonah exceedingly,** and he became angry." Jonah 4:1 NKJV

6. "For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? **Do you not judge those who are inside?** But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "**put away from yourselves the evil person.**" I Corinthians 5:12-13 NKJV
7. "There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:1 NKJV
8. "Do you not know that **the saints will judge the world?** And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?" I Corinthians 6:2 NKJV
9. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being **ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**" II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV
10. "**Assemble yourselves and come;** Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save. **Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together.** Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And **there is no other God besides Me**, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. "**Look to Me, and be saved**, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. {23} I have sworn by Myself; **The word has gone out of My mouth** in righteousness, And **shall not return**, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath." He shall say, 'Surely **in the Lord I have righteousness** and strength. To Him men shall come, And **all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him.** In the Lord all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.' "" Isaiah 45:20-25 NKJV
11. "**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that **every tongue should confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:10-11 NKJV
12. "**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus**, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the **death of the cross**. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name," Philippians 2:5-9 NKJV
13. "Therefore **if there is any consolation** in Christ, if **any comfort of love**, if **any fellowship of the Spirit**, if **any affection and mercy**, fulfill my joy by being **like-minded**, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let **nothing be done through selfish**

ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself**. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but **also for the interests of others.**" Philippians 2:1-4 NKJV

G. One Accounting Method

(1) There is ONE God ...and it's NOT You!

(a) First you must be honest with yourself.

1. "So then **each of us shall give account** of himself to God." Romans 14:12 NKJV
2. "**Turn us back to You**, O Lord, and we will **be restored; Renew** our days as of old," Lamentations 5:21 NKJV
3. "For **there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed**, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light." Mark 4:22 NKJV
4. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And **there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**" Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV
5. "**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that **each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.** Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences." II Corinthians 5:10-11 NKJV
6. "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. **But let each one take heed how he builds on it.** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; **for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.** If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." I Corinthians 3:9-17 NKJV
7. "**All Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

8. **“Judge not, and you shall not be judged.** Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. **For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.**” And He spoke a parable to them: **“Can the blind lead the blind?** Will they not both fall into the ditch? A disciple is not above his teacher, but **everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.** And **why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye?** Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! **First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother’s eye.**” Luke 6:37-42 NKJV
9. “and being **ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**” II Corinthians 10:6 NKJV
10. “For I determined **not to know anything among you** except Jesus **Christ and Him crucified.**” I Corinthians 2:2 NKJV

H. One Reason to Fail

- (1) Godly Leadership or Degrading Lordship
 - (a) Cease and desist from condemning a brother simply because they lack maturity and knowledge.
 1. “Therefore **let us not judge one another anymore,** but rather **resolve** this, not to put a **stumbling block** or a **cause to fall** in our brother’s way.” Romans 14:13 NKJV
 2. “But **whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble,** it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.” Mark 9:42 NKJV

ONE LOVE

2. Love and Legalism

A. One Law

- (1) Really, nothing is unclean?
 - (a) Really, decide for yourself?
 1. “I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is **nothing unclean of itself;** but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.” Romans 14:14 NKJV
 2. **“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.** For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And

what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." Therefore **"Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."** II Corinthians 6:14-17 NKJV

3. From Isaiah: "The Lord has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; **And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.** Depart! Depart! Go out from there, **Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the Lord.**" Isaiah 52:10-11 NKJV
4. **"One ordinance shall be for you of the assembly and for the stranger** who dwells with you, **an ordinance forever** throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the Lord. **One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you.'** "" Numbers 15:15-16 NKJV
5. "Therefore remember that you, **once Gentiles in the flesh**—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— **that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise,** having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one,** and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, **so as to create in Himself one new man from the two,** thus making peace, and that He might **reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross,** thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**" Ephesians 2:11-18 NKJV
6. "Jesus answered them and said, **"My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.** If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, **whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory;** but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. **Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law?** Why do you seek to kill Me?"" John 7:16-19 NKJV
7. **""Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.** Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, **shall be called**

least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV

8. "forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from **foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.** For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;" I Timothy 4:3-4 NKJV
9. "**All things are lawful for me,** but not all things are helpful; **all things are lawful for me,** but not all things edify." I Corinthians 10:23 NKJV
10. "**All things are lawful for me,** but all things are not helpful. **All things are lawful for me,** but I will not be brought under the power of any." I Corinthians 6:12 NKJV

B. One Sign

(1) Serving Leadership or Shaming Lordship?

(a) Do whatever it takes to be Christlike

1. "**Yet** if your brother is **grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love.** Do not **destroy with your food** the one for whom Christ died." Romans 14:15 NKJV
2. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.**" Romans 12:1 NKJV

C. One Kingdom

(1) Godly Leadership or Guilt-inducing Lordship?

(a) Reminder: you are a minister of God for good!

1. "Therefore do not let **your good** be spoken of **as evil;** for **the kingdom of God** is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** For he who serves Christ in **these things** is acceptable to God and approved by men." Romans 14:16-18 NKJV
2. "Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.**" I Corinthians 8:1 NKJV
3. "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, **the kingdom of God is within you.**" Luke 17:21 NKJV
4. "For **the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.**" I Corinthians 4:20 NKJV
5. "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"**" Matthew 3:1-2 NKJV
6. "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**" Matthew 4:17 NKJV
7. "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.**" Matthew 6:9-10 NKJV

8. "And as you go, preach, saying, **'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'**" Matthew 10:7 NKJV
9. "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, **speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**" Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV
10. "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, **To those who have obtained** like precious **faith** with us **by the righteousness** of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:" II Peter 1:1 NKJV
11. "For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God,**" Ephesians 2:8 NKJV
12. "Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have **access by faith** into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
13. "But **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**" Hebrews 11:6 NKJV
14. "Little children, let no one deceive you. **He who practices righteousness is righteous**, just as He is righteous." I John 3:7 NKJV
15. "If you know that **He is righteous**, you know that **everyone who practices righteousness** is born of Him." I John 2:29 NKJV
16. "In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: **Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor is he who does not love his brother." I John 3:10 NKJV
17. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.**" Romans 12:1 NKJV

18. "For **he is God's minister to you for good**. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; **for he is God's minister**, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil." Romans 13:4 NKJV

D. One Direction

(1) Peace and Joy

- (a) The true testimony of the kingdom is not just righteousness, but also peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
1. "Therefore let us **pursue the things which make for peace and the things by** which one may **edify** another." Romans 14:19 NKJV
 2. "**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives** do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27 NKJV
 3. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**" Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV
 4. "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, **fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind**. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself**. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for **the interests of others.**" Philippians 2:1-4 NKJV
 5. "I have **no greater joy** than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 1:4 NKJV

E. One Choice

(1) Gentiles Lord Over; Servant Leaders Sacrifice

(a) Leadership or Lordship

1. "**Do not destroy the work of God** for the sake of food. **All things indeed are pure**, but it is **evil** for the man **who eats with offense**. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine **nor do anything by which your brother stumbles** or is **offended** or is **made weak.**" Romans 14:20-21 NKJV
2. "**Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.** {10}..."You shall love your neighbor as yourself." {11} **Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**" Romans 13:8-10 NKJV
3. "Stand fast therefore in **the liberty by which Christ has made us free**, and **do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**" Galatians 5:1 NKJV
4. "Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of

good report, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy**—meditate on these things.” Philippians 4:8 NKJV

F. **One Faith**

(1) Be Fully Convinced!

(a) Of course, there is nothing wrong with your strong faith!

1. “**Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself** in what he approves. But **he who doubts is condemned** if he eats, because **he does not eat from faith**; for **whatever is not from faith is sin.**” Romans 14:22-23 NKJV
2. “But **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6 NKJV
3. “But now **in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ**. For He Himself is our peace, who **has made both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as **to create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, and **that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross**, thereby putting to death the enmity.” Ephesians 2:13-16 NKJV
4. “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling** with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, **bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. There is **one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father** of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:1-6 NKJV

BONUS: SERVING LEADER OR SELFISH LORD

3. **WHO You Are and WHAT You Believe**

A. **Scripture References for Sermon Introduction**

(1) Serving Leadership vs. Gentile Leadership

(a) “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!”

1. “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your

calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**"Ephesians 4:1-6 NKJV

2. "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'" Acts 17:28 NKJV
3. "So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, **for there is one God**, and there is no other but He." Mark 12:32 NKJV
4. "'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, **the Lord is one!**" Deuteronomy 6:4 NKJV
5. "Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" Jesus answered him, "**The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.** And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.'" Mark 12:28-31 NKJV
6. "So the scribe said to Him, "**Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He.** And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." Now **when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."** But **after that no one dared question Him.**" Mark 12:32-34 NKJV
7. "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**" Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ." Matthew 16:13-20 NKJV
8. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, **we are**

ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:17-21 NKJV

(b) Go preach; go baptize; go teach; go minister; go serve; go provide; go be an example.

1. **Satan did that!** ""How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit." Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV
2. **Pharaoh did that!** "And Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go."" Exodus 5:2 NKJV
3. **Herod did that!** "So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died." Acts 12:21-23 NKJV

(c) Be a loving example.

1. "There is **therefore now no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:1 NKJV

(d) Nevertheless, the identity politics here is a double-edged sword.

1. "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." James 3:1 NKJV
2. **Context Tongue:** "For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! **And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same

opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh." James 3:2-12 NKJV

(e) Leaders must be an example to the flock in word and deed.

1. "The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: **Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being Lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;** and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away." I Peter 5:1-4 NKJV

(f) Instead, be willing and eager to be a Christlike example to the flock.

1. "But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but **whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**" Matthew 20:25-28 NKJV

(g) That's precisely what Y'shua did; He came to serve, not to be served.

1. "So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "**Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.** Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." John 13:12-17 NKJV

(h) But, if you instead choose to otherwise serve yourself...

1. **"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!"** says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel **against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,"** says the Lord." Jeremiah 23:1-2 NKJV

(i) If you cause even one of My little children to stumble by leading them into sin...

1. "But **whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble,** it would be **better for him** if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea." Mark 9:42 NKJV
2. **Context Children (before v. 42):** "Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, **"Whoever receives**

one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.” Mark 9:36-37 NKJV

3. **Context Sin (after v. 42): “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.** It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ And **if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off.** It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— where ‘Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.’ And **if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out.** It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.”Mark 9:43-48 NKJV
- (j) Yes, shepherds have a greater responsibility than sheep and will be judged more harshly.
 1. “So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, **“Follow Me.”**” John 21:15-19 NKJV