

The Structure of the Body of Messiah

What holds the body together? It's the submission of interrelated parts. Structure has to do with the interrelationship of the members that make up the body (1 Cor 12:12). The Body of Messiah is just like the human body. But there is an authority problem on the earth.

Heb 13:17 shows us a little bit about the authority structure of interrelated parts in communion with each other. If you have true authority from our Father, you don't have to exert control because everyone is in fellowship with the Head anyway. We're all interrelated parts, and we love one another, and we're willing to do His will. We do have to exert a little authority over our children sometimes. But those who are in fellowship with our Master, that's another matter.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you. (Ps 32:8-9)

That's talking about our Father in heaven, but also His delegated authority even in the world, but especially in the Body — true and real authority.

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love, that He may deliver their soul from death, and keep them alive in famine. (Ps 33:18-19)

So He'll guide us with His eye. That's all He has to do. That's authority, that He would guide us with His eye upon us. That's all it takes. A well-trained child, all his abba has to do is look at him with a certain eye, and he knows to do something. You can guide him with your eye.

Honoring authority gives structure to our lives. If we honor authority, we can be led by the eye. That's our Father's intention, even after the Fall. He didn't desert fallen man. Even after the Fall, His plan was still to work through humanity. There are going to be kings in the nations forever and ever, and there will be those who rule over kings.

We'll be the corporate Messiah, the King of kings. There will be kings in the world, and we'll be ruling over them.

Our Father set up His authority in the family and in the Body of Messiah, which supersedes all other authority. He has the greater wisdom to direct the lives of everyone in the Body. We don't direct the lives of people in the world. That's the world's job. The minute we'd start doing that, we'd lose our fellowship with our Father. That's what Martin Luther tried to do, and that's what Christians today are trying to do.

Heb 13:17 — A shepherd watches over the sheep. True authority does not have to lord it over people (1 Pet 5:1-5). But the youth have to do something, too. They have to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, that in due time they will be raised up, to be what our Father wants them to be according to their gifts and fore-ordained works.

In Heb 13:17 it says, "Obey those who rule..." A leader certainly will rule, and a ruler leads. Obey those who rule over you and be submissive, for they watch over your souls. If your soul is going astray, you're going to go astray. You're going to do what is right in your own eyes, because you don't honor authority. But those who have authority must give an account, and "let them do it with joy and not with grief for that would be unprofitable to you."

¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel. ¹¹ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. ¹² And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. ¹³ They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. ¹⁴ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. ¹⁵ Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress. (Judges 2:10-15)

So therefore, we have to *know* something, if we're going to continue on ourselves, and not go off course in the second generation — "... there arose another generation..."

A lack of authority, a lack of godly leadership, will cause our Father's people to become worldly. That's why so many children are becoming worldly somehow. They become worldly because of the lack of godly leadership, or godly authority to rule our children. So that generation comes along, and they become worldly and go astray. That's what has always happened. It's just like gravity. It will happen if there is no godly leadership, and they will incur God's judgment. We have to know that.

Jdg 17:6 — "In those days, there was no king [authority] in the land." There was no true authority. There was no headship. There was no authority in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. And then Jdg 18:1 says again, "In those days, there was no king in Israel." It talks about what they were doing. And then again in Jdg 19:1, "It came to pass in those days, there was no king in Israel." And then again in Jdg 21:25 it says, "In those days, there was no king in Israel..." It's trying to make a point here. There was no authority. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Heb 13:17 — "Obey those who rule over you and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls." This Bible has a footnote there that says:

"The obedience commanded denotes assenting to someone else's directions, and submission means yielding one's contrary opinions in favor of another. The writer is not talking about decisions pertaining to changing jobs, making purchases, buying a house, taking a trip, or a vacation, or the like..."

Certainly, that's why footnotes are very, very deceptive. They're saying it's only talking about stand up, sit down, sit in this pew, etc. It's not talking about the important decisions of life. There's no Body, there's no structure.

What is structure? Interrelationships with each other in obedience to the authority that our Father has given. God's authority works through humanity — over our children, over husbands and wives, over brothers and sisters. I'm thankful we have a King, and we don't do what's right in our own eyes. You have a king, don't you? Who is your king?

Kefarah – My abba.

And who is your queen?

Kefarah – My imma.

That’s right. They sit on the throne, don’t they?

Kefarah – Yes.

That’s right. And you know it. You obey them because you love them. Right?

Kefarah – Yes.

That’s all I really wanted to say.

Gader Peretz – When you were reading the verses from Judges about people doing what was right in their own eyes, Pr 26:12 came to mind, “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

Yes, that’s right. There’s more hope for a fool.

Shemuel — How I treat and react to the authority over me is how I estimate the whole Body of Messiah. I’m thankful to be here. I don’t want to be self-righteous. I have a lot to learn.

Ashar — It’s amazing what Yônêq said about children being led by the eye of their parents. That’s great. But we have to come to the point where we’re led by the eye of our Father in heaven, because without that, when we’re around spiritual people, we’ll be spiritual, but then when we’re in a hard situation, we just keep falling because we don’t believe in our Father enough to know that He’s watching. We need to be led by His Spirit, the still small voice. I want that to really go into me. I want to be led by our Father and, obviously, by my brothers, too, that I would really pay attention to things inside of me, and learn to rely on that, so that when I’m in a hard situation I’ll be accountable to our Father; I’ll have that standard inside of me, which is the same standard that’s in my brothers.

I’m so thankful we live in an environment where we know we’ve passed out of death and into life because we love and obey our brothers. They can say whatever they want. But we’re part of the Body, and we have confidence that in being obedient to our brothers we’re being obedient to our Father. Our Father’s authority speaks to those who are under that authority. That’s the authority we obey, our Father’s authority.

Havah bat Zerubbabel — We have to give up our own sovereignty to be under His authority. Our Master said, “The Father loves Me because I

lay down My life of My own free will, knowing that I have the power to take it again.” That’s the only way we have confidence, if we know that we serve Him, if we know that we are under His authority and can be led by His eye. It’s really foolish to think that our Father is not watching us. He’s always watching us. His eye is always upon us, whether we feel it or not. I want to have the fear of our Father. It really makes us more secure, not more afraid.

A messenger? [*Sho’er arrived from the house in town...*]

Sho’er — I am a messenger coming from a place where someone doesn’t want to have his own sovereignty anymore. He wants to totally surrender. We want to take Darryl down and bury him and raise him up again. It’s just amazing. The man has faith that Yahshua can save him, and he doesn’t want to live for anyone but our Master. He has revelation that Yahshua lives right here in Asheville in His people. He doesn’t want to go anywhere. He wants to serve our Master by serving our Master’s people. He’s looking for a place to die.

He wants to be part of the structure, the Body of Messiah in Asheville.

Sho’er — Yes, he came down on his knees. He said, with tears, “I never even imagined that I could be saved. I never even thought of the possibility that someone like ME could actually be saved. I believe Yahshua can save ME — ME, Darryl!”

Wonderful!

(*We all jumped on the Hippie bus and went to the river...*)