



Sermon Notes from 28 October

Settling Down in Love (*Ephesians 4:30-5:2*)

by Johanan Justin

Gal 6:10 **Serving the church is meant to be glorious, because the church is glorious.** Knowing and seeing that the church *is* glorious makes serving glorious. Paul's letter to the saints at Ephesus (Eph 1:1b) was meant to be read before the entire church. But those who refused to be part of the church, never got to hear God's message! Settle down in church!

How is the church glorious?

1) The church is the body of Christ

Eph 1:1, 1:3 Paul deliberately uses the phrase 'in Christ'. It is a cooperate reality that we are in the body of Christ as His church (Eph 1:22a-23a).

2) The church is described gloriously

Eph 1:23 The church is not only the body, but also the fullness of Christ who fills everything. It is also described as a holy temple - a dwelling place for God (Eph 2:21-22) in His fullness.

3) The church is God-glorifying

Eph 3:10 The church, designed to glorify God, displays God's manifold wisdom.

4) The church is inextricably with Christ

Eph 4:15-16 The body builds itself up only because it is inseparable from the head. The church abides in Christ that she becomes His very body (John 15:5).

Serving the church is meant to be glorious because the church is glorious, because Christ is glorious!

7 Aspects of our service in the Church:

1) Motivation on Pleasing God (v4:30a) Joyful obedience in service without grumbling, complaining or seeking the approval of men.

2) Assurance set on Peace (Eph 4:30b)

Eph 3:13 - The word 'sealed' used in the passage meant that we can never be removed from Jesus Christ. We no longer need to work to *gain* peace.

3) Hope set on Eternity (Eph 4:30)

Serving God means that you understand everything as a work in progress - and also every labour will be finally displayed in perfection when Jesus returns.

4) Spirits set on Liberty (Eph 4:31)

With our spirits set on liberty, we can bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2) and joys (Rom 12:15).

5) Standard set on Christ (Eph 4:32)

The standard is Jesus Christ - not ourselves. We are motivated by the standard of Christ, who came to serve, and not to be served.

6) Identity set on Sonship (Eph 5:1)

We are beloved children of God. We no longer serve while clinging on to our past identities, but on sonship. All our boasting and comparison in service comes to an end when we consider God and His mighty works.

7) Threshold set on The Cross (Eph 5:2)

The threshold in service is not based on our own limits, but on Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Doing good works and serving does not save us (Eph 2:8-9); we were saved in order to do good works (Eph 2:10). May our service be ever so glorious, reflecting the glorious nature of the church and Christ (Eph 4:4-6)!