"WE HAVE PIPED UNTO YOU,AND YE HAVE NOT DANCED",Mat.11:17.

In the above statement we have what the Lord likened that generation to; a bunch of spoiled children which always wanted to have their own way in every activity. This is evidenced by verses 18,19;"For John came neither eating nor drinking,and they say,he hath a devil. The son of man came eating and drinking,and they say, behold a man gluttonous,and a wine bibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children".
Here it can be plainly seen they were not satisfied with any one who did not follow their lead,when they piped you must dance. But as the Lord said,"Wisdom is justified of her children." And here is no exception,this bit of self exalting wisdom was justified of her children. And so it is with us when we want to have our own way in every activity,and fail to obey God when he said,"Look not every man on his own things,but every man also on the things of others",Phil.2:4.

Although we may think ourselves "the chief piper",and every one should "dance" when we "pipe";let us remember the Lord thought differently as is evidenced by Phil.2:4.

As regarding these "liberties", Paul further showed,'he would not be brought under the power of any' (King James version); 'would not be enslaved by any',(R.S.V),1 Cor. 6:12. This is a far cry from the idea,every time we"pipe",all others must"dance",to our music in exercising our "liberties".

Again,Paul says in 1 Cor.8:9;"But take heed lest by any means this liberty of your's become a stumbling block to them that are weak". Yes,we might think ourselves"the champion piper",yet, our"piping" can be a stumbling block.

Again,1 Cor.8:12,Paul says,"But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience,ye sin against Christ". Again we see,in exercising our "liberty","piping" and expecting others to "dance",when it wounds their conscience,we "sin against Christ".

Again,Rom.14:21,Paul says,"It is good neither to eat flesh,nor to drink wine,nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth,or is offended,or is made weak".Again,we see we disoby God's holy word when we exercise our "liberty" when it causes one to stumble,be offended or made weak.Hence,we cannot "pipe" and always expect others to "dance",when it causes one to stumble,be offended or made weak.

Speaking on the same subject and using the "meat question" as his example,Paul says,"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith;for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" Rom.14:23.Hence,we see when we over persuade some one to do a thing where we are exercising a "liberty", that he "doubts"he is "damned" if he does it;it not being of faith;"for whatsoever is not of faith is sin". And we also sin,for we have caused a brother to stumble be offended or made weak,1 Cor.8:12. Therefore, we see we sin when we "pipe and expect others to dance" contrary to their conscience.

Paul says;"Give none offence,neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles,nor to the church of God",1 Cor.10:32. And,so,we see again,when we "pipe" and expect others to "dance" contrary to their conscience, whether it be Jew,Gentile, or the church of God; we have disobeyed that solemn command;"Give none offence to the Jew, nor to the Gentile nor to the church of God",1 Cor.10:32.

Let us never forget in exercising our liberties,the other fellows conscience comes first; lest we be found tp "pipe" and expect others to "dance" and it thereby become sin unto us. Instead of "judging" our brother,we must take heed,or judge,that no man put a stumbling block or occasion to fall in his brother's way, Rom.14:13.

But in exercising christian "liberties" is not the only place this phariseeic idea,"when I pipe you dance", gets a hold on us. In Is. 65:5;we have this,"Which say,stand by thyself, come not near me;for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all day". Notice,if you please,this was spoken of a people which esteemed themselves righteous and others too low for them to associate with. This is exactly spoken by the Saviour concerning a pharisee in Luke 18:9-14. In the nineth verse we have this,"And he spake a parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others";--.Notice,if you please he had a rather high opinion of himself and a very low opinion of others. Verse 10 shows one of these men was a pharisee the other a publican. Verses 11,12 bears out his high esteem of himself and low esteem of his fellow man. Verse 13 shows the humbleness of the publican as he prayed.Verse 14,shows the publican was rather justified than the pharisee; and Paul said they were"the straitest sect" of the Jews religion,Acts26:5.The pharisee was so perfect in his own estimation that all he had to do was to "pipe" and the publican "dance". Yes, he knew it all;he did it all. Brother,do you know of any people who "know it all and does it all" today? Just absolutely knows they have all the TRUTH and wont investigate to see if they could posibly be wrong? All they have to do is to "pipe" and the rest of the people in the world "Dance"? in the last part of verse 14,## Luke eighteenth chapter, "---for every one that exhalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exhalted". Thats too plain to comment;but brethren,lets stop and take stock,and see where we stand.

Yes,too smart to learn any more;all that is necessary is for me to "pipe" and you"dance"; that is FOLLOWMY LEAD.No, I am not condemning any one for believing he is right;but I am condemning that phariseeic attitude; all there is to do is for me to "pipe" and the rest of humanity "dance".

In Rev.3:14-20, we see a church luke warm,verses 14-16. In verse 17,get their estimation of themselves:"Because thou sayest,I am rich,and increased with goods, and have need of nothing----".In their own estimation all they had to do was to "pipe" and the rest of the world "dance"; but the Lord had a different idea.

Get the rest of verse 17,18,"---and knowest not that thou art wrecked,and miserable, and poor, and blind,and necked;(18) I council thee to buy of me gold tried in fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy neckedness do not appear; and annoint thy eyes with eyesalve , that thou mayest see". Quite a difference in their estimation of themselves and the estimation God placed on them.Yet, they had the idea they had all they needed,"lacked nothing".No sir,they had it all. All that was to do was for them to "pipe" and others"dance"! Note,from the 19,20 verses they were so far apostatized that the Lord was outside knocking for admittance.

No,we may believe as the church in Rev.3:14-20,that we are rich and lack nothing; and when we get that way it is time we were taking stock as the Lord commanded the church of the Laodiceans to do in verses 14-20.

Stop and think,brethren,we do a thing we call"Withdrawing fellowship", each faction crawl into its hole and seals itself off from the orhers by making their arguements stand up by shutting the other fellows mouth. Yes.we are going to do the "piping" here and the other fellow can "dance".

If we have the truth,why should we fear to let any man put up his arguements? Why be so self centered and self sure as the Laodiceans were in Rev.3:14-20? May the day speed to us,when all men will be sincere enough to be ready to accept the truth from any source.

When one is born of water and the Spirit, Jno/3:5; 1 Pet.1:22,23; he is a babe spiritually just as a new born babe is when it is born into any of our families. And just as surely as the babe in the flesh must have food and care so must the new born babes in Christ have their food and care from those of mature age.

1 Pet.2:2, says, "as new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby".

Yes, it must be the sincere(unmixed) milk of the word, and it will produce the propper growth. 2 Pet.3:18; "But grow in grace, and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ------". Notice the growth is in Grace and "Knowledge of Jesus Christ". This is a growth that we may put in a life time and never be perfectly grown.

Yes, those Spiritual babes are just as tender, and must have the same love and tender care as the baby born in your family. They cannot reach that height by sudden flight; but must grow from year to year.

Notice the christian graces we must add to our faith after we are born into the family of God; 2 Pet.1:5-11; We must add to our faith, virtureKnowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherily kindness, and charity. This is a job we can work at a life time; and when we are called home we will still be growing in these graces.

Realizing this, that we all have our human frailties, and different abilities in learning, we can see the wisdom in the command of the Lord in Eph.4:1-5. Notice verse 2, "With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forebearing one another in love". Notice this attitude we must have one towards another; We must be lowly; we must be meek, and with long suffering, we must forbear one another in love.

Lowliness and meekness, has nothing to do with arrogance and self exalting above another. "Longsuffering", has nothing to do with a quick impulsive action taken without exercising patience. "Forebearing one another in love" has no part with him who has no self control, patience, and does not show even close friendship, much less love.

Often because we have had a better chance to learn, and have had many years study and experiance behind us, we imagine all we have to do is to "PIPE" it off and he can "DANCE" it off at once. Not realizing we have been perhaps forty to sixty years in learning what we expect him to get in a few days.

Suppose Jesus had been no more lowly, no more meek, with no more longsuffering forebearing us in love, than we are with each other; where would all of us land?? Let us never forget he set us an example. Luke 9:23; 1 Cor.11:1; Phil.4:9. Rom. 15:5, "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus". Because we are not being likeminded one towards another according to Christ Jesus, is the reason we are not fulfilling verse 6, "That ye may with one mind and one mouth gloryfy God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ".

If each of us were as lowly, meek, with longsuffering forbearing one another in love, as Jesus is with each of us we would, "--with one mind and one mouth glorify God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"(Rom.15:6).

Will we obey verse 7, "Wherefore recieve ye one another, as Christ also recieved us to the glory of God." When Christ recieved me to the glory of God, I was so ignorant of his will, and my duty it was pitiful; and I am persuaded it was the same with you.

Then why should any of us assume the attitude, that we will "PIPE" and all others must "DANCE"??

Sure, We must continue to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints, Jude 3; but lets not forget those other requisites, "Lowliness, meekness with longsuffering forbearing one another in love", Eph. 4:2. We MUST contend for these and practice them just the same as any other part of God's word.

But one of the sadest things is when we add something to one of God's commands, as a liberty, and then pass it off on the brotherhood as the law of God.

1 Cor. 16:14, "Let all your things be done with charity". Hence we see every thing we do MUST be done in LOVE. "----He that loveth not his brother a abideth in death". This is clear cut and concise with no chance to misunderstand. If we do not love our brother we abide in death, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our life for the brethren" 1 Jno. 3:16. This is also beyond being misunderstood; that "We ought to lay down our life for the brethren", If this type of love really existed in the brotherhood, there would be no divisions; and we all know division is sin. Neither would the idea exist that any of us is the chief "PIPER" and all that must be done is for "ME" to "PIPE" and all others "DANCE". "-----For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God who he hath not seen". 1 Jno. 4:20.

If we love one another we will correct each others mistakes but it will be with "Lowliness, meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in "LOVE, Eph. 4:2.

We must look dilligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up and thereby many be defiled; Heb. 12:15.

Let such LOVE as stated in the above scriptures exist in the church and there will be no sinful divisions among us. May God help us to develope it.

This is not a new paper being started, but only the effort of an idndividual trying to do his part in attaining to, and manitaining that unity for which our Lord prayed so earnestly.

Brethren, many of us have passed our alloted time, others oare in middle age, while still others are in the bloom of youth; let us all do our best to maintain unity among us. When we look at the condition of the world; seeing armies beginning to move, and a general restleness of the people; and then turn and read; Is. 2:10-21; Is. 13:6-13; Is. 24:17-21; Is. 34:1-4 Jer. 25:31-33; Luke 21:25-31; Rev. 6:12-17; we know our work is almost over.

Even though we do disagree on some points, let us one and all resolve to fight as we never fought before to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace among us.

May God bless and keep us all unto that great inheritance prepared for his children that love him and his own, is my prayer.
As ever, your's in Christ.

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