

ROMANS 46 – BIBLICAL LOVES REVITALIZED

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ROMANS 12:9-10

PROLOGUE: THREE FACETS OF THE HAGIAZO PROCESS

- JUST AS THERE ARE THREE BASIC METHODOLOGIES TO THIS PROCESS, THE NEW TESTAMENT GIVES THREE FACETS OR VIEWS OF THIS PROCESS
 - GRAIN OFFERING HAGIAZO FACET – DEVELOPS STEADFASTNESS (ΥΠΟΜΟΝΗ HYPOMONE) (2K 1:2-6)
 - WINE OFFERING HAGIAZO FACET – DEVELOPS HOPE VIA THE SPIRIT (ΕΛΠΙΣ ELPIS) (2K 5:2-8)
 - RIGHT MIND HAGIAZO FACET – MATURATION IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST (2P 1:5-7)
- THESE THREE FACETS HAVE ONE COMMON QUALITY THAT UNIFIES THE PROCESS: HYPOMONE
 - MILITARY TERM MEANING TO STAY BEHIND OR STAND ONE'S GROUND WHERE ORDERED (2P 6:15-19)
 - LYNCH PIN OF GODLY CHARACTER IS STEADFASTNESS OR PRESERVERANCE

PROLOGUE: NOW ONE CAN UNDERSTAND THE BODY

- WITHOUT INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HAGIAZO PROCESS, SANCTIFICATION, BECOMES CONFUSED AS THOUGH SOME FIERY TRIAL HAD COME UPON YOU (2P 6:12-18)
 - ONE WILL BE FIT FOR ONE'S PLACE AND FUNCTION IN THE BODY THOUGH WE WILL NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTAND OUR ROLE IN THE BODY UNTIL WE SEE CHRIST WITHOUT OUR BODY (2K 13:12)
 - IF ONE SEEKS TO BE MORE THAN WHAT HE, OR SHE, WERE DESIGNED THEN THAT PERSON IS AS A CANCER ENDANGERING THE ENTIRE BODY (2K 13:4-7)
 - THE CHARISMA (POORLY TRANSLATED AS GIFTS) OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS THROUGH THE BELIEVER AT ONE'S MATURITY LEVEL AND ACCORDING TO THE NEED AT HAND FOR ALL CONCERNED
 - THIS IS THE PRESENTING ONE'S SELF AS A LIVING GRAIN OFFERING TO BE USED OF THE SPIRIT

PROLOGUE: CONFUSION OF GIFTS

- CONFUSION HAS GROWN OVER THE CENTURIES CONCERNING THE CHARISMA OF THE SPIRIT
 - CHARISMA (ΧΑΡΙΣΜΑ CHARISMA) IS NOT A DEFINED GIFT THAT IS YOURS TO KEEP AND USE EVEN WHEN YOU SIN; HOWEVER, SALVATION IS A GIFT (ΔΩΡΑ ΔΩΡΕΑ) FROM GOD (RO 5:17)
 - CHARISMA IS THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH YOUR WEAKNESSES TO MEET THE NEED OF THE MOMENT AS YOU WALK IN THE SPIRIT (1CO 1:26-31, 2CO 1:24-10)
 - EACH MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH US IS ACCORDING TO GRACE, NOT SELF
 - IT IS THROUGH OUR STRENGTHS THAT WE FALL, MAKING US THE LARGEST SOURCE OF THE THYPSIS AND PERRASMOI IN OUR LIVES
 - THUS, QUENCHING OR GRIEVING THE SPIRIT MAKES ONE UNFRUITFUL, BLIND (EP 4:30, 1TH 5:19)

CONTINUING THE METAPHOR OF THE BODY

- THE LATTER VERSES OF CHAPTER TWELVE APPEAR TO BE AFTER-THOUGHTS CRAMMED TOGETHER BEFORE GOING TO THE NEXT MAJOR TOPIC; HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT TRUE
 - PAUL CONTINUES TO BUILD UPON THE METAPHOR OF THE BODY; THUS, THESE VERSES MUST BE INTERPRETED WITHIN THAT CONTEXT
 - INDIVIDUAL CELLS ARE CONTAINED WITHIN A SURROUNDING COLLAGEN STRUCTURE THAT MAINTAINS THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH ASSOCIATED CELLS FORMING UNIQUE BODILY SYSTEMS
 - GOD DESIGNED DIFFERING SYSTEMS TO FUNCTION WITH ALL OTHER SYSTEMS IN NEGATIVE FEEDBACK LOOPS TO MAINTAIN HARMONY WITHIN THE BODY; THESE ARE CONTROLLED LOCALLY AND FROM THE HEAD OR BRAIN WHICH INTERFACES WITH THE SOUL. SAME WITH CHRIST'S BODY

WHAT IS LOVE?

- METAPHOR: WHAT IS HEAT? TO SAY THAT IT IS ENERGY DOES NOT DEFINE HEAT; ONE CAN ONLY KNOW HEAT BASED ON ITS REPEATABLE AND MEASURABLE EFFECTS
 - LOVE CANNOT NOT BE DEFINED EXCEPT BY ITS EFFECTS ALSO; IT IS RADIATED BY GOD TO THE SAVED WHO FURTHER RADIATE LOVE INTO THE WORLD; LIGHT OF THE WORLD (MT 5:14-16, 100 A8, 14-19)
 - PAUL'S QUINTESSENTIAL DEFINITION OF LOVE DOES NOT DEFINE LOVE BUT DESCRIBES WHAT LOVE PRODUCES IN THE MATURING BELIEVER THAT OTHERS OBSERVE (1CO 13:4-8, 13, 1A 3:14-18)
 - ONE CANNOT FORCE ONE'S SELF TO DISPLAY GOD'S LOVE, THIS IS WORKS AND NOT CHARISMA OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT – WORTHLESS (RO 4:4, 5:4)
 - WHAT IS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING LOVE, THOUGH IT IS IMPLIED WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE WHOLE BODY OF SCRIPTURE, IS EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE (RO 4:2)

ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING LOVE

- BIBLE'S FIRST EXPRESSION OF LOVE COMES FROM MAN WHEN GOD GAVE HIM WOMAN (GE 2:23-24)
 - RECOGNIZES THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF MAN AND WOMAN IN FORMING A UNIQUE UNITY THAT TAKES ON ITS OWN IDENTITY; THUS, DIVORCE IS THE DEATH OF THAT IDENTITY
 - MODERN EQUALITY DENIES THIS INHERENT TRUTH, PROMOTING REBELLION AND DISUNITY (PS 5:4-5, 12)
 - SINCE MARRIAGE IS A METAPHOR DEFINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE SAVED, HE NEVER LEAVES NOR FORSAKES THOSE HE DIED TO SAVE; HENCE, NO DIVORCE (EP 5:22-4-6)
 - SIN DESTROYED THIS UNITY PITTING WOMAN AGAINST MAN AFTER MAN HAD TURNED ON WOMAN, RENEGED ON HIS RESPONSIBILITY AND LEFT HER VULNERABLE (JOB 3:12, 18)
 - PAUL USES THE MARRIAGE METAPHOR TO GIVE US A BETTER UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LOVE

MARRIAGE – METAPHOR OF CHRIST'S AGAPE (EP 5:22-6:4)

- GOD, VIA PAUL, CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN WAS ALWAYS THE METAPHOR ILLUSTRATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND ISRAEL AND CHRIST AND HIS BODY (CHURCH IN FIRST FRUITS DISPENSATION)
 - WIVES SUBMIT TO THEIR HUSBANDS, AS TO CHRIST, BECAUSE THEIR HUSBANDS LOVED THEM FIRST, BY DOING THIS THEY ARE SUBMITTING TO CHRIST IN FAITH THAT GOOD WILL COME (RO 8:28, 1JO 4:19-21, 1PE 3:1-6)
 - HUSBANDS, METAPHOR FOR CHRIST, ARE TO LOVE THEIR WIVES AS CHRIST LOVES HIS BODY AND DIED FOR EACH BELIEVER; I.E., HUSBANDS ARE TO LOVE THEIR WIVES AS THEY LOVE THEIR BODIES FOR NO ONE HATES HIS OWN BODY; NOR ARE THEY TO RULE IN ANGER AS TYRANTS
 - CHILDREN ARE TO RESPECT AND OBEY AS ARE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS MATURING IN CHRIST

UNDERLYING QUALITY OF AGAPE: SUBMISSION

- EACH PERSON IS TO SUBMIT TO CHRIST, AND TO THOSE CHRIST HAS PLACED OVER ONE, WHILE EXERCISING LEADERSHIP BASED ON ONE'S POSITION, WATCHING OVER THOSE UNDER ONE'S AUTHORITY IN GENTLENESS (EP 4:11-16, PH 3:21-4, COL 3:12-14)
 - CHRIST SUBMITTED TO THE FATHER GIVING US AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW (PH 2:6-8, HE 5:13-16)
 - CHRIST REFLECTS GOD'S LOVE BOTH BACK TO THE FATHER AND OUTWARD TO US (JO 15:9, 17, RO 8:3)
 - IN THE END ALL THAT THE FATHER HAS GIVEN THE SON HE WILL GIVE BACK TO THE FATHER (1CO 15:28-28, PH 3:9-11)
 - JUST AS EACH CELL AND SYSTEM FUNCTIONS IN HARMONIOUS UNITY; EACH MATURING BELIEVER FULFILLS THEIR FUNCTION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST
 - LOVE'S EFFECTS: HUMBLY GIVING BACK TO CHRIST FOR RECEIVING UNDESERVED ETERNAL LIFE

AGAPE {ΑΓΑΠΗ} LOVE

- THEREFORE AGAPE LOVE IS NOT SIMPLY GOD'S LOVE, IT IS THE LOVE FROM THE FATHER, VIA THE SON, EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT IN EACH BELIEVER AS ONE SUBMITS TO CHRIST AND ONE'S PLACE IN THE BODY NOW AND FOR ETERNITY
 - THUS, PAUL SAYS THAT THIS AGAPE MUST BE GENUINE, OTHERWISE IT BECOMES WORKS, THE ROUTE OF ALL FALSE TEACHERS (ERROR OF BALAAM) (ISA 15:25, AOB 5:13)
 - BELIEVERS EMULATING LOVE, THINKING THEY ARE PLEASING GOD, FOOL THEMSELVES (GA 6:7-8)
 - BELIEVERS EXPRESS AGAPE BASED ON THEIR LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING; AS ONE MATURES ONE'S UNDERSTANDING INCREASES AND EXPRESSIONS OF AGAPE ARE MORE CLEARLY SEEN BY ALL
 - EPHESUS CHURCH LOST ITS FIRST LOVE, CEASED SUBMISSIVENESS, BECAME MORE SELF-ORIENTED (E 2:1-7)

GENUINE LOVE'S EFFECTS – REJECTING ALL EVIL

- IF LOVE CANNOT BE SPECIFICALLY DEFINED, EXCEPT BY ITS EFFECTS, HOW DOES ONE KNOW ONE IS GROWING IN A GAPE LOVER WHAT EFFECTS DOES ONE EXPECT IN ONE'S LIFE
 - EVIL IS REJECTED (ΑΠΟΣΤΥΓΕΩ APOSTYGEΩ) – THIS WORD IS USED NOWHERE ELSE IN THE BIBLE
 - LITERALLY MEANS TO REJECT ANY INFLUENCE THAT IS FOREIGN TO THE BODY OF CHRIST (COL 3:8-10)
 - IMMUNITY SYSTEM DESIGNED TO DETECT ALL PROTEINS FOREIGN TO THE BODY, ISOLATE THEM AND DESTROY THEM, EVEN IF IT MEANS THE SACRIFICING OF THE MACROPHAGES THEMSELVES
 - MATURING BELIEVERS MUST LEARN TO REJECT FOREIGN TEACHINGS AND TEACHERS WHO CREEP INTO CHURCHES TO DESTROY THE LOCAL BODIES AND THE TRUE GOSPEL (2T 3:1-7, 2PE 2)
 - YET, IF WE PERISH DEFENDING THE BODY, WE GO TO BE WITH CHRIST (1P 9:23-26, 2CO 3:6-10)

GENUINE LOVE'S EFFECTS – GLUED TO GOOD

- IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO REJECT AND SACRIFICE ONE'S SELF PROTECTING THE BODY AND SELF FROM EVIL; ONE MUST ALSO BALANCE ONE'S GROWTH BY BECOMING GLUED TO THE GOOD
 - GREEK WORD (ΚΟΛΛΑΩ ΚΟΛΛΑΩ) MEANS TO BE GLUED, TOTALLY INTEGRATED, WITH GOOD
 - GOOD COMES ONLY FROM THE FATHER, SON AND SPIRIT (1J 1:16)
 - IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO REJECT EVIL AS THIS LEAVES ONE EMPTY; ONE MUST FILL ONE'S SELF WITH GOD'S GOODNESS VIA HIS WORD AS TAUGHT BY HIS SPIRIT (1J 1:43-45, 1CO 2:14, 2PE 2:20-22)
 - ONE CANNOT REMAIN IN SCRIPTURE'S BASIC TRUTHS BUT MUST GROW BY EXERCISING ONE'S DISCRIMINATION TO ACCEPT THE GOOD AND REJECT THE EVIL (1P 5:11-14)
 - THE BODY GROWS WHEN EVERY CELL GROWS ACCORDING TO ITS POTENTIAL AND DESIGN

WHAT IS PHILADELPHIA?

- AGAPE IS THE LOVE (ENERGY) FROM THE FATHER, VIA THE SON AND THE SPIRIT, AND SHARED WITH THE WORLD THROUGH EACH BELIEVER; THE TRUE ESSENCE OF THE GREEK WORD (ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΙΑ PHILADELPHIA) FLOWS FROM AGAPE
 - HEAT OR LIGHT OR EVEN COLOR CANNOT BE DEFINED BUT CAN ONLY BE KNOWN EXPERIENTIALLY ARE EXAMPLES OF ENERGIES WHOSE ESSENCES LIE BEYOND THE KIN OF SCIENCE TO DEFINE BUT ARE KNOWN ONLY BY THEIR EFFECTS (EXPERIENTIAL PERCEPTION – MEASURABILITY, REPEATABILITY)
 - PHILADELPHIA CANNOT BE DEFINED NOR CAN IT BE INTELLECTUALLY UNDERSTOOD, THUS LIKE AGAPE IT ONLY BE KNOWN BY EXPERIENCE; THUS ONE MUST LOOK TO THE BIBLE FOR EXAMPLES TO UNDERSTAND THAT BROTHERLY LOVE IS AN OVER SIMPLISTIC DEFINITION OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA – WOMEN

- BEST EXAMPLE OF PHILADELPHIA IS THE SOLILOQUY GIVEN BY RUTH TO NAOMI (RU 1:4-18)
 - NAOMI, A JEWESS WHO LOST HER HUSBAND AND BOTH SONS IN MOAB, WAS RETURNING TO ISRAEL FOLLOWED BY HER SONS' TWO WIVES; SHE TELLS THEM TO REMAIN IN MOAB, FIND NEW HUSBANDS AND RESTART THEIR LIVES – ONE RETURNS TO IDOLATRY, RUTH REFUSES
 - RUTH STAYS BECAUSE SHE FOUND GOD THROUGH NAOMI AND WILL NOT REMAIN IN A LAND WITHOUT GOD; THUS, SHE NOT ONLY REJECTS EVIL, SHE CLINGS TO GOOD TO FULFILL HER LIFE
 - WITHOUT PROMISE OF SUPPORT, BOTH RETURN TO ISRAEL THOUGH NAOMI, PLEASANT, NOW CALLS HERSELF MARA, BITTER; RUTH, FRIENDSHIP, STICKS CLOSER THAN A RELATIVE (RU 1:16-18)
 - FROM HER PHILADELPHIA CAME DAVID AND CHRIST, THE FRIEND OF ALL SAVED (LD 15:13-15)

PHILADELPHIA – MEN

- RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JONATHAN, SAUL'S SON, AND DAVID, ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF PHILADELPHIA (1SA 20)
 - SAUL, GOD'S CHOSEN AS ISRAEL'S FIRST KING, BECAME JEALOUS OF DAVID AND TRIED TO KILL HIM
 - DAVID, ANOINTED THE NEXT KING, DID NOT SEEK TO HARM SAUL THOUGH HE WAS TEMPTED (1SA 24:1-12)
 - JONATHAN DID NOT REBEL AGAINST HIS FATHER NOR DID HE HELP HIS FATHER TO MURDER DAVID; HE MADE A COVENANT TO PROTECT DAVID, AND FOR DAVID TO PROTECT JONATHAN'S POSTERITY (2SA 9)
 - PHILADELPHIA FLOWS FROM AGAPE LATERALLY UNITING ALL THE SAVED IN A PROTECTIVE DISPLAY OF LOVE PROTECTING EACH OTHER FROM EVIL WHILE ENCOURAGING THE GOOD (PH 20:17, GA 6:1-2)

AGAPE AND PHILADELPHIA LIMITED TO BELIEVERS

- AGAPE AND PHILADELPHIA HAVE THE COMMON ELEMENT OF SUBMISSION AND THUS ARE BEYOND THE ABILITY OF THE LOST WHO ARE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF REBELLION (RD 1:18-22)
 - THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE LOST DO NOT HAVE NATURAL AFFECTIONS; PAUL SAYS THE LOST MAY SACRIFICE THEMSELVES FOR OTHERS AS THEY RETAIN A SIMILITUDE OF GOD'S IMAGE (RD 9:7)
 - BUT THE LOST CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND AGAPE OR PHILADELPHIA AS THESE ARE UNDERSTOOD EXPERIENTIALLY WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT SALVATION (PS 73:16-22; 2PE 2:12; AOE 1B)
 - LOST MISTAKENLY SUBSTITUTE EROS, SENSUALITY, FOR AGAPE; CAUSES EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY
 - BELIEVERS DO NOT DISCOUNT EROS BUT KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE LESS IT BURNS THEM (1CO 7:2-5; HE 13:4)

HONOR FLOWS FROM LOVE

- HONOR [TIMH TIME] – HUMILITY IN ACTION; ESTEEMING OTHERS GREATER THAN YOURSELF (PH 2:3-4)
 - IN HOMER'S ILLIAD TIMH WAS THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ONE'S GREATNESS BY OTHERS, HYPOCRITES' OFT PERFORMED THEIR PIETY TO RECEIVE THE ACCLAMATION OF MEN ONLY (MT 6:1-8)
 - IN THE BIBLE TIMH IS THE SELF-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT OTHERS IN THE BODY ARE GREATER THAN ONE'S SELF AS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE BEATITUDES (MT 5:3-12)
 - BELIEVER RECOGNIZES THAT SALVATION IS SOLELY OF CHRIST AND NOT OF ANY ASPECT OF THE BELIEVER WHO WAS UNWORTHY AND REBELLIOUS (RD 4:13-17; 5:4-17; 5:14-18)
 - WITHOUT AGAPE AND PHILADELPHIA, HONOR SIMPLY BECOMES SELF PROMOTION – LOUD TALK OR CLANGING CYMBALS AND SOUNDING BRASS [KNEOS; KLEOS] (1CO 13:1)

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CONFUSING LOVE WITH SENSUALITY

- SATAN ACCOMPLISHES GREAT HARM WHEN CHRISTIANS ACCEPT SENSUALITY AS LOVE WHICH ULTIMATELY PROMOTES SELF; I.E., LOSS OF ONE'S FIRST LOVE: CHRIST
 - LOVE IS THE BASIS FOR ALL THE FATHER HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO ARE SAVED, IT IS THE BASIS FOR FAITH, AND HOPE AND THUS, TRUTH (1CO 13:13)
 - ABANDONING TRUE AGAPE AND PHILADELPHIA, ONE EXCHANGES TRUTH FOR THE LIE DESTROYING FAITH AND SUPPRESSING HOPE AS THE END APPROACHES – DIMMING THE LIGHT; JOY OF THE LOST (2TH 2:7-12)
 - THIS THEN BECOMES THE BASIS FOR THE QUALITIES PAUL WRITES IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS CHAPTER; INDEED, IT BECOMES THE BASIS FOR OUR WALK WITH CHRIST AS HE FIRST LOVED US (1JO 4:19)