

Competition In Christ

“When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ Then humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 14:7-11)

People all over the world and over all the ages compete to achieve the highest scores, the biggest capitals and the most beautiful and attractive things. And we take the pleasure in taking the widest, the deepest and the most famous positions, and we are proud of it when we gain it. For we brag in every project or enterprise once we succeed in it, and that will be the time that we will start to praise ourselves, and that will be the time to cherish all our previous achievements.

“His flesh is his burden,” that is the human weakness. And all of us endeavour to lift up ourselves against the gravity. But, what will be the banner? Simply a defiled body. And what will be the result? Once again the foul smell of the rotten flesh. Human in this attitude persevere to reach one thing only; perpetuating the vicious circle, by running in vain to lift up the deceased flesh. But all of us are affected with the same sickness but with differences; some of us are aware of that but others are not. And some of us started to correct themselves but others do not.

At the time when we come to our sense and accepted the Lord, we bring with us to his kingdom the heavy corpus. And the same previous defects in our personality we practice in our lives with Christ: Conceited to what we accomplished, loving to show off ourselves and being fond of the people pointing toward us. This is Narcissism, but unfortunately incompatible with Christ.

Jesus is noticing how the people compete with one another and running to gain the places of honours at the banquet table. The same thing happened 2000 years ago where Jesus found no way other than shaking them with the above chosen parable. The wedding feast symbolizes the kingdom of God, and the one who invited you to the feast is God. In His kingdom competition is acceptable but not to run after the places of honours, but to flow toward the less popular positions with humbleness and humility. This is not a haphazard issue but for objective purpose and reasons, and these are:

1) **God’s standards in position distribution:** In the kingdom of God recognition is not in the human eyes but in God’s eyes, the host of the wedding feast. His standards do not depend on talents or gifts. And once we don’t know exactly how God’s standard works, the safest way is to proceed towards the lowest, and to the least honourable places we should compete for it. And by this, we secure ourselves not to fall down from the high positions.

2) **The plan belongs to God:** No one, whatever spiritually advanced he is, does know what is in the mind of God. For the plan belongs to him and everyone of us may know few of the steps, but no one knows all. And from that sense God is the one who distributes the vacancies. But what if God one day passes over His Church and find you taking the position that you should not keep for yourself, will He not tell you *“give this man your seat”, “for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled.”* And this may hurt us because we will go down to a lower position. But when you chose to start with a lower position nothing left is expected except to be promoted *“Friend move to a better place” and “he who humble himself will be exalted.”*

3) **The Glory only belong to God:** Our aim as believers in Christ is to lift only one name, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and no other name whether human or institute. And when God’s name will be hidden behind other names, He will move in a special way to bring all other names down and to put His name on the highest place.

4) **Vacancies always there:** We compete to serve Him and we think we have to run to take a specific position before that place occupied. But don’t worry, the work of the Lord will never finish and new posts and vacancies will always be there. And don’t worry, you will be exalted and your name will be known also. But first, lift up His name on high and above your name in all your deeds. And when His name is lifted high your name will be indirectly known and He will exalt you.

My Dear and Beloved: We may know all these so well, but we have to remember all the above when we are serving Him. Brethren, when the lost son is accepted once again in his father’s house he is satisfied by the robe, sandals, and the ring in his hand. No more is bragging to what he is doing, but he is working silently in a corner of his father’s kingdom. And whatever his hands produce that come out from God’s grace he stamp it with this mark, *“whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”* As you agree to Pray

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord Jesus gives me more humility and humbleness. Clean my heart from wrong motive in serving you. Lord I commit myself to be a servant of yours, to endeavour and persevere in obeying your word and submitting myself to do your will. Lord delivers me from all the temptations that may drag me toward gaining position but of no service to you. Lord I don’t delight in such things, but I want to obey your word and do your will. Really Lord I want to serve you, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*