

“We are brothers”
11-29-15 PM

In Genesis 13:1-12 we read about the contention between the herds of Abram and Lot. The conclusion of Abram was to allow Lot to take whatever land he thought best, and Abram would take what was left. This sacrifice allowed them to remain close. Abram’s reasoning was simple: “we are brothers”, and brothers should yield to one another.

Abraham’s willingness to yield might be found rooted in two things. First, according to Hebrews 11:13-16, Abram did not see the land as significant of itself. Instead, he saw the spiritual promise as more important. Thus he could allow his nephew to take the best, because it was not what was important. Second, we know from the next chapter (Genesis 14:12-16) that he loved his nephew, and was willing to go to great lengths to rescue him. Thus Abram could yield to his “brother”.

Christians are brothers too. Paul told the Corinthians brethren (I Corinthians 6:1-8) that they were failing y not learning to yield to one another. He told the Thessalonian brethren the same thing (1 Thessalonians 4:6). We can learn to yield (like Abram did) if we learn to sacrifice and we learn to value others.

Learning to sacrifice like Abram means seeing possessions (or anything in this life) as trivial and not worth fighting over. Consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:19-25; our treasure is not here, but in heaven. Abram saw it this way too. Secondly, as servants of Christ we are commanded to look for ways to serve others (Romans 12:1). Thus we are to be living sacrifices.

Learning to value others as Abram did means learning to esteem others as better than ourselves. This is the admonition to the Philippian brethren given by Paul in Philippians 2:1-13. We need to understand that it is not weakness that causes us to bend to another, but strength (Romans 15:1). The context of Paul’s admonition in Romans 15 is the declaration that we ought to desire peace above all things in Romans 14:14-19.

At the heart of Abraham’s plea is this simple truth: Brothers should not fight. Therefore, if yielding to another is necessary for us to have peace, we ought to gladly do so. *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity* - Proverbs 17:17.