

## Pilgrims and Puritans

December 1, 2019

### The Eternal Mystery of the Cross

*Romans 6:3-5 ESV*

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

*Galatians 2:20 ESV*

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

*Colossians 2:12 ESV*

12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

*Colossians 1:21-22 ESV*

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

**Baptism into Christ makes all men equal, destroying human hierarchies and divisions, granting equal access and equal relationship to God.**

"Six feet of dirt make all men equal."

— Charles H. Spurgeon

*Ephesians 2:13-16 ESV*

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

*Galatians 3:28 ESV*

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

*1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV*

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

## Not only were societal hierarchies and divisions erased, but spiritual as well.

Hebrews 8:10-11 ESV

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Matthew 23:1-12 ESV

1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,

2 The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,

3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,

6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues

7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.

8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.

9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.

11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Matthew 20:20-28 ESV

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something.

21 And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

22 Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able."

23 He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

24 And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.

25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,

28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1 Peter 5:2-3 ESV

2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight (episkopeō - to look upon, inspect, look after, care for), not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

3 not domineering over (katakaryieuō - bring under one's power, hold in subjection, control, subdue, exercise lordship over) those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

## The Puritan Form of Government

- **The Pilgrims and Puritans were Calvinists and followed Calvin's lead of rejecting Roman Catholicism as a "false" church, and extended that rejection to the practices of the Church of England, considering both to be too similar.**

*"...England had its own split from the Roman Catholic church in 1534 when King Henry VIII wanted a divorce and the Pope wouldn't grant it. The newly created Church of England was similar to Catholicism in every way, except instead of the Pope carrying divine authority, it was the British Crown."*

—What's the Difference Between Puritans and Pilgrims, History.com

*"Every British citizen was expected to attend the Church of England, and those who didn't were punished by the state. One group of farmers in Northern England, known disparagingly as the Separatists, began to worship in secret, knowing full well that it was treasonous. 'Once they decided that the only way they could be true to their conscience was to leave the established church and secretly worship, they were hunted and persecuted, and many of them faced the loss of their homes and the loss of their livelihood,' says Donna Curtin, executive director of the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts."*

—What's the Difference Between Puritans and Pilgrims, History.com

*"...the Puritans were increasingly troubled that so many people did not follow God's laws as written in the Bible. The Puritans feared that God would punish England. They also suffered under the rule of King Charles I who ignored English liberties and enforced the Anglican religion."*

—Puritan Massachusetts: Theocracy or Democracy? Constitutional Rights Foundation

- **Because of the corruption the Puritans saw in government and in the Church of England (Anglican Church), they felt it was their mission from God to establish both a church and a society that were based upon God's Word and laws.**

*"Winthrop also described a special covenant between the Puritans and God to advance God's will in the colony. Winthrop said they would live together to 'workout our salvation under the power and purity of His holy ordinances [laws].'"*

*"But, most importantly, Winthrop said they would create a model for an uncorrupted church and godly society. He borrowed a phrase from the Bible: 'we shall be a City upon a Hill.' If this undertaking were to fail, he warned, many would speak evil of God, and the colony 'shall surely perish.'"*

*"Thus, Winthrop described the Puritans' main mission to Massachusetts Bay as setting an example of 'godly rule.' Those left behind in England would see God's will at work, follow God's laws, and be saved. Later, Puritans called this their 'errand into the wilderness.'"*

—Puritan Massachusetts: Theocracy or Democracy? Constitutional Rights Foundation

- Created an elected representative system of government based on “the consent of the governed.”

This principle of “*the consent of the governed*” was based on (1) the Biblical principle that all men, under God, are equal and (2) that “*all power that is on earth be limited.*”

*"John Cotton, a Puritan minister...warned against the tendency of men to let power go to their heads. It is necessary, therefore, that all power that is on earth be limited."*

—Puritan Massachusetts: Theocracy or Democracy? Constitutional Rights Foundation

*"By the 1640s, the Massachusetts Bay government had evolved from a company's board of officers to an elected representative system based on the consent of the governed. The Puritans accomplished this independent of the king and Parliament, and it was far ahead of what existed in England. Over time, the Puritans grew to cherish their nearly complete independence from England. They also tended to be skeptical about any government, including their own."*

—Puritan Massachusetts: Theocracy or Democracy? Constitutional Rights Foundation

[John Winthrop, 1st elected Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony] *"proposed that both the assistants and deputies must get each other's consent for a law to pass. This was an early kind of "check and balance" that later became a major part of the U. S. Constitution. In 1644, the assistants and deputies agreed to separate the General Court into a two-house legislature."*

—Puritan Massachusetts: Theocracy or Democracy? Constitutional Rights Foundation

- Created the “Massachusetts Body of Liberties,” containing 98 provisions, most of which became the U.S Bill of Rights.

*"In 1635, the General Court's town deputies established a committee to prepare a written code of laws for the colony. The code would include traditional English liberties but also reflect God's laws. In 1641, after several drafts, the General Court accepted 'The Massachusetts Body of Liberties,' containing 98 provisions. Most of the document's provisions actually made up a bill of rights. Many of these provisions included principles that later found their way into the U. S. Bill of Rights."*

—Puritan Massachusetts: Theocracy or Democracy? Constitutional Rights Foundation

*"All America had now in some measure experienced the Scriptural truth that, in Christ, all men are brothers. Highborn or commoner, great merchant or poor farmer, magistrate or soldier - all were equal at the foot of the Cross. Eternal heaven was open to all who accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, and it mattered not what their station in life was or how wealthy they were, or who their parents were."*

*"Thus, the equality of believers was emphasized more than ever in American churches, it was only natural that it would extend into civil government as well. Here, then, was the seed of that democracy which would be embodied in the Constitution of the United States: of the political understanding that all men were equally entitled to the vote, and that, in the sight of God, a farmer was as good as King George. For God was no respecter of persons: His laws applied equally to all men."*

—Peter Marshall & David Manuel, *The Light and the Glory*, p. 255