

The Relationship Worth Emulating

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Scripture is the record of God and Christ—who They are, what They've done. The more I study into the relationship between God and Christ, the more I marvel that Their relationship has existed eternally. Think about that—no beginning—neither one of Them has had a beginning and yet this relationship (we can't get our minds around it) has lasted eternally. Human relations come and go but Theirs has always existed.

What we're going to see today is that their relationship has been one of Christ being humbly subservient to God the Father. This has happened for all time, for an eternity. We're going to see that Christ was humbly subservient to God before He came to the earth, He was humbly subservient to God while He was on the earth, and that He was humbly subservient after His resurrection, and that continues to this very day. That relationship, as I said, has always existed (and this is amazing as far as humans go) but it's existed in perfect unity and harmony. I can't think of a human relationship that's ever existed in perfect unity and harmony, but this is a spiritual relationship that has. We're going to see that today and then after we do, we're going to see what lessons we can learn from Christ's example of humility and service, and how it applies to us in God's Church today. So the title of the sermon is:

The Relationship Worth Emulating

The relationship of God and Christ is something we should emulate. So our first point is to establish the fact, through scripture (this isn't my opinion) that:

1. Christ has been subservient to God before He came to this earth, before he was human.

We don't have the time but we've covered it before: We know that in Genesis 14 Melchizedek was the priest of the Most High God, and in the book of Hebrews Paul identifies Melchizedek as Christ. Putting those scriptures together, and having that understanding, we see that Christ then came as Melchizedek, as priest of the Most High God. If you want to look at that in detail you can check the sermon, Who Is The Most High God, given September 16 of last year.

What we need to understand is if a priest is serving a god, whether it's Melchizedek serving God the Father or whether it's a pagan priest serving his created pagan god, a priest is always subservient to the god that he serves. If Melchizedek was priest of the Most High God, Melchizedek then had to be servant of the Most High God. That's one evidence. Let's go to Psalm 45:6—this is a prophecy about Christ. I will read out of the King James unless otherwise noted.

Psalm 45:6 *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. (KJV)*

The margin in the King James says, the scepter of your Kingdom is a scepter of righteousness.

7) *Thou [referring to Christ, as we're going to see] lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (KJV)*

We know that the word “Christ” means *anointed*, and this verse in Psalm 45 is quoted in Hebrews 1:8-9, where Paul confirms that it refers to Jesus Christ. We see here in this passage, Psalm 45:6-7, that Christ’s God *is* God. If Christ’s God is God then we serve our God—we’re subservient to the one that is God. Let’s go to Isaiah 52 and see what God says—we’ll begin in verse 13. I’m going to read this out of the New King James. Verse 4 tells us that God is the one speaking here. We won’t read verse 4 but let’s jump to verse 13. Notice what God is saying—it’s profound.

Isaiah 52:13 *Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.*

14) *As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men; (KJV)*

This is a prophecy concerning Jesus Christ, obviously. God calls Christ here His servant, Christ being subservient to God as God’s servant. Let’s go to the next chapter, chapter 53 and verse 5. This is a prophecy about Christ. I’ll read this out of the New Living Translation [an older, online translation]. It’s a very familiar scripture:

Isaiah 53:5 *But he was wounded [the margin in the King James says “pierced through”] for our rebellion and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped and we were healed. (NLT)*

Let’s jump to the beginning of verse 10.

10) *But it was the LORD’s good plan to crush him and fill him with grief. (NLT)*

That term “fill him with grief”—the dead sea scrolls that were found back in the ’40’s and ’50’s translates “fill Him with grief” as *pierce Him*. So it was the LORD’s good plan to crush Him and pierce Him; that was part of the plan of salvation. Now notice verse 11.

11) *When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of what he has experienced, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. (NLT)*

Who could this be referring to but Jesus Christ? God is referring to Jesus Christ as His righteous servant. This reference to Christ in all these scriptures was written before Christ came to this earth. Before He came to the earth, He was the Servant of God—He served *His* God.

The second point we need to make is:

2. Christ was subservient to God while He walked this earth, in the flesh, as a human being.

Let's go to John 8:28. Christ here is speaking to the Jews and as we know they were already plotting to kill Him.

John 8:28 Then said Jesus unto them [the Jews], When ye have lifted up [the margin in the King James says "crucified"] the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, (KJV)

How can you read that and not come away [with the understanding] that Christ was there, to be taught by His Father, to fulfill His Father's will? He goes on...

28 continued) ... I speak these things. (KJV)

Jump to verse 54.

54) Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing ... (KJV)

That's true for all of us. If we seek to honor ourselves it goes nowhere—absolutely nowhere.

54 continued) ... it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye [the Jews] say, that he is your God: (KJV)

It's logical to understand that the one who bestows honor is greater than the one who receives honor. To bestow the honor you have to be superior to the one who receives the honor. When Christ says, "He is your God (yet you have not known Him)" what He's really saying is, you worship God alright but you don't have a clue who He is, and the reason you don't have a clue who He is, is because you're trying to kill Me! You would know that I am His Son but you refuse to listen and you refuse to look at the scriptures! Christ is leveling some very strong accusations against the Jews.

Let's jump to chapter 10 and verse 27, and we see Christ is again talking to the Jews and He's describing those who will listen—He calls them His sheep. John 10:27: This is the parable of the sheepfold.

John 10:27 [Christ says to the Jews:] *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

28) *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man* ["man" is in italics...neither shall any] *pluck them out of my hand.*

29) [Notice this] *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

30) *I and my Father are one. (KJV)*

We see here, very plainly, that Christ Himself says God is greater than anything—God is greater than all; there is nothing greater than Him. In the next verse He says I and My Father are one. That means they are one in nature and character but definitely not one in authority. If you want to look at that in detail you can check the sermon on May 20 of this year, [How are God and Christ One?](#) One in character, one in nature, one in objective and goal, but certainly not one in authority. Now let's go to chapter 14. You're going to see the evidence just piles up and piles up and piles up—John 14:28. Christ is talking and He says to His disciples:

John 14:28 *Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. (KJV)*

Hard to walk around those scriptures, it's very plain. Christ says, My Father is greater, He's superior to Me; I am here to do His will. Now the next chapter, chapter 15 and verse 1.

John 15:1 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

2) *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he [referring to God] taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he [again referring to God] purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (KJV)*

In this analogy we see that the husbandman controls the vine and He can shape the vine to grow wherever He wants the vine to grow. So the vine yields to the husbandman. It's very clear that Christ says, I yield to My Father, I want to do My Father's will. Christ yielded to His husbandman. Notice 20:17—Christ has been crucified, Mary Magdalene came on that Sunday morning to the tomb, and Christ is speaking.

John 20:17 *Jesus saith unto her [Mary Magdalene], Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren [the disciples], and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. (KJV)*

Christ plainly says that His God was God the Father. He says, "your God" (referring to Mary and all of us by extension) is God the Father. Now let's go to Acts 5:30—this is

also repeated in Acts 3:13. We're told here two very important things in one verse:

Acts 5:30 *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. (KJV)*

The one who raised up Jesus could only be God the Father because the one who raises up is more powerful than the one who is raised—that is only logical. As an aside we see here too that the one who raised up Christ is also the God of the patriarchs. The God of the Fathers—He's the one that raised up Jesus Christ. Finally under this second point let's go to Matthew 24:36. We know Matthew 24 is a very important chapter—talking about future events and prophecy. Notice this one fact:

Matthew 24:36 [Christ is speaking] *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, [meaning when Christ is sent to return to this earth] no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. (KJV)*

Christ is saying, I don't even know the day, I don't even know the hour. The fact that only the Father knows shows His supremacy. You put all these scriptures together, you can't help but come to the conclusion (if you read them all and study them all) that Christ is perfectly comfortable with that. Christ is not chomping at the bit to be number one nor is He trying to exercise His own authority in opposition to His Father—you never see that. Christ is humbly subservient to God and He was so while He walked the earth as a human being.

Now the third point. Let's talk about:

3. Christ being subservient to God after He was resurrected.

In other words, what's happening after His resurrection and what is happening right now. The following scriptures that we're going to cover were written *after* Christ's resurrection—very important to note that. As in point number two, normally, I don't like to give scriptures that repeat the same point over and over again but we're going to see quite a number of scriptures here, and the only reason I do that is we're going to list many scriptures in order to show the mountain of evidence that reveals to us that Christ is subservient to His Dad, His Father, after He was resurrected. Notice the number of scriptures as we go through these that reveal that Christ, at this very moment, is on the right hand of the Father—at *this moment*. Let's start in Mark 16:19, just one scripture. Christ had appeared to the disciples and Mark writes in verse 19:

Mark 16:19 *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, [and where did He go?] and sat on the right hand of God. (KJV)*

This was revealed to Mark—Christ was lifted up into heaven and He was going to be on God's right hand. Let's go to Acts 2:33—this was Pentecost and Peter is speaking. (I'm going to read this out of the New King James.) Peter knew where Christ had gone.

Acts 2:33 [Peter says] *Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear [on the day of Pentecost]. (NKJV)*

Peter plainly says that Christ went to the right hand of God. As he spoke this, Christ was on the right hand of God—no doubt about that. Let's jump to Acts 7:55. This is the account of Stephen who was ultimately stoned to death because he spoke the truth and the Jews didn't like it. Their big reaction was, let's kill him—we don't like what he's saying, let's kill him.

Acts 7:55 *But he [referring to Stephen], being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God [—he saw that, and then, in verse 56, he told that to all the people who were around him,]*

56) And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. (KJV)

We see here God and Christ mentioned in the same scriptures, and very plainly Christ is, in this case, standing on the right hand of God. Now go to Romans 8—notice what Paul says, verse 34. There is a mountain of evidence—it is everywhere—that Christ is on the right hand of God as we speak, right now.

Romans 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also [Christ] maketh intercession for us. (KJV)*

So what Paul is saying when he says, *even at the right hand of God*, he's saying, as I am writing this letter, it is evident that Christ is on God's right hand—very plain. Paul understood that. Notice his letter to the church at Ephesus—Ephesians 1:17. Paul reiterates, in the beginning of verse 1, that Christ's God is God the Father.

Ephesians 1:17 *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: [the knowledge of God]*

18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, [referring to God calling us] and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, [notice this] and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (KJV)

Paul states this in the past tense. He's saying, this has already been done; before I've written this, God set Christ, when He resurrected Him, on His right hand. It's a fact

already accomplished, and Paul is acknowledging that. Now look at Colossians and his letter to the church in Colossae—he says it again. This is not some mystery; it's very plain in God's word where Christ is.

Colossians 3:1 *If ye then be risen with Christ [we came out of the water at baptism and that was a rising for us, so to speak], seek those things which are above, [what is above?] where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (KJV)*

That's where He sits, that's where He is today. Finally, Paul says it again in Hebrews. We'll go to Hebrews 10:12 but he repeats it in chapter 12, verse 22—twice in the book.

Hebrews 10:12 [He's referring to Jesus Christ when he says ...] *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever [that can only be Jesus Christ], sat down on the right hand of God; (KJV)*

Here are four scriptures where Paul is very plain, very clear, where he understood that Christ sits on the right hand of God, even as these were written, and these were written after Christ was resurrected. Now notice what Peter says, if this wasn't enough. Let's see what Peter knew and go to 1 Peter 3:21. Does Peter share the same knowledge that Paul has given us?

1 Peter 3:21 *The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:
22) [referring to Christ] Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. (KJV)*

Peter tells us that God has highly exalted His Son and glorified His Son by placing Him on His right hand—the most honored position on His right hand. Now let's notice the following scriptures that describe their relationship. These were written (again) after Christ was resurrected. Let's go to 1 Corinthians 11:3—this is Their relationship after He was resurrected and Their relationship now because these scriptures were written after Christ's resurrection.

1 Corinthians 11:3 *But I would have you know [I want you to understand], that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. (KJV)*

Very clear; Christ is subservient to His Father. Now look at Ephesians 4:6—again, written after Christ was resurrected. Paul says to Ephesus and by extension to us today:

Ephesians 4:6 *One God and Father of all, who is above all, [that's an absolute statement] and through all, and in you all [through His Spirit, through the Holy Spirit]. (KJV)*

Let's go back to 1 Corinthians, this time chapter 15, and this looks forward to a time that has yet to come. We'll begin in verse 27.

1 Corinthians 15:27 *For he [referring to God the Father] hath put all things under his [referring to Christ's] feet. But when he saith all things are put under him [under Christ], it is manifest [or apparent] that he [God] is excepted, which did put all things under him [under Christ].*

28) And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him [referring to God] that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. (KJV)

You see even at the end of the day, Christ remains subservient to God, His Father. Let's go to Revelation 11:15 and let's look at the seventh trumpet and see what is revealed here at the seventh angel's sounding:

Revelation 11:15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord [this refers to God, as we'll see], and of his Christ [meaning the one who God anointed]; and he [referring to God, that's the subject here] shall reign for ever and ever.*

16) And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, (KJV)

Now understand that this is looking forward to a time when the twenty-four elders fall down on their faces and worship God. We already know that Christ is on God's right hand—He's there—and the twenty-four elders fall down and worship God Almighty. Going on in verse 17:

17) Saying [to God], We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty [we've talked about that before, there's only one God Almighty], which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. (KJV)

This is consistent and understandable because it is, after all, the Kingdom of God. It's not the Kingdom of anybody else, it's the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of God refers to God the Father, God Almighty, the Most High God. It is His Kingdom, it is the Kingdom that bears His name—that's the Kingdom we all seek.

Let's summarize up to this point. In these scriptures (plus many others that we don't have time to go through), Christ has always been subservient to His Father. He does so willingly, He does so humbly. Christ has been subservient to and a servant of God before He walked this earth and before He came in the flesh. Then while He was on the earth He plainly said, on many occasions, that the Father was His God and the Father was greater than Himself. Then, if that wasn't enough, after He was resurrected He was placed on God's right hand, where He was before. To prove that let's go to John 6:62. When Christ was resurrected He went back to where He was before. If He was

resurrected to be on God's right hand and that was where he was before, then obviously He was at God's right hand before He came to this earth. John 6:62 is repeated in Matthew 16:16. Christ is saying to the disciples:

John 6:62 *What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? (KJV)*

It's pretty clear that Christ was resurrected to the right hand of God as we've seen in many scriptures. He was subservient to God before He became the Messiah. If that's where He was before, on the right hand of God, He's there now. He was before and the only time He wasn't was when He walked this earth. The point is that Christ is honored and glorified by His Father and that glorified position is on the Father's right hand. There is no greater honor that the Father can bestow on His Son. The greatest honor that the Father can bestow on His Son is to have Him sit at His right hand or stand at His right hand.

The fourth point:

4. God doesn't do anything by chance.

Everything in the Bible is there for a reason. I ask myself all the time, what lessons does God want us to learn? What is there for us to learn by these examples of Christ being subservient to His Father in humility and in service? What an example Christ has set. What lessons can we learn from that example?

4A. As Christ has done, we should willingly, humbly, submit to God.

The record of Christ is willingly, humbly submitting to God. He has set that example from Genesis to Revelation. Maybe we should do the same thing. Maybe we should follow in Christ's footsteps and follow Christ's example. Christ was God's willing servant. Let's go to Luke 22:42. This is not long before Christ would be taken and brutalized and scourged and torn apart and then crucified. He's in the garden and notice what His prime objective is:

Luke 22:42 [Christ speaks] *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: (KJV)*

... knowing, in excruciating terms, what was going to happen to Him. He and His Father designed the human body; He knew where every nerve ending was, what would happen and the pain He would have to endure.

42 continued) ... nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Under these circumstances Christ just yielded Himself to God, submitted Himself to God and said, what I want is not important—this is what I would like but My will is not

important, Your will is important; it is ultimate—it is primary. If Christ did this and has done so in the record of scripture, we have to ask the question: If Christ humbly serves God, what should we be doing? What should all of us be doing? There is no record of Christ saying, Father, why can't I be boss for a day? Why can't I exalt Myself for a little bit here? Or why can't I do this or do that? There is no record of that at all because it has never happened.

Christ never did what Satan did. We won't turn there but in Isaiah 14 we know what Satan did. Satan says, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. I'm going to go up there and I'm going to take over. I want to be right up there with God. I don't like being second fiddle to anybody. That's what Satan did but Christ did not and has not for an eternity. That just boggles the mind because human relationships go through rough patches, and there are splits and all of that, but God and Christ have had the same relationship eternally. That is an example for us.

Our job is to yield to God. Of our own power, we can't do anything. I've learned painfully anytime I think I can do something on my own it comes crashing down on my head—it just does not work. Particularly when you're young—you're stronger, you have more energy, you have more enthusiasm and you think you know everything; you lack a lot of experience and you just plow on through and try to do something on your own, and it's a train wreck—absolute train wreck. Over time, we learn that. I'll be 76 months after next, and you learn painfully that our job is to yield to God. That's the only credit we can get.

If we yield to God then God does everything through us. Anything we can do that's good, anything we can do that's righteous, God gets the credit, not us. The only thing we can do is what Christ did—yield to God. That's our job. Only those who yield to God will have eternal life. God is not going to give eternal life to somebody who has a track record of being rebellious. Why would He do that? God is going to give eternal life to somebody who is humble, yielding, and submissive, and just wants to do his Father's will like Christ. Let's go to 1 John 2:17. John is so plain in his writing; he writes in short sentences—very clear, very plain—a lot in this one verse:

1 John 2:17 *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof [they're going to pass away]: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (KJV)*

That's a promise—if we do God's will. The only way we can do God's will is to yield to God's will. We read in the record of scripture what God's will is, and God expects us to study His word, find out what God says and then yield to that, and then, through the power of the Holy Spirit, He gives us the power to do that—to overcome the world, to overcome other human beings, to overcome our human nature, to overcome, especially, Satan. We get the power to do that through God's Holy Spirit. God gets credit for everything. The only thing we can do is yield—that's all.

So many of our life's problems would be overcome if we willingly submitted to God. I look back on the messes I've created, the problems I've had in my life, and I can trace it back to one thing: Rick wanting his way, Rick doing what he thinks is best, and Rick not being as close to God as he should be. That is the source of the vast, vast majority of all our problems. If we willingly, humbly submit to God, as Christ set the example, then we will have eternal life. The problem is too many today put other things before God and we can't do that. If you want to lose out at the last minute, go put something in front of God—we can't do that. The first lesson, as Christ set the example: We should willingly, humbly submit to God.

The second lesson (there's only two that we'll cover today):

4B. We should relate to each other, as brethren, as Christ set the example.

What did Christ do when He came to this earth? What was His whole mission? He sacrificed Himself for all mankind. Think about that. Christ is God but He gave up being God and became a human, and He did so to suffer and die for the benefit of every human that's ever lived. Christ sacrificed Himself for other human beings. Christ sacrificed Himself for each one of us. Let's go to Philippians 2:3. I'm going to read this out of the New Living Translation; the King James is not very well translated in this series of verses. The NLT is pretty clear and pretty specific here.

Philippians 2:3 [Paul says] *Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. (NLT)*

That's exactly what Christ did when He walked this earth. He put mankind's benefit above His own comfort. He endured excruciating pain because He put mankind above Himself. That's exactly what He has always done.

- 4) *Don't think only about your own affairs [don't be narcissistic, don't be selfish], but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.*
- 5) *Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.*

The King James says, let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. That should be our mindset.

- 6) *Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.*
- 7) *Rather [we see here], he made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form,*
- 8) *And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on the cross.*
- 9) *Because of this [because He was willing to humble Himself and give of Himself], God raised him up to the heights of heaven, gave him a name that is above every other name,*

10) *So that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*
11) *For every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NLT)*

Everything goes back to God. It all focuses and goes back to God. There will come a time when every tongue, every nation, every person will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (those who don't go into the lake of fire), and it's done to the glory of God the Father because His plan is being fulfilled. We see here, in closing out this second lesson, Christ humbly submits to God, and He does so to this day, and He came to serve mankind. We should follow that example.

Every day we should humbly submit to God. Every morning we should pray, God, show me what you want me to do—I don't want to do what I want to do, I want to do what you want to do. At the end of this day, I want to look back and say, God, I hope I've pleased you, I hope I've made you happy.

One of the greatest joys of being a little kid is to please Mom and Dad. At the end of the day, if Mom and Dad are happy with that little kid, you can tuck the child in bed, kiss them good night, tickle them and wrestle a little bit with them and have a wonderful time with your kids because they're pleasing you and you're looking after them. Christ submitted to God, willingly and humbly, and then the second thing He did, that we need to follow, is we have to humbly serve one another and not exalt ourselves. We've seen that too much in God's Church. God's Church has a track record of exalting human beings, exalting people in power, and in some cases almost worshipping people in authority. Back in the Worldwide days if you were above a certain rank it was like you had one foot in the Kingdom of God, and everything you said came from God and was God-breathed. When I came into the Church, that was the attitude. I'm not saying it happened everywhere, all the time, but certainly there was a lack in humility from top to bottom.

Ministers are servants and when somebody gets ordained to being a minister, it is not about being ordained in rank to be above the people. An ordination to be a minister is an ordination to greater serve the people—to a greater level of service to the people. That's the way it should be and should have been because that's all Christ did. Christ didn't come to exalt Himself on this earth, He came to give of Himself to all mankind.

Let's conclude. If we humble ourselves, God will exalt us. Let's go to Revelation 1:5. If we exalt God in this life, He will exalt us in the next life. This is what we have to have faith in and count on because we're following Christ's example.

Revelation 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

6) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him [God] be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (KJV)

We see here that our ultimate destiny is to be kings and priests if we humbly submit to God and we humbly serve one another.

As times get tough and you can see the storm clouds gathering—what’s going on in this country and the fact that God is showing the people all over this country that nobody’s safe anywhere, you’re not safe in schools, you’re not safe in offices, you’re not safe driving a car, you’re not safe anywhere—God is going to show people, if you don’t trust in Me, if you don’t know Me, if you don’t seek Me, you don’t have a chance.

That’s going to be shown over and over and over again until people are going to run around scared. We don’t have to. That will be the tremendous blessing because if we exalt God in this life, He will exalt us in the next life. If we humble ourselves in this life, we will be exalted in due course. It will happen, no question about it. The big lesson for us today is, let’s emulate Christ’s example of humility and service—being a servant of God the Father and being a servant of all mankind, especially our brothers and sisters in the Church.