

SEVEN UNWISHES

Sometimes it is not enough to say what we wish for. That alone can leave ambiguities and hidden motives/agendas. Sometimes we must say what do not wish for. As I thought about this, it seemed good to write down seven things that I do not wish for.

But concerning the spiritual matters, brothers, I do not wish you to be ignorant. (1Co 12:1)

I do not wish:

TO BECOME SOMETHING

I do not wish to become “something” to men. Jesus Christ is *already* Something. I do not wish to become a “spiritual leader”, but rather a brother and fellow sojourner. The journey that I have known is the journey I wish for all others: to encounter God directly and personally, not “facilitated” or “orchestrated” or “chiseled” by men, but generated by God Himself. Not born of the will/work of men, but born of God Himself. There is One Who is Leader: Jesus the Christ, God’s Messiah/Savior. He is the express image of God. He is One with God. He is God. He alone is Good. If I happen in some way to be an example to others, an encouragement to embrace the free Gift of God in Jesus, I will be content with that. May God be pleased with the emergence of His Son in me. May I decrease, and may Jesus increase. May I never seek to be a Noun, but rather an Adjective.

But do not you be called Rabbi/Teacher/Master, for One is your Leader, the Christ, and you are all brothers. (Mat 23:8)

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (Rom 12:3)

But answering Peter and the apostles said, It is right to obey God rather than man. (Act 5:29)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave authority to become children of God, to the ones believing into His name, (Joh 1:12) who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but were born of God. (Joh 1:13)

for it is God who is working in you both to will and to work for the sake of His good pleasure. (Php 2:13)

That One [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease. (Joh 3:30)

for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me [Jesus], and have believed that I came out from God. (Joh 16:27)

In many ways and in various ways of old, God spoke to the fathers in the prophets; (Heb 1:1) in these last days He spoke to us in the Son [Jesus], Whom He appointed heir of all; through Whom He indeed made the ages; (Heb 1:2) Who being the shining splendor of His glory, and the express image of His essence, and upholding all things by the Word of His power, having made purification of our sins through Himself, He sat down on the right of the Majesty on high, Psa. 110:1 (Heb 1:3)

TO BEGIN SOMETHING

I do not wish to begin something such as a “church”, a group, a movement, a “ministry”. Rather, I merely wish to be a part of *Christ Himself*, a member of *His Body*, and a living part of *His Church* that *He Himself* started 2000+ years ago. Jesus already started something and I merely want to be part of what He is doing. I do not wish to start an organization or take a name that is not His Name. I wish that all men would be voluntarily and inwardly convinced by the love of God and accept His invitation to enter into – to believe into – Jesus Christ Himself. There is no other name under heaven by which men must be saved, therefore there is no other name that I would use to refer to what Jesus has begun and is doing. I wish to be a follower and member of Jesus Christ Himself. Period.

on this rock I will build My church/assembly/called out ones, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against her. (Mat 16:18)

Even as the body is one, and has many members, but all the members of the one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. (1Co 12:12)

And you are Christ's body, and members in part. (1Co 12:27)

For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. (Eph 5:30)

And everyone living and believing into Me shall not die to the age, never! Do you believe this? (Joh 11:26)

Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe into Him Whom that One sent. (Joh 6:29)

and He "put all things under His feet" and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church/assembly, Psa. 8:6 (Eph 1:22)

Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the Body. (Eph 5:23)

And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence. (Col 1:18)

the house of God, which is the Church of the living God (1Ti 3:15)

and there is salvation in no other One, for neither is there any other name under Heaven having been given among men by which we must be saved. (Act 4:12)

TO BE SPECIAL, NEW, UNIQUE

I do not wish to be special, to find or claim to have some “brand new” or unique or hidden *truth* that no one else has, or has “correctly understood”. I do not wish to be part of a “special Christian group” that has been uniquely entrusted with secret or difficult truth that others are ignorant of such that others need “us” to reveal or explain God to them. God has already revealed His new and living way openly and plainly to the world in the Person of His Son and Messiah Jesus Christ. Jesus is special, new, unique. There is no other like Him. He is all wise and understanding. There is nothing new that can be added to Him. I do not wish to be a/the revealer of secrets to men. Rather I wish to be a brother among brothers and a fellow seeker, seeking and knowing God Himself and being faithful to what God is already plainly revealing in: (a) the Person of Jesus Christ Himself as the Way of God, the Truth of God, the Life of God; and (b) the Scripture. I wish this for all whom God loves for God’s own sake and benefit.

In many ways and in various ways of old, God spoke to the fathers in the prophets; ([Heb 1:1](#)) in these last days He spoke to us in the Son, whom He appointed heir of all; through whom He indeed made the ages; ([Heb 1:2](#))

Jesus said to him, I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ([Joh 14:6](#)) If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you do know Him, and have seen Him. ([Joh 14:7](#))

Therefore, brothers, having confidence for the entering of the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, ([Heb 10:19](#)) which He consecrated for us, a new and living way through the veil; that is, His flesh; ([Heb 10:20](#))

In the same way the cup also, after supping, saying, This cup is the New Covenant in My blood; as often as you drink, do this in remembrance of Me. See Luke 22:19, 20 ([1Co 11:25](#))

And He said to them, This is My blood, that of the New Covenant, which is poured out concerning many. ([Mar 14:24](#))

I give a new commandment to you, that you should love one another; according as I loved you, you should also love one another. ([Joh 13:34](#))

And I now request you, lady, not writing as a new commandment, but one which we had from the beginning, that we should love one another. ([2Jn 1:5](#))

So that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new! ([2Co 5:17](#))

TO DO OR REQUIRE SOMETHING (TO RULE)

I do not wish to “do” something, or coerce others to “do” something. I do not wish to rule over any. There is no supplement to the work of “Saving” and “Setting Apart” that Jesus has already done Himself by Grace. While, on one hand, all Christians want to be an encouragement to others ([Heb 10:24](#)), on the other hand I do not wish to be a force that drives people to act. When a constant *external* pressure is required to motivate men to work, men’s hearts do not appreciate a deep inward motivation of love. Paul said, “love of Christ constrains us”. It was deep motivational love that focused Paul’s energies to work. For myself and others, I wish the love of God to be the motivating force for good works; for a labor of love. And I wish for all the experience of becoming a completely new creature in Christ Jesus, re-made by God into His image, restored into a living and interactive relationship with God Himself: personal connectedness to God. Not by works, but by the free Gift of God; by grace.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, because I am meek and lowly in heart, "and you will find rest to your souls." Jer. 6:16 ([Mat 11:29](#))

So, then, there remains a sabbath rest to the people of God. ([Heb 4:9](#)) For He [Jesus] entering into His rest, He Himself also rested from His works, as God had rested from His own. LXX-Psa. 95:11; Gen. 2:2 ([Heb 4:10](#)) Therefore, let us exert ourselves to enter into that rest, that not anyone fall in the same example of disobedience. ([Heb 4:11](#)) [i.e. our obedience is to rest in the accomplished work of Jesus]

Then do not let anyone judge you in eating, or in drinking, or in part of a feast, or of a new moon, or of Sabbaths, ([Col 2:16](#)) which are a shadow of coming things, but the body is of Christ. ([Col 2:17](#))

For by grace you are saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; (Eph 2:8) not of works, that not anyone should boast; (Eph 2:9)

And seeing the crowds, He was moved with pity concerning them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. (Mat 9:36)

Now, then, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we had strength to bear? (Act 15:10)

Then stand firm in the freedom with which Christ made us free and do not be held again with a yoke of slavery. (Gal 5:1)

And this is everlasting life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. (Joh 17:3)

remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love, and the patience of hope of our Lord Jesus Christ before our God and Father, (1Th 1:3)

For the love of Christ constrains us, having judged this, that if One died for all, then all died; (2Co 5:14)

And let us consider one another, to incitement of love and of good works, (Heb 10:24)

But having called them, Jesus said, You know that the rulers of the nations exercise lordship over them, and the great ones exercise authority over them. (Mat 20:25) But it will not be so among you. But whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. (Mat 20:26) And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your servant; (Mat 20:27) Even as the Son of Man [Jesus] did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. (Mat 20:28)

nor as exercising lordship over the ones allotted, but becoming examples of the flock. (1Pe 5:3)

TO GET THINGS

I do not wish to obtain the things of others. I do not want any man's treasure or material goods. I refuse to make Jesus an activity in material gain or a guise to obtain the possessions of others. Rather, if at all possible, I wish for every man to work and eat from his own labors, having more joy in giving than receiving as God supplies and leads each one. Giving should never be from coercion, guilt, manipulation. Yet when needed and as much as possible, I think it is good to provide food and clothes to those in need.

Now He that supplies seed to the sower and bread for eating, may He supply and multiply your seed and increase the fruits of your righteousness, (2Co 9:10) in everything you being enriched to all sincerity, which works out thanksgiving to God through us. (2Co 9:11) Because the serving of this service is not only making up the things lacking of the saints, but also multiplying through many thanksgivings to God, (2Co 9:12) through the proof of this service, they glorifying God by your freely expressed submission to the gospel of Christ, and the sincerity of the fellowship toward them and toward all; (2Co 9:13) and with their petition for you, a longing after you, because of the overflowing grace of God on you. (2Co 9:14) But thanks be to God for His unspeakable free gift. (2Co 9:15)

For we are not as the many, peddling the Word of God; but as of sincerity, but as of God. We speak in Christ, in the sight of God. (2Co 2:17)

And my God will fill your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Php 4:19)

In all labor [hard work] there is profit, but the talk of the lips tends only to poverty. (Pro 14:23)

For even when we were with you, we commanded this to you: If anyone does not desire to work, neither let him eat. (2Th 3:10)

I showed you all things, that working in this way we ought to help those being weak, and to remember the Words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Act 20:35)

For from within, out of the heart of men, pass out the evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, (Mar 7:21) thefts, greedy desires, iniquities, deceit, lustful desires, a wicked eye, blasphemy, pride, recklessness. (Mar 7:22)

He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes shall live. (Pro 15:27)

TO MEDIATE OR REVEAL

I do not wish to be a mediator between God and men, or a teacher, or one who reveals truth to men. Rather, Jesus Himself is the one and only Mediator & Teacher between God and men, and the Holy Spirit Himself guides men into all truth. I long for the Holy Spirit Himself, the Spirit of Christ, to visit all men, that all may personally hear HIS voice and be taught by HIM. Anything else is not “knowing Jesus”, but rather “knowing about Jesus” – which is inadequate and insufficient. Anything else is not Jesus, but false and presumptuous. Life comes always and only from Jesus Himself, the Person, and not from letters, words, sentences, books, writings, teachings, speeches, debates. May there be found in my heart jealousy for Jesus Himself. May JESUS be all I ever wish for myself and others.

For God is one, also there is one Mediator of God and of men, the Man Christ Jesus, (1Ti 2:5)

But when that One comes, the Spirit of Truth, He will guide you into all Truth, for He will not speak from Himself, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will announce the coming things to you. (Joh 16:13)

But do not you be called Rabbi/Teacher/Master, for One is your Leader, the Christ, and you are all brothers. (Mat 23:8)

In many ways and in various ways of old, God spoke to the fathers in the prophets; (Heb 1:1) in these last days He spoke to us in the Son, whom He appointed heir of all; through whom He indeed made the ages; (Heb 1:2)

if indeed you heard Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus. (Eph 4:21)

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (Joh 10:27)

And because you are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba! Father! (Gal 4:6)

But you are not in flesh, but in Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Christ, this one is not His. (Rom 8:9)

TO DIVIDE

I do not wish to be separated or alienated from any who are called the children of God. All born-again children of God the Father are my brothers and sisters for *eternity*. Jesus taught us to pray, “Father of us in heaven...” We, “us”, are all Family. There are no divisions in the Family of God. There is one Family which takes its name from God the Father. I have no option to separate myself from this Family or any member of this Family. If He is *Everlasting Father*, then His adopted children are everlasting brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. In this respect I must correctly discern the Body of Christ. I must never cast out what God has taken to Himself. I must never create walls, divisions, distinctions in this Family. Jesus said, “He who is not against us is FOR us.” I must be inclusive toward all of the Father’s adopted/born-again children. This Family is named for its Father and I must never rename it or add names to it; there are no other names for God’s Family. God’s children who have sinned must be restored, not ‘written off’.

and there will be one flock, one Shepherd. (Joh 10:16)

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (Eph 3:14) of whom every [the whole] family in Heaven and on earth is named, (Eph 3:15)

with all humility and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, (Eph 4:2) being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Eph 4:3) *There is one body* and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling; (Eph 4:4) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (Eph 4:5) one God and Father of all, the *One* above all and through all and in you all. (Eph 4:6)

And brothers I exhort you to watch those making divisions and causes of stumbling contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and turn away from them. (Rom 16:17)

Now I exhort you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you all say the same thing, and there be no divisions among you, but you be united in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1Co 1:10)

For you are yet fleshly. For where among you is jealousy, and strife, and divisions, are you not fleshly and walk according to man? (1Co 3:3)

But I say this, that each of you says, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ. (1Co 1:12) Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul? (1Co 1:13) [Of course not!]

and having put on the new, having been renewed in full knowledge according to the image of the One creating him, (Col 3:10) where there is no Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, foreigner, Scythian, slave or freeman, but Christ is all things and in all. (Col 3:11) Therefore, as elect ones of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassions, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, (Col 3:12) bearing with one another and forgiving yourselves, if anyone has a complaint against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also you should forgive. (Col 3:13) And above all these, love, which is the bond [not solvent] of perfectness. (Col 3:14)

And they sing a new song, saying, Worthy are You to receive the scroll, and to open its seals, because You were slain, and by Your blood purchased us to God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, (Rev 5:9) and made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign over the earth. (Rev 5:10)

[All scripture from the Literal Translation.]