



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE  
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019



# LET'S GO FLY A KITE!

*Understanding the Gospel tension of freedom and submission*



*Oh, oh, oh!*

*Let's go fly a kite*

*Up to the highest height!*

*Let's go fly a kite and send it soaring*

*Up through the atmosphere*

*Up where the air is clear*

*Oh, let's go fly a kite!*

**by Richard and Robert Sherman** (*Mary Poppins*)

## The Kite

a toy consisting of a light frame with thin material stretched over it, flown in the wind at the end of a long string.

## Two Parts in Constant Tension

1. A part which catches the wind
2. A part which submits to the pull of the string

## Both Parts are Desperately Needed

- If it doesn't catch wind, it lies dead
- If it doesn't heed the restraint of the string, it is lost

### *Problem #1*

If the wind blows and the kite catches the wind and the restraint of the string is too great, then the beauty of kite flying is not fully discovered

### *Problem #2*

If the wind blows and the kite catches the wind and the hand lets go of the string, then the beauty of kite flying is not fully discovered

The Tension, The Tug, The Pull, The Challenge, and the Battle for Perfect Balance is all part of “The Play”

## The Christian

A believer consisting of a spiritual frame perfectly suited to catching hold of the *Wind* of the Holy Spirit and flying to the highest heights- all the while tethered and perfectly kept due to a humble submission to the Word of God in Text and the earthly authorities that are laboring to see the believer “*soaring up through the atmosphere, up where the air is clear.*”

Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Psalms 85:10**

## As a Church we are Learning How to Fly a Kite

- We have some who are afraid of giving out too much string, and are stifling the fun of catching the wind
- We have some who are altogether opposed to the string and want the kite to have the freedom to just fly wherever

## The Hold-the-String-Tight Gang

Their Fear: The Wind will carry the kite up and then the-No Stringers will snip away the string and fly off to Neverland

## The Cut-The-String-That’s-Holding-Us-Back Brigade

Their Fear: The Wind will blow and the Little-Stringers will quench it by giving no allowance for flight

## First, a Message to the Hold-The-String-Tight Gang

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

**Ephesians 6:4**

**Exasperate** - infuriate, incense, anger, annoy, irritate, madden, enrage, antagonize, provoke, irk, vex, get on someone’s nerves, ruffles someone’s feathers, rub the wrong way

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all . . .

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

*The Wind is given by God - not as a threat - but as a benefit for all*

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them . . .

**Romans 12:6**

*When the leadership holds too tightly, it's impossible for the Wind to carry the kites up to the highest height*

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

**1 Peter 4:10**

*When the leadership holds too tightly, the believers in the church are prohibited from ministering to one another and from being good stewards of the Wind blowing in and through their lives*

. . . But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually . . . earnestly desire the best gifts.

**1 Corinthians 12:20-27, 31**

*When the leadership holds too tightly, they are unwittingly saying, "We have no need of you, you, you, or you. We trust that the gifts we as the leadership possess are sufficient for gaining health within this church*

## Now, a Message to the *Cut-The-String-That's-Holding-Us-Back* Brigade

This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

**1 Timothy 3:1**

*God seems very keen on the idea of good string holders being raised up in the Church*

# Proïstēmi - [Pro-ē'-stā-mē]

To superintend, preside over, protect, and guard. To care for, and give attention to

The operative word for . . .

- ❖ bishops
- ❖ deacons
- ❖ elders
- ❖ fathers
- ❖ and husbands

One that **rules (proïstēmi)** well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to **rule (proïstēmi)** his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) . . . Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, **ruling (proïstēmi)** their children and their own houses well . . . Let the elders that **rule (proïstēmi)** well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.

## 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12, 5:17

*God designed that elders be put in place in every church - men that hold the string as the Bible commands them to hold it. To do this, they must understand the highest heights the Wind desires to take the kites up to and how to help those kites avoid the tree limbs of false doctrine on their way soaring up through the atmosphere, up where the air is clear*

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. *Honor your father and mother,* which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

## Ephesians 6:1-3

*When the Cut-the-String-That's-Holding-Us Brigade, don't heed the tug of the string, they immediately open themselves up to a flight pattern that "doesn't go so well"*

. . . I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you . . . For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain . . . rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth . . . Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you . . .

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work . . . But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

**Titus 1:5, 10-11, 13-14, 2:15; 3:1, 9-11**

*There is a clear tie in Scripture between submitting to the tug and pull of authority in your life (whether it be parental, business, church, government, and even slave/master), and to showing honor to God*

## When God Built the Kite He Designed it for Both the Ability to Fly High and the Ability to Submit Low

For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift (Pneumatikos Charisma), so that you may be established.

**Romans 1:11**

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

**1 Timothy 4:14**

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

**2 Timothy 1:6**

## The Council of Jerusalem

Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren. When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed

stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses." The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are." All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, "Brethren, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His Name. With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, *'After these things I will return, and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen, and I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by My Name, says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago.'* Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath." Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas--Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, and they sent this letter by them, "The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings. Since we have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls, it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to select men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell." So



when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message. After they had spent time there, they were sent away from the brethren in peace to those who had sent them out. But it seemed good to Silas to remain there. But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others also, the word of the Lord. After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.

**Acts 15:1-40**

## During a Transition from an Old Model to a New Model . . .

- **There is a Pharisee voice** that says, "But, you need to teach these Gentiles to keep the law - you need to bind them tight and not allow any string to be released until they are proven perfect."
- **There is a Sadducee voice** that says, "But, we are free in Christ - with no restraint, with no fence - we don't need string to control us, we have been set free to be carried by the Wind into whatever tree we see fit to crash into."
- **Paul** - John-Mark shouldn't be allowed to come
- **Barnabas** - John-Mark should be shown mercy

Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Psalms 85:10**

## A Final Word to the Leadership

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

**1 Peter 3:7**

*We need to pull on this string in an understanding way - never prohibiting the kites from reaching those highest heights. It is imperative that we don't use our position of rulership to exasperate, to control, or to take the Holy Spirit's place.*

## A Final Word to the Congregation

*There is a huge blindspot in this generation towards the importance of the string holders. Please help serve your string holders here in this church by working with our tugs and our pulls and not fighting against them. We give them because we love this body.*

## A Reminder of What this is All About

*Jesus*