

The Nature of Yeshua in the Pauline Epistles and Hebrews

for us. A relationship of mutual submission exists between Christ and his bride, the church; therefore we should now love and serve one another out of reverence for this Lord who is also a servant.”¹³⁷

Debates over the nature of Yeshua tend to almost exclusively focus on components of a high Christology, where we probe whether or not Yeshua is God, integrated into the Divine Identity. Not enough of us who hold to a high Christology of Yeshua being God, consider His humanity and willfull sacrifice for our sins: a submission of the Messiah to the *ekklēsia*.

Ephesians 6:23

“Closing Salutation”

“Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah.”

The closing salutation of Ephesians has commonality with the other letters of the Pauline corpus, principally with Paul’s usage of “grace” and “peace.”¹³⁸ He says, “Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with undying love” (Ephesians 6:23-24, TNIV). We see again Paul’s reference to God as “Father,” followed by Yeshua the Messiah as “Lord,” balancing his understanding of the Godhead. Ephesians 6:23 begins with “peace,” and Ephesians 6:24 begins with “grace,” perhaps to offset how Paul has opened this letter with “Grace to you and peace” (Ephesians 6:1:2).

Yeshua’s identification within the Godhead as “Lord” is secure here, as in the Tanach God’s love would be displayed upon those who loved Him (Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 5:10; Nehemiah 1:5; Daniel 9:4; 1 Kings 8:23). Yeshua Himself is to be the object of love in Ephesians 6:24, a love that is considered to be “incorruptible” or “undying” (RSV). *Aphtharsia* (ἀφθαρσία) is a term unique only to Ephesians, meaning “**the state of not being subject to decay/dissolution/interruption**” (BDAG).¹³⁹ Just as Paul’s letter opens with describing Yeshua exalted in the Heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3, 10), so it now ends with Yeshua providing a love that never ends to His people. This is the sure motivation for those called by the Lord for His service—the one new humanity that composes His Commonwealth of Israel (Ephesians 2:11-12, 15b)!

¹³⁷ Alan G. Padgett, *As Christ Submits to the Church: A Biblical Understanding of Leadership and Mutual Submission* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011), pp 64-65.

¹³⁸ This entry has been adapted from the author’s commentary *Ephesians for the Practical Messianic*.

¹³⁹ BDAG, 155.