

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

Good morning! Second Peter, Chapter 1, Verses 2 and 3 say...

/2PE 1:2-3

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God (the Father) and (in the knowledge) of Jesus (Christ) our Lord; //seeing that His divine power has granted to us (believers in Christ) everything pertaining to (the Zoe) life and godliness (eusebeia...the Christian Way of Living), through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

We welcome you to bible study and to the chance to learn about the grace and peace that is being multiplied to you by God through biblical knowledge.

In preparation for the study of the Word of God, in self-evaluation you can ask yourself, concerning any problem that is troubling you, “Do I have the same thinking in me for handling this problem, that was also in Christ Jesus?”

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Bible study is a time to lay aside the spiritual battles of daily life...the internal fight between two kingdoms for control of your soul. It's a time of RENEWING your thinking so it IS the exact thinking of Christ Jesus. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

...that you be renewed (by God) in the spirit of your mind...

Bible study is a time to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the enabling power of God the Holy Spirit, prepare you “in humility (to) receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

You Own Me\

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song, while you let thoughts of the Lord Jesus Christ lead you into the place of peace that God has prepared for you today. The opening song is YOU OWN ME.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

Help us to experience your love in our souls, down to the core of our being, and let this love you have for us color our thoughts in such a way that we reflect it to all we come in contact with...especially to ourselves...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Pastor Rory Clark\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. You're listening to lesson four hundred and thirty-seven of the CREATOR versus CREATURE Conflict series. Welcome to a ministry designed for people who want to develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

/TODAY'S STUDY

THE CREATOR'S Will is That You Know You Are Loved

We continue our study of the CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT.

<CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT 21 C's SLIDE>

We are studying our CREATOR...we are learning about God's Person and His Work, so that we can have a great relationship with Him. We use an encoding device called the CREATOR CLOCK to introduce ourselves to the

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

various aspects of God's character and nature. Tick tock. What time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK? It's seven o'clock.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE dial points to seven o'clock>

God is WILLING. We're studying God's Will. It is God's will that you know that you are loved. First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 1 says...

/1CO 13:1

If (I) I speak with the tongues of men and of angels (let's just say I do), but (if I) do not have (unconditional) love (while speaking), I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

As Christians, we can be much like the Corinthian believers that are being addressed in this passage in First Corinthians. We can be impressed with eloquent speech...we can be impressed with fancy signs and wonders like "speaking in tongues," we can pay attention to every meaningless detail of Christianity, and in so doing miss the destination of the Christian Way of Life...which is love...unconditional love.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE no dial>

Look at the center of the Creator Clock. What do you see? You see God's attribute of LOVE. This is the love God has toward His creatures... unconditional love. Whether you're an unbelieving atheist who completely rejects God and His Word, or whether you are a spiritual giant who is occupied with Christ and with His every Word, God's love for you does not waver. It is unconditional. And for those of us who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Holy Spirit is producing this unconditional love in us so that we might reflect it to a lost and dying world. Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 5 says...

/ROM 5:5

...the (unconditional) love of God has been poured out within our hearts through (God) the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Deep in the consciousness of every one of us exists a desire, almost insatiable, to be loved. Equally fervent is our desire to love someone else. Yet often the love we have for others is fleeting. We love them when they

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

love us back, and at the first sign that their love has waned, we're off to look for love in another place, and in another person.

Love is a topic that has been immortalized in song. Quite often love is associated with hurt....a singer by the name of Nestor Haddaway asks in a song...

What is love?
Baby don't hurt me
Don't hurt me
No more...

Quite often love is thought of as the answer to all the ills of our lives. The Beatles say...

All you need is love
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need

Perhaps the group Extreme says it best...

Saying I love you
Is not the words I want to hear from you
It's not that I want you
Not to say...but if you only knew
How easy...it would be to show me how you feel
More than words...is all you have to do to make it real
Then you wouldn't have to say...that you love me
Cause I'd already know

It's pretty safe to say that human beings want to love, but more than that they want to be loved. My guess is that there is no word that has been more immortalized in song than love. We agonize over love...we crave love ...we need love. We search for love for our whole lives. When we don't have love in our lives, the sunshine in our souls is not as bright.

The other day, right after I got out of my car to head into a grocery store, I had a few thoughts. I have loved the Lord Jesus Christ for my whole life. I don't ever remember a time when I didn't love Him. I don't ever remember

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

a time when I was mad at Him. I have never doubted Him, which is not to say that I have not entertained doubts about Him...the “what if” scenarios always come to mind...like “what if” the Lord Jesus Christ is not real? What if the Lord Jesus Christ doesn’t love me? What if the Lord Jesus Christ doesn’t know me?

The Word of God is always a safe haven to retrieve stability for my soul when it begins to listen to the doubts that Satan, God’s enemy, seeks to plant in me. This trip into the grocery store, as I combed the recesses of my mind, was not one of those times where I was entertaining doubt. Suddenly it hit me. Yes, I love the Lord Jesus Christ. But it hit me at that moment that He loves me, too. I could feel it. And of course the waterworks were soon to follow. Tears came streaming down my face, and I could not stop them.

It’s really tough to shop for groceries when water is pouring out of your eyes. First of all, it makes it tough to read the labels. Second, the guys in the store who see you crying refuse to make eye contact with you. Ah, but the women who see you...they notice...and you can tell they feel real empathy for you. But since they don’t know you, most won’t say anything. One did. She asked, “Is something wrong?” I said, “No, just the feelings of a long day being expressed by my eyes.” She said, “Aww!” And I was thinking that with a little lemon juice this routine could land me more dates than Christian Mingle.com!

Seriously, though, it is quite an experience when your soul finally gets it that the Supreme Being of the Universe loves you. When that established fact becomes an established fact in your soul, it is overwhelming to be sure, but it is also just a bit scary! Freedom...love...life...all are a bit scary when you find yourself face-to-face with them...when you stop for a moment and really take a look at your existence...and you find yourself at the destination you have been seeking your whole life.

/PSA 37:4

Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. \

The Lord has given me the desires of my heart. I know God loves me, and I know God loves you...without condition. As I reflect on fifty years of my Christian existence, it feels like the Lord took me, when I was a newborn baby in Christ at the age of eight, and placed me into a straitjacket called the

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

kosmos...he allowed me to enter the straitjacket of Roman Catholicism and then He allowed me to move to the straitjacket of a perverted form of Christianity...a superficial form of the spiritual life...I have resisted these perversions for the whole time, while firmly entrenched in them...while obsessively investigating them...and I have found them to be empty and lifeless and not quite good enough...and I have struggled to extricate myself from them, much like a person might battle his way out of a straitjacket.

<STRAITJACKET SLIDE>

Now I am free. I find myself sitting at a destination for which I have longed for years, but that I have never truly understood...First John, Chapter 4, Verse 8 says...

/1JO 4:8

The one who does not love (unconditionally) does not know God, for God is (unconditional) love.\

I am loved. You are loved. God loves you because God is love... God is unconditional love...this is the simple and pure destination to which God has been leading me all these years, and the destination to which He is leading all of you...God is leading you to experience His unconditional love. It is God's will that you be loved. It is God's will that you know that you are loved...right this moment...unconditionally...by Him. It is God's will that you love others the same way. But what does this unconditional love really mean?

I don't think we can put unconditional love into perspective without examining the situations in our lives that makes it necessary. What if I brought a woman into the congregation and told you she was my girlfriend and also told you that she was a prostitute? Would you be able to know this truth and say nothing to anyone about it? Could you accept this truth without a single comment in your own soul? Undoubtedly not! You would not accept it. You would have an opinion about it. The opinion would not be filled with unconditional love. Your tongue would be filled with maligning and judging and vilification, as if you, from your own omniscience know exactly "what kind of person" is right for me.

What if I told you that a thirty eight year old woman in this congregation has

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

four children under the age of ten...by three different men...and one of the men was her brother? Would you think of her as a woman of sound mind? Hardly. You'd think she was confused. You'd think she was a slut. You'd have your opinion about her, and it probably wouldn't be good. It wouldn't be filled with unconditional love. Yet the woman I just described is my mother. That was her reality at the end of the year 1956, and to complicate matters she didn't have a job.

What kind of love would you have for a child who doesn't want to talk to you? You raised this child...you sat up with the child for hours one night after a long hard day at work to make sure the child didn't die when the child was sporting a fever of 106. The child doesn't remember those times but you do, and you can't understand why the child is so ungrateful.

How about the reverse situation? How about a child who was wronged by a parent? And let's face it...all parents "wrong" their children in some way...all unfairness begins at home...all children have to come to grips with a chillingly sad part of their psychology...they are mentally tied to a parent who is quite imperfect and quite unfair. If you are that child, are you demonstrating the fruit of Christianity if you don't give that parent another chance, or are you just a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal?

Trusted family members have put many children through the unthinkable...sexual molestation. To defend themselves, these children had to learn the skill of dissociation...a defense mechanism whereby children separate themselves emotionally from the actions being perpetrated against them so successfully that they lose the ability to feel as the family member is violating them. Unfortunately the children carry this skill into adulthood, and are unable to enjoy the sexual relationship with their spouse because the defense mechanism of dissociation has become automatic to them.

I could go on...these are some of the situations in our very real lives that require unconditional love...do we have it? Do we use it? Or are we, instead, very intolerant of others?

In my experience, those of us who are intolerant of others, are most intolerant of ourselves. Do you love yourself unconditionally? Do you give yourself a break? Do you see yourself with the same eyes with which God looks at you? That is especially a question for those of you who are

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who are in union with Christ, who are saints, priests, ambassadors, holy, blameless, absolutely righteous, new spiritual species ones indwelt by the entire Trinity...

It is God's will that you know that you are loved. God loves you without condition. There is nothing you can do to increase God's love for you. And there is nothing you can do to diminish God's love for you. You can't disappoint God.

Have you ever been caught stealing? Have you ever been guilty of something and then been caught "red-handed?" I have. To be caught red-handed means to be caught with blood on your hands...to be caught in the very act of committing a crime, and you are so guilty that the evidence of the crime is in plain view for all to see? With humans, we can always find a way to justify our actions in such a way that it casts doubts on whether or not we committed a crime...but with God, with every sin, we are caught red-handed by an omniscient God who knows all the knowable and by an omnipresent God who witnesses every one of our crimes. Yet God loves us unconditionally, even though He is a personal witness to every one of our crimes.

In God's love, there is peace. In God's love, there is freedom. In God's love, there is breath. God loves us. Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 38 and 39 say...

/ROM 8:38

*For I (Paul) am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers... *

/ROM 8:39

*...nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. *

You believers in Christ are in union with Christ, and you cannot be separated by anything, under any circumstances, from His love. Yet often, we believe otherwise.

God forgives us when we are caught red-handed. The apostle Peter got caught up in the mechanics of the spiritual life, just as we have been, and

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

tried to reduce it to numbers...Matthew, Chapter 18, Verses 21 and 22 say...

/MAT 18:21

Then Peter came and said to Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

/MAT 18:22

(The Lord) Jesus (Christ) said to him (Peter), “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

The unconditional love of God cannot be reduced to mechanics, yet imperfect creatures will always try to reduce the unconditional love of God into a perversion they can understand with their finite minds, assuming they can never live the standard of love to which they are beneficiary.

Unconditional love is forgiving. In fact, unconditional love is many things...

/1CO 13:4

(Unconditional) ...love is patient, (unconditional) love is kind and is not jealous; (unconditional) love does not brag and is not arrogant...

/1CO 13:5

...(unconditional love) does not act unbecomingly; it (unconditional love) does not seek its own, (unconditional love) is not provoked, (unconditional love) does not take into account a wrong suffered...

/1CO 13:6

...(unconditional love) does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but (unconditional love) rejoices with the truth...

/1CO 13:7

...(unconditional love) bears all things, (unconditional love) believes all things, (unconditional love) hopes all things, (unconditional love) endures all things...

/1CO 13:8

...(unconditional) love never fails.

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

The bible has many things to say about love...there are four commands in the New Testament that summarize what God wants from His new spiritual species, the body of Christ, the Church Age believers...the first command is in Matthew, Chapter 22, Verses 34 to 38...

/MAT 22:34-36

But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.//One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,/"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the (Mosaic) Law?"

/MAT 22:37-38

And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to him (a Pharisee and lawyer), "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'// This is the great and foremost commandment."

The second New Testament command is in Matthew, Chapter 22, Verses 39 and 40...

/MAT 22:39-40

"The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'//On these two commandments depend the whole (Mosaic) Law (contained in the first five books of the Old Testament) and the Prophets (the remainder of the Old Testament)."

In the book of Mark we learn the lawyer's response...

/MAR 12:32

The scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM..."

/MAR 12:33

"...AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE'S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

John gives us the third New Testament command, a new command...in John, Chapter 13, Verses 34 and 35...

/JOH 13:34

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another (unconditionally), even as I have loved you (unconditionally), that you also love one another (unconditionally).”

/JOH 13:35

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The fourth New Testament command is in Matthew, Chapter 5, Verses 43 to 48...

/MAT 5:43-44

“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’//But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...

/MAT 5:45-46

...so that you may be sons of your (God the) Father who is in heaven; for He (God the Father) causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.//For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

/MAT 5:47-48

If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?//Therefore you are to be perfect (in the way you love...unconditionally), as your heavenly Father is perfect (in the way He loves...unconditionally).

Love God and love your neighbor...love your neighbor unconditionally as God loves him...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Notice the one thing all of these commands have in common? You guessed it. LOVE. Unconditional love. The whole Christian Way of Living rests firmly on a foundation of unconditional love...

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

/1CO 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.

You will notice God in all of these verses...His thinking...His motivation...His decisions...His actions are all colored by His unconditional love for His creatures. John, Chapter 15, Verses 13 and 14 say...

/JOH 15:13-14

*“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.
//You are My friends if you do what I command you.”*

Here’s a promise...everything that comes from this pulpit from this moment forth will be colored by unconditional love. Without it...

/1CO 13:1

If (1) I speak with the tongues of men and of angels (let’s assume he does), but do not have (unconditional) love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

It is God’s will that you know that you are loved.

His mind is communicated in His Word, and His Word is a love letter to the whole human race, and especially to you. Enjoy basking in the sphere of His love.

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 437– March 10, 2013

/CLOSING SONG

Come See a Man\

CLOSING VERSES

/PHI 1:6

For I am confident of this very thing, that He (God the Father) who began a (divine) good work in (the creation of) you will (keep on) perfect(ing) it until the day of Christ Jesus.

/PSA 37:1-2

Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.//For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb.

/PHI 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard (garrison) your hearts and your minds (for those of you) in (union with) Christ Jesus.

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

THANKS
INTERCESSION
PETITION

And we pray that you continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of your person, your thinking, your work, your reputation and your essence...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name, Amen.

/Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

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