

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 441– March 24, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

**Let's Make a Mental Shift **

Good morning! Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 4 says...

/ROM 6:4

Therefore we (believers in the Lord Jesus Christ) have been buried with Him through (the) baptism (of the Spirit) into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead (in resurrection) through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of (the Zoe) life.

Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 11 says...

/ROM 6:11

Even so (believers in Christ) consider yourselves to be dead to (the sovereignty of the) sin (nature), but alive to God in (union with) Christ Jesus.

We are dead to an obsession with the sin nature and personal sinning...we are alive to the gift from God of the resurrection life, the Zoe life...a life beyond our wildest dreams. Only when we orient our souls to this established fact do we experience the real joy that is the Christian Way of Living.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

We come to bible study for RENEWING, to allow God the Holy Spirit to lead us into the truths of the Word of God, so we can know the plan of God the Father, the compassion of His Son, and the amazing sacrifice of the uniquely born One, the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf. Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2 says...

ROM 12:2

...(keep on) be(ing) transformed by (God in) the RENEWING of your mind...

Now is the time to let your God prepare you “in humility (to) receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

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/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

His Strength is Perfect\

As God prepares you for this RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is...HIS STRENGTH IS PERFECT.

/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 understand the depth of our union with your Son...

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

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Rory Clark

Pastor-Teacher\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Rory Clark. My spiritual gift is Pastor-Teacher, a gift given to me by God for your benefit, so that I might serve you. 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

What Does it Mean to be In Union With Christ?

Turn in your bibles to John, Chapter 1, Verse 14...three of the most beautiful words in the Greek language appear there...*En Christo Iesou*...in union with Christ...last week I mentioned to you that there is no line between a Pastor and a congregation...but if there were one, we would be on the same side of it. I am not going to stand outside of the pen to attend to

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my sheep. As your shepherd, I will be inside the pen, amongst my sheep, and I will know you and you will know me, if you want to know me. John illustrated this idea in John, Chapter 1, Verse 14...

/JOH 1:14

And the Word (ho logos... God the Son) became flesh (true humanity... Jesus Christ), and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we saw (beheld) His glory, glory as of the only begotten (uniquely born One) from the (source of God the) Father, full of grace and truth.

The Lord Jesus Christ's incarnation obliterated the line between God and Man. What kind of God would our God be if He could not understand us... if He could not look at life from our perspective... from behind our eyes... but instead, if He only sat on a lofty perch and told us how life ought to be? No... our Lord, Jesus Christ tabernacled among us and He knows exactly how life looks from behind our eyes... turn to Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 12...

/HEB 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

/HEB 4:13

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

God is a participant in our lives, not a spectator... He sees our lives as we see our lives...

/HEB 4:14

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, (the Lord) Jesus (Christ) the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

/HEB 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things (just) as we are (tempted in all things), yet (He is) without sin.

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/HEB 4:16

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace (since He understands us so well), so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

There is no line between the Lord Jesus Christ and those of us who are *En Christo Iesou*. Just as it is ludicrous for you to see a line between you and your Pastor...it is equally ludicrous to see a line between you and your God or to allow anything to obscure your path to and your vision from Him. You are in union with Christ! Look at Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 14...

/EPH 2:14

For He (the Lord Jesus Christ) Himself is our peace, who made both groups (Jews and Gentiles) into one (group) and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall...

In the Creator – Creature conflict...because of a sin nature and personal sinning, creatures chose to make themselves God's enemy and to separate themselves from God. That is what we do every time we sin...we engage in a solo activity...we believe that we have a better idea of how to handle a situation than God does, and rather than handling the situation perfectly as God suggests by simply agreeing with Him and His Word, we "go our own way." And it is a lonely and solo experience...Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 15...

/EPH 2:15

...(He broke down the barrier of the dividing wall)...by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the (Mosaic) Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He (the Lord Jesus Christ) might make the two (groups) into one new man (a new spiritual species...in union with Him...a unity), thus establishing peace...

A focus on the sin nature and on personal sinning creates an insurmountable barrier between us and God...the Lord Jesus Christ removed the barrier of the sin nature and personal sinning through His work on the Cross, so that it would not be a barrier to our relationship with Him. If we think that our God is always looking down on us and disapproving of us because we make mistakes, how good is our relationship with Him ever going to be? Won't we just spend our time, and ultimately our lives trying to make ourselves

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adequate to God, and completely miss the point that His Work on our behalf on the Cross made our total adequacy an established fact? Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 16 says...

/EPH 2:16

...and (after establishing peace, that the Lord) might reconcile them both (Jews and Gentiles) in one body to God (the Father) through the Cross, by it (the Cross) having put to death the enmity.

There is no enmity between a believer in Christ and His Person...that's one thing union with Christ means...peace. It is a removal of the feeling and the condition of hostility and hatred and ill will and animosity and antagonism that we have toward God. So we are obsessing about our sins because...? Peace! The Lord Jesus Christ removed a spiritual enmity between Him and us, and He does not want us to re-erect a barrier by obsessing with our sins like we obsess with the lint in our navels.

I was reflecting this week on my relationship with my older son Zachary. Someone asked me this week, "What is your status with Zachary?" My answer was, "I love him." The follow up question was, "What does that mean?" The answer was, "It means I love him, and I don't have anything else to say about our relationship other than that. I love him."

When I think of Zachary, I reflect on the first moment I held him. I was the first man on earth to hold him and to kiss him and to hug him, and it was one of the most precious moments of my life. He had me at hello. He had the most beautiful lips I had ever seen, and it was love at first sight for me. Something changed inside of me that day. It has never wavered. Yet our relationship has been a desert of ups and downs. As you know, I have not minded at all being public about my attitude toward him. My words about Zachary have mostly been negative. There's really no one who knows me who isn't concerned about my relationship with him. I am always asked... "How's your relationship with Zachary." The words are always... "Well...he's kind of a douche bag...and he's struggling in life...he likes doing life the hard way..." And they always say, "He'll figure it out," and I always say... "I dunno!" I think I have mishandled Zachary in this way. I did a lot of things well in raising him, but I don't think I took into account his feelings. It was easy not to take into account his feelings because I rarely take into account my own...for this part of my fathering I am truly sorry.

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As I reflected on it, no one has EVER asked me how I feel about Zachary. If they had, they would have heard something that is uncharacteristic of me. I would have answered, as I did this week, with my feelings. “I love him.” When Zachary wasn’t talking to me for three years, I went to him when he was in need. When Zachary flunked out of school, I cried harder about it that I cried when my mother died. I initiated the conversations with Zachary that led him to move back to Arizona. When he moved back to Arizona, I opened my wallet to him. When he decided to join the army, I helped him get in shape for it by bringing resources to him. When he was going through the crisis at the medical facility in the Army, when they were deciding whether he could stay or go, I was talking to him. When he got discharged, I ran to him. When he was sulking about it after he got back, I got him on his feet. When he needed a job, I tapped resources to help him make it happen. So no matter what the words of anger were that were coming from my mouth, my actions were the actions of unconditional love for Zachary. Why? I love him. It’s that simple. Nothing can ever change that. When Zachary is the person he is destined to become, I will not take any of the credit, because the credit goes to the Lord, who taught me to establish peace by removing the enmity. Even though my version of that sentiment was quite imperfect, it was inspired and led by my relationship with God. When I was doing all those things for Zachary, I didn’t care how much he had hurt me...I pushed down and refused to look at how much I had hurt him...I put myself on the line...I made a fool of myself for him...and was pleased to do it, because none of the bad stuff really mattered! All that mattered is that I love him, and I knew for sure that he loved me, because his actions, through his neglect of our relationship, said so many ways.

When you are in union with someone, as a father is to son...as a mother is to a daughter...as parents are to children...their faults just don’t matter. Look at Matthew, Chapter 27, Verse 50...

/MAT 27:50

And after (His physical death) Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

/MAT 27:51

And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

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/MAT 27:52

*The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised... *

/MAT 27:53

*...and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. *

The miracle of our union with Christ demands a much different look at Christianity and at relationships than is offered by the strictures of the Mosaic Law and of theology, which both focus on sin. Instead, the Cross invites us believers in Christ to focus on the wonder of the new self. Are you focused on your new self?

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

Shine Jesus Shine

*When I Think About Home *

Welcome back! What does it mean to be in union with Christ? There are many other places in the bible that help us learn what it means to be in union with Christ. Galatians, Chapter 3, Verse 3 asks...

/GAL 3:3

*Are you so foolish? Having begun by the (agency of God the Holy) Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh (the Old Self and its sin nature)? *

Do you think that by focusing on your sin nature and on your personal sinning that you can somehow make your union with Christ more perfect?

Do you think that the God who placed you in union with Himself, would ever let you get out of His plan?

Do you think that the God who placed you in union with Himself, would ever let you get out of fellowship with Him?

Do you think that the God who placed you in union with Himself, would ever let you lose the filling of the Spirit? If you do, you need a visit to the

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island of Patmos, an island for the insane. I say no way! Our God is much more powerful and than that, and He's way too smart to let you ruin the perfecting of you that He is doing for your benefit.

Turn in your bibles to Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 18...

<Read Genesis, Chapter 2, Verses 18 to 25...>

Marriage teaches us union with Christ. Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 18...

/GEN 2:18

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."\

It was never God's intention for us to be alone. Personal sinning is a solo act. For believers in Christ, when we do "go solo," the Lord Jesus Christ is still in union with us and would never leave us alone. He is omnipresent. He is always with us. Even when we sin, we believers are NEVER out of union with Christ. Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 22...

/GEN 2:22

The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.\

A soul in a body in the state of spiritual death is missing a relationship with God. It's a solo act. Believing in Christ gives us union with Christ, and solves the problem of aloneness. What is a man without a woman? Nothing. What is a woman without a man? Nothing. Solo acts. This was not God's intention. Man is missing a woman. Woman is missing a man.

/GEN 2:24

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.\

What does it mean to be in union with Christ? The two, the Creator and the Creature, become one flesh. At the Cross, the Lord Jesus Christ restored the possibility of the original design...perfect union. Marriage teaches us about unity. Sex teaches us about unity. Men have something women need.

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Women have something that men need. Mark, Chapter 10, beginning at Verse 2...

/MAR 10:2-3

Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife.//And He answered and said to them, “What did Moses command you?”

/MAR 10:4-5

They said, “Moses permitted a man TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY.”//But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.”

/MAR 10:6

“But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.”

/MAR 10:7-8

“FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER//AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh.

/MAR 10:9

“What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

Marriage teaches us the power of unity and it teaches us that God does not want us to separate.

By the way...I want to thank those of you who are recommending to my congregation members that they stop learning from me...that they “test the spirits...” because it has strengthened my resolve to teach them the truth and to move them away from deifying men and holding to traditions and meaningless rituals...instead I am leading them to Christ and His Word and getting the aorist active indicative out of the way of their union with Christ. What God has joined together...let no man separate.

God teaches us about our union with Him through family, especially through the Royal Family. Hebrews, Chapter 10, Verses 23 to 25 say...

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/HEB 10:23

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful... *

/HEB 10:24-25

*...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to (unconditional) love and good deeds, //not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. *

God does not encourage us to be alone, or to learn the bible on our own. He encourages us to assemble...in unity...to take advantage of one another.

/GEN 2:18

*Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone... *

I'd like to encourage my Royal Family at Lighthouse Bible Church to remember that even though your Pastor is down...you are not alone...you have God...you have the Word of God...you have the Deacons...you have a church...you have God the Holy Spirit...you have each other...don't forsake the assembling of yourselves together as is the habit of some...as it relates to Pastor John Farley...press the pause button until he gets well...but as for you, press on WITH EACH OTHER...and continue to fight the good fight as a family...

God even uses the nation to teach us the value of being in union with Him...there is a Latin expression on the Seal of the United States...

/SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES

E Pluribus Unum

Out of many, one\

Satan's plan for us believers is isolation...to separate us. Satan hates unity. And he hates us. I think the doctrine of privacy is one of the things we use to justify why it is okay for us to move away from the pain of being in relationship with each other. Look at Mark, Chapter 6, beginning at Verse 1...

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<Read Mark, Chapter 6, Verses 1 to 6>

/MAR 6:4

(The Lord) Jesus (Christ) said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household.”

Are we to look at the difficulties of being in a family as a reason to run away? Or are we to see family difficulties as a tribulation the Lord gives us to teach us the benefits of unity? It’s a fact...Micah, Chapter 7, Verse 6...

/MIC 7:6

For son treats father contemptuously, Daughter rises up against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man’s enemies are the men of his own household.

Of this, there is no dispute...I think our union with Christ teaches us to accept these challenges and to watch the magnificent deliverance of the Lord through these challenges...and it does not give us license to run away, and to abandon those we are asked to love unconditionally. We keep helping...we keep looking like a fool...we keep glorifying our God with our love.

What does it mean to be in union with Christ? According to Second Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verses 15 and 16, it means...

/2CO 5:16-17

Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

/2CO 5:17

Therefore if (1) anyone is in (union with) Christ (and all believers are), he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Any system of theology that encourages disunity, is not worth being a part of. You’ll know disunity when conduct is reviewed by the standard of unconditional love.

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/CLOSING SONG

Father I'm Yours\

CLOSING VERSES

/PRO 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.//In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

/DEU 31:8

The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed

/ISA 30:18

Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

/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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