

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 451– April 14, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

**Let's Make a Mental Shift **

Good morning! Psalm 23, Verses 1 to 3 say...

/PSA 23:1-3

The Lord is the One who keeps on shepherding me (God leads us)...I cannot lack anything.//He makes me lie down in green pastures (God nourishes us) ; He leads me beside quiet waters (God refreshes us).//He restores my soul (He renews us); He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake (God directs us).

Truly the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ lacks nothing. We are never in situations that the Lord is not completely aware of...we are never in situations He has not provided for completely...and so we rest in His care and in His excellence. Christianity is a lifestyle of rest through our faith in our sovereign Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

<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 all the details of the Predetermined Plan of God the Father...so we can know the voluntary compassion and sacrifice of God the Son...and so we can know the amazing resurrection life of the uniquely born One, the Lord Jesus Christ. 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 God prepare you to “in humility 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

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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 change our parenting to bring it into line with the Word of God...

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, given to me by God for your benefit, so 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

Parenting with Unconditional Love is Done Intentionally

We continue our study of the second of the twenty-one categories of biblical thought that are part of the CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT series.

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

We are learning about the magnificent aspects of our CREATOR'S essence at the second of the 21 C's...Tick Tock...what time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK?

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE no dial>

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We're smack dab in the middle of the CREATOR CLOCK because at the hub of the CREATOR CLOCK is one of the most important words in our language... LOVE...it's the Greek word *agapao*, and it translates as unconditional love. Christianity is a life of unconditional love. First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13 says...

/1CO 13:13

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

In God the Father, we have a parent who loves us unconditionally. Therefore, as parents, we are asked by God to love our children unconditionally. Parents...do you love your children unconditionally or are you expecting something from them, so that when they deliver it, then and only then will they be acceptable to you? Are you holding your children to a set of standards that were shoved down your throat by your parents, which you did not like, and yet even though you didn't like these standards you pass them on to your kids?

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

Does your Christianity show up in the parenting of your children?

If you are going to parent with unconditional love it has to be done intentionally. As we look at the subject of unconditional love, and specifically at parenting with it, a quick reminder for those of you who enjoy beating yourselves up with the Word of God...to those of you who regularly take out your mental rubber hoses to flog yourself during bible study... Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 1 says...

/ROM 8:1

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in (union with) Christ Jesus.

This is not the time to look back on your parenting errors...this isn't subject matter to be used to criticize each other...the truth is designed to set us free...it's subject matter that our Lord sees fit to provide to us at this time, mainly so we can admire what a great parent He is...and so that we can learn

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from His parenting, and so that we can use unconditional love in all our relationships for the rest of our lives.

Parenting has three strategic phases...in phase 1 we INCULCATE INSTRUCTION...in phase 2 we HELP THEM GROW...in phase 3 we LET THEM GO. From ages 0 to 12, we as parents are to INCULCATE INSTRUCTION.

/PARENTING

Phase 1

INCULCATE INSTRUCTION

PRO 22:6

Train up (dedicate yourself to) a child in the way he should go (narrow his path), even when he is old he will not depart (turn away) from it.

In phase one of parenting, the primary lesson is authority orientation. It's the time in a child's life when we teach the do's and the don'ts, and it's the time when we enforce the do's and don'ts to teach the lesson of obedience. The most destructive thing I see parents doing today is allowing willful disobedience in their children under the age of twelve. I see parents give an order, I see the child disobeying the order willfully, and I see parents ignoring this defiance without issuing a consequence. By doing so, parents are teaching their children to defy authority. Remember that discipline is...

/DISCIPLINE

Training in a character pattern.\

We want our children, when they are young (0 to 12), to learn obedience because it makes for a peaceful household and it prepares them for the society into which they will go...a society which functions effectively because of willful obedience. Yet I see parents issuing orders, the child willfully disobeying the orders, even hitting the parent or acting out in some other way, and parents allowing it. For example...you tell a child to knock before they enter your room...the child doesn't knock...and you allow it. You just taught them to disobey. But let's face it...who wants to be taking the time to enforce the orders you give? It's a pain in the butt. Just ask the police department! I'll tell you who wants to do it...only the parents who want their children to be disciplined...only the parents who want to train

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their kids in a character pattern. Lenient parents, who make requests and then don't follow through to enforce the requests, teach the very thing they don't want from their children.

From ages 13 to 18, we as parents are to HELP TEENS BECOME ADULTS...to help them grow. At thirteen, it's time to discard the strategy you used to get your children to the teen years, and to adopt a completely new strategy of parenting.

/PARENTING

Phase 2

HELP TEENS BECOME ADULTS

EPH 6:4 b

...bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

More than at any time in their lives, teen children need the Word of God in their souls. Teen-agers like to pretend they are not listening to their parents, and thus they pretend to not care about the Word of God. The truth? They need you more at this stage than they did when they were 0 to 12. AND, they are listening to you more than they did from 0 to 12. Yet usually they will not let you know that anything you are saying makes sense to them. Yet it does...all of it.

In the 0 to 12 phase, they are dependent on you as parents. But when they get to the teen years, they are trying on the wings of independence, and you must let them. This is the time when you help them make decisions. Whereas in the 0 to 12 years, their consequences may include a spanking, in the teen years their consequences come from experiencing the result of their own decisions. They do things that get them in trouble, and most times you can't prevent it. You just hope that you can protect them from their own stupidity without treating them like they are children.

In this second phase of parenting, the reason a strategy switch is called for is because they have shifted the focus of their attention. In the 0 to 12 phase, their attention is on you. In the 13 to 18 phase, their attention shifts to their peer group. You must get to know their peer group intimately to be successful in the parenting of teens.

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As an example, I taught my boys that from 10pm to 2am every Friday and Saturday night in Phoenix, one third of the drivers on the road are drunk. I would then send them every article I could find, as often as I found them about teens that were killed by drunk drivers. I sent articles about teens that were shot at parties. I would check to see that they got the articles and we would discuss them. I asked, “What did you learn from reading the article?” They would tell me, and I made sure the message I wanted in them got across. When the time came for them to make a decision about Friday or Saturday night, they were fully aware that it was a night where they could “get dead.” They regularly chose, on their own, without me telling them, to be off the street during those hours.

You can use the TELL parenting approach when your kids are 0 to 12...but TELL has to turn to COACH when they are teens. Coach the decisions your teens make, but don't make their decisions for them. If you do, they'll blame you for their bad decisions. Ask them what time they intend to be home...don't tell them what time to be home. Let them decide and coach their decisions if they are not in line with your house rules.

Unfortunately, you can't protect your children from themselves in every situation. You have to teach them how to make great decisions, how to differentiate a great decision from a bad decision, and then let them live. The toughest thing about parenting, in my view, is allowing our kids to experience the consequences of their actions, even when those decisions could cost them their lives. We count on God to protect our children, because our children are really His children on loan to us.

The teen years are the years to be positive with your children. Praise great decisions, and use grace in times when they make lousy decisions. This isn't the time to put them down or to get frustrated with them when they make lousy decisions. They will. You did. You still do. They will, too. Just as God did not see fit to give children perfect parents, God did not see fit to give parents perfect children.

Your children are not making lousy decisions because they are not doing what you would do. They are not you. You have the benefit of age and wisdom and experience. They don't. That's easy to forget.

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/PARENTING

Phase 3

LET THEM GO

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.

When they become 18, send them off to college and butt the hell out. We are raising children to let them go. I know it's hard. But it is for both their good, and for yours. Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

Yes We All Agree

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

Here are a few excerpts from an article on the idea of LET THEM GO.

/STILL LIVING WITH YOUR PARENTS AT 30?

Get a life!

by Barbara Ellen

Children who won't leave home are being fools to themselves. And parents should stop mollycoddling them.\

/STILL LIVING WITH YOUR PARENTS AT 30?

Get a life!

by Barbara Ellen

I tried to understand, I really did, but it was difficult after reading the latest report on adult children still living at home. Almost three million of the UK's 20 to 34 year-olds, approaching one in three men and one in seven women, are still living at home.\

/STILL LIVING WITH YOUR PARENTS AT 30?

Get a life!

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by Barbara Ellen

I could barely suppress the urge to grab someone and scream, “What the hell are you doing? You get one life and you’re living it in your parents’ house! Whatever it takes, whatever it costs, however much your standard of living falls, you must save yourself and leave. At once!”\

Amen? All cultures do not see the LET THEM GO phase the same way. In Asia, for example, there is an expectation that adult children will care for parents in their old age. And they do. Many of them can’t understand the American attitude toward growing up, LET THEM GO, and are very critical of it. Of course the Asian culture, generally speaking, is neither a Christian culture nor a biblical culture. In addition, I have been privy to hundreds of conversations when people are being honest, and there is resentment about the obligation and the slavery Asian children feel about their “responsibility” for parents.

There is a great song about the LET THEM GO phase of parenting, and music was one of the ways I communicated this phase of my parenting philosophy to my children...it’s called “If I Could” by Regina Belle...let’s listen...

/IF I COULD

Regina Belle

If I could

I’d protect you from the sadness in your eyes

Give you courage in a world of compromise

Yes, I would\

/IF I COULD

Regina Belle

If I could

I would teach you all the things I’ve never learned

And I’d help you cross the bridges that I’ve burned

Yes, I would\

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/IF I COULD

Regina Belle

If I could

I would try to shield your innocence from time

But the part of life I gave you isn't mine

I'll watch you grow, so I can let you go\

/IF I COULD

Regina Belle

If I could

I would help you make it through the hungry years

But I know that I can never cry your tears, babe

But I would if I could\

/IF I COULD

Regina Belle

If I could

In a time and place where you don't wanna be

You don't have to walk along this road with me

My yesterday won't have to be your way\

/IF I COULD

Regina Belle

If I knew

I'd try to change the world I brought you to

Now there isn't much more that I can do

But I would if I could\

/IF I COULD

Regina Belle

If I could

I would try to shield your innocence from time

But the part of life I gave you isn't mine

I'll watch you grow, so I can let you go\

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/IF I COULD

Regina Belle

If I could

I'd help you make it through the hungry years

But I know that I can never cry your tears

But I would if I could

If I could\

Parenting is hard because nowhere in our lives do we experience the depth of unconditional love like in the area of parenting.

Moms stink at the LET THEM GO phase. Yet in the hushed conversations, during the times when people are being honest, mothers are most disliked for not being able to let go, for not being able to keep their opinions about their adult kids to themselves, and for trying to live their lives vicariously through their children. If there were one profession I would never want, it would be the job of WEDDING PLANNER because I would hate to watch the way parents, especially Moms, intrude on their weddings of their children.

Phase three of parenting requires a new strategy as well. It is the strategy of acceptance. LET THEM GO. Accept the fact that God expects your parenting to be over at a point. I think when parents don't prepare themselves to let go from the beginning, letting go becomes nearly impossible.

So three phases of parenting...0 to 12...INCULCATE INSTRUCTION...13 to 18 HELP THEM GROW...18+ LET THEM GO. These three phases, not so oddly enough, correspond perfectly to the three phases in the plan of God...THE LAW...and GRACE...and FREEDOM.

We'll learn more about this when we continue our study of unconditional love in two weeks. Next week, remember, no face-to-face teaching.

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/CLOSING SONG

Faith, Hope and Love\

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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