

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 453 – April 21, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

Good morning!

Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20 says...

/GAL 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in(dwelling) me; and the (Zoe) life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me (unconditionally) and (who) gave Himself up (as a substitute) for me."\

This is why we come to church. So that in the tough times, we can remember that it's Christ who lives through us, and by His unconditional love we can handle any circumstance we find ourselves in. So, in preparation for the study of the Word of God, it's time for self-evaluation. You can ask yourself, "What thought pattern am I allowing to influence my life?"

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED? no verse... let the verse pop in on the next click>

Bible study is a time for us to focus on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is a time for us to let the Word of God flood our souls with His thoughts. Thus, allowing us to operate with His unconditional love. We can choose where we want to focus our attention, either on the things of this world or on the kingdom of heaven. Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2 says...

/ROM 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.\

Now is the time to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the 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

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Take You Back\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear Jeremy Camp worship our Lord in song, while you concentrate on your Lord and Savior. The opening song is... TAKE YOU BACK.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

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

Please help us today to remember that behind every title that we give people, that there is a living breathing human being with a name, friends, family, and problems of their own. Help us to remember to treat them with Your unconditional love.

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

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Caleb Alburn

Deacon\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Caleb Alburn. And, my spiritual gift is awesome!... I just don't know what it is yet, so until that time I'll serve as Deacon for your benefit. You're listening to lesson four hundred and fifty-three 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

Unconditional Love is People Treating People Like People

<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 deep, intimate, and personal relationship with Him. It's pretty tough to love someone you don't know very well, so we're getting to know our God. We use an encoding device called the CREATOR CLOCK to introduce ourselves to the various aspects of God's character and nature. Tick tock. What time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK? It's... 13 o'clock! God is LOVE.

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<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE no dial. LOVE is big in the center>

13 o'clock exists. C'mon! We all remember playing the card game when we were younger where we had to put the cards in order from 1 to 12. Well, there are thirteen cards, so we always had to put the kings in the middle at 13 o'clock.

<Clock Card Game Picture>

How fitting it is that we would put the King in the middle in this card game, because the King is Love as we read in 1 John, Chapter 4, Verse 16...

/1 JOH 4:16

We have come to know and have believed in the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.\

<Clock Card Game Picture>

So, again I ask... Tick tock. What time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK? It's 13 o'clock.

God is Love. And, we're studying God's unconditional love, so that we can use it to be a light in this lost and dying world.

So, what comes to your mind when you think of love? Or, better yet... what comes to your mind when you think about God's unconditional love?

Is it the cross?

<Cross Picture>

That's certainly part of it. At least that makes a lot of sense. That's what it tells us in the ever so popular verse of John 3:16...

/JOH 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.\

But, that's not what I think about. I think about Satan...

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I know, I get it. The devil deacon... always thinking about Satan, but hear me on this one. I don't think of Satan. No, I think of God's love for Satan. Stay with me here. I want us to ponder something...

/We exist because God loves Satan\

I don't think we think about this often. Or, well... ever... But, this is why we're studying the Creator vs. Creature Conflict.

So, if we know that God loves Satan who is His enemy, why is it so hard for us to love the people around us?

And, I don't mean with the superficial love that everybody gives everybody else. I mean with real love... Unconditional Love... Love that we show, not just talk about.

This reminds me of conversation that I had with a really good friend. And, I know that he's watching this, because well... he has to... He's a really good friend, and I asked him to. But we had a conversation. This was a long time ago. He told me...

"Caleb, I like your church. I learn a lot about God and who He is. I learn a lot about the Bible and the meaning behind its verses, but you know what? It seems like your church has no love in it. Why don't we ever hear about how much God loves us? Shouldn't that be a focus?

And, I did the exact same thing that most of you are doing right now. I started defending this church and its teachings instead of listening with an open mind the view of this church from someone who doesn't regularly attend.

You see, the truth is we can talk about how much we love as much as we want to, but if we aren't showing it, then no one's going to see it. God doesn't just tell us He loves us, He shows it through His actions. And, I don't have enough time to go over every example that's in the Bible and in our own lives as well, but that's what this ministry is going to be devoted to from here on out. And, that's what this lesson is going to be focused on... God's unconditional love, and how we can have this too.

Now, back to the story though, because I wasn't finished. And, just as a disclaimer, I am someone who acts very antagonistically. I love asking the questions that other people may want to, but never will. So, this conversation went on, and I asked him

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and his wife... "Okay, you have all this love for God and each other... what if you found out the other one was having an affair? What would you do?"

And instantly, they answered in unison... "I would get a divorce."

This lesson is dedicated to them and anyone else out there who may ever have a problem in life that ONLY God's unconditional love can solve. I love them. I would take a bullet for them. I am not just saying this... no matter what happens, I will have unconditional love for them. They are my friends. And, it's my challenge to them, and to all of us, that we grow in God's grace and unconditional love so that when the tough times undoubtedly arrive that we can think and operate under God's unconditional love that can get us through any circumstance that life brings us.

With that being said, it seems fitting that we should open up our bibles. Let's find the book of Matthew, and turn to Chapter 19, Verse 3. We're going to look at what Jesus has to say about this matter. We'll read up to verse 9.

/MAT 19:3

Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"\

/MAT 19:4-5

And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, //and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'\

/MAT 19:6

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."\\

/MAT 19:7

They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?"\\

/MAT 19:8

He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.\

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/MAT 19:9

"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

So, there it is... there's the verse that every Christian knows about. Everyone knows that in the event of immorality divorce is allowed... So, I say to you...

/Divorce is allowed... SO WHAT?\

Does that make us special? How impressive is it that when the going gets tough, we get going. Now, I'm not saying this to make us feel condemned. I'll give us the same disclaimer that we're used to. Romans 8:1

/ROM 8:1

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.\

So, let's not beat ourselves up. For all those out there who have been divorced. This isn't a lesson condemning you. These things happen in life. All I'm saying is that God gives us an even more powerful tool than divorce. He gives us unconditional love.

I want us to really think about this. Think about all we've gone over so far. Think about our lives. Think about all the areas in it, that maybe, just maybe might be different if we operate in unconditional love for others. It's easy for us to think of all the people we love on the top of our heads and think about how we can show it more to them. That's the easy part. How often do I stand up here and challenge us to do something that's easy? I'm much more interested in us giving unconditional love to people whom we can't stand. Let's try that. But first, let's take a 5 minute break, and during the break listen to this song by for KING & COUNTRY. They sum up this whole lesson in 4 minutes...

/BREAK

The Proof of Your love - for KING & COUNTRY
When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

So, a funny story. There was no part of me in the world that wanted to tackle anything that has to do with marriage, adultery, or divorce. It wasn't even in my original notes. I don't have any credentials to give any type of marital advice. And, because of that, it's possible that some people may have tuned out during the first

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part of this lesson. And, to them I say... too bad. Press rewind and listen again. Because, if God wanted the qualified up here, Moses would have never had a job.

That's the beauty of God. I'm nothing more than a willing participant for Him to get a message across. If I didn't volunteer, someone else would. I just want this to be in the forefront of anyone's mind when we get up here and teach, whether it's on parenting, giving, relationships or whatever it is we're speaking on. I just want you to remember exactly who it is who's up here speaking... because it's not us.

Now, that we have that out of the way we can move on to the fun stuff.

There's been something that has been bothering me lately. And, for anyone who's close to me, you know that this is a common occurrence. I'm always thinking. There's always something on my mind, and I have an opinion on everything. But, that's what's fun about getting up here though. You don't get my opinion, you get God's, and that's the only one that counts.

So, as we mentioned before, this lesson is to show us that...

/Unconditional love is displayed when people treat people like people.\

I want this drilled in our heads. This is what has been bothering me lately. It seems as a society and as a church we have fallen in the trap of treating human beings as objects of their title.

Let me explain... As children we're raised to see people by their title. We teach kids about authority orientation all the time, which is great. Ask any kid who they should listen to, and you'll get a list:

/POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY

Dad, mom, parents, older brother, older sister, grandpa, grandma, uncle, aunt, coach, principal, police officer, president, boss, teacher...\

All of this is fantastic. I don't think anyone is going to argue this. But what about when we become adults? A lot of us carry this same mentality into adulthood. I'm telling you... this philosophy doesn't work as adults. We're building a house of cards when we operate like this.

<House of Cards Picture>

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Don't get me wrong. We absolutely should listen to authority. This goes well with us. The Bible is littered with verses about this. Mark, Chapter 12, Verse 17 says...

/MAR 12:17

And Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

We also read in Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verses 1 through 3...

/EPH 6:1-3

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

So, again... I'm not saying that we stop listening to authority. I'm saying, what good is it if we don't have love?

Turn in our bibles to 1 Corinthians 13. There are a host of verses in here that we've all heard a hundred times, but what I want to do is read them all together.

/1 CO 13:1

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or clanging cymbal.

/1 CO 13:2

If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

/1 CO 13:3

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

/1 CO 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, //does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked does not take into account a wrong suffered, //does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; //bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Let's skip down just a little bit, because this is what I really want to focus on. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verses 11 through 13.

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/1 CO 13:11

When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.\

/1 CO 13:12

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.\

/1 CO 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.\

This is where I wanted to get to. You see... we're adults now, and we can start acting like adults now. We can now listen to authority, but we can do it knowing that there is a living, breathing, human being, with a name, and family and friends, and problems just like you. And, as a result, we can treat them like such... with unconditional love.

So now, back to the adultery story in the beginning. Yeah we can get a divorce. But why end the book there. No one wants to read that story. No one wants to watch that movie. No one wants to play that video game... Well... people might actually want to play that video game, but you get the point.

Imagine if you decided to operate in unconditional love, like you vowed to do in front of God and your closest people in your life and to the most important person in your life, your spouse. Imagine if you decided to keep your word and stay with the other person. Imagine that you worked it out and you two grew closer together because of it. Think of what those pages would say... think of the ending to that movie. Now, I'm not saying that's the easy route, but often times the road less traveled yields the better stories.

Now, I want to share stories of how we objectify people, but how it gets better when we don't. I want to share how it gets better when you realize that there are people behind those titles. I want to start with Rory...

When I first moved down here and would be talking to people Barah would always come up in conversation. I would always refer to Rory as "My Pastor this... or My Pastor that..." This eventually turned into "I have a friend who this... or I have a friend who that..." Well, it only took me two and a half years, but now I see myself saying, "My buddy, Rory..." Here's where the unconditional love comes in. I expect NOTHING from my friends. This is why I don't fight with my friends. Those of you who are close to me know this. Whereas, let's see my expectations

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for a pastor. I expect that they spend a legitimate amount of time studying the Bible. I expect that I never get any opinions, only perfect absolute truth. I expect that my pastor practices what he preaches. And as such, I can expect to bounce from church to church to church as so many Christians do their entire lives. Because, they forget that there is a human being up there doing their best job and stumbling on every step along the way.

And, if you can't relate to that, don't worry, because the Devil Deacon has another example of where he objectified a person. The great thing about this though is I KNOW EVERYONE has had themselves in these shoes, so it's something I know we can all connect with and learn from.

/Once upon a time Caleb had a boss whom he couldn't stand. He believed the person to be selfish, inconsiderate, self centered, and unaware. He simply couldn't stand this boss of his. He treated his boss like a red light, doing exactly what he was told, but cussing every step of the way.\

/This went on for eons, until one day he woke up and decided it was time to start acting in unconditional love. Maybe, just maybe, it might get him further. It was hard at first, even using the person's name was a stretch, but over time he started to ignore and see past all of his boss' flaws, and he noticed that there was a human behind that mask.\

/Over time he build a genuine relationship with this person. Eventually, this human became one of his favorite people to work with. His boss hasn't changed one bit, but through the lenses of God's unconditional love, he no longer notices the flaws. He only focuses on the good things about his boss. Operating like this has made all the difference. The End\

Now, I know this story started off with a "Once upon a time..." but this is a true story... for the most part... I say this, because the ending hasn't happened quite yet. But, in all sincerity, we can change events in the history of life by treating people with grace and unconditional love.

We can do this today. Even in the little things. For example. The next time you call a customer service rep and they answer the phone and introduce themselves... try this... use their name and ask them how they're doing. They will literally pause, because no one else treats them like a human. Try this, and it will change the outcome of the entire conversation.

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So, that's my secret on a side note. Some of you watching have asked me how I get such incredible deals on things all of the time. I know this seems off topic, but this way you know that God doesn't leave you hanging. He doesn't tell us to live in unconditional love, because it's fun for Him to watch. He tells us this, because it only has positive benefits to all involved.

So, again my challenge to everyone, all of us, is that we can start living an unconditional love lifestyle. It's easy for us to treat strangers as if they're our best friend. But, how about when your best friend wrongs you? That's my challenge... that when that happens... that we operate in God's love, and forgiveness, and extend a little grace to them.

Our closing song is I Am Not the Same by Seventh Day Slumber...

But, before we listen to it I want to give a little background on the lead singer. I'm not going to go into too much detail, because I don't want to butcher his remarkable story. He got into drugs as a teenager; they eventually developed into a \$400 a day cocaine habit that he supported through stealing, even from his mother. In his early twenties he decided to end his life and took a lethal dose of cocaine. His mother came home to see her son slowly stumbling toward her apologizing for not being a good enough son. He fell down and had a heart attack. He wasn't a Christian. On the ambulance ride to the hospital he made the decision to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life.

I share his incredible story for us as a lesson in unconditional love. We need to remember that we can't use someone's past as a dictator of what they're going to do in the future. So, think about that while we listen to this powerful song...

/CLOSING SONG

I Am Not the Same - Seventh Day Slumber\

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/JER 29:11

‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’\

/1 PE 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, //casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.\

/JUD 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, //to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.\

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

God, thank you for teaching us that can treat people exactly as they are... as people. Lord, thank you for teaching us that we can do this, while still remembering to honor and respect their authority. And, I pray that you help us live and operate with your unconditional love. 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. And we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, and in Christ’s name... Amen.

/Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

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