

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013**

The Creator-Creature Conflict  
Lesson 455 – April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

**/Welcome to Barah Ministries – Good Morning Royal Family!**

Let's shift our minds away from the issues of life and focus on the message from God the Holy Spirit\

We come to bible study for RENEWING, to allow God the Holy Spirit to guide us by the Truth in 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 the behalf of all.

We come here because we know we don't have to clean up our sins and work to better ourselves. We know God does all the work from salvation on the cross to the renovation of our soul. Our free will gives us tremendous power and when we decide to be obedient to the plan of God that power becomes divine. The fact that you're watching or listening shows that you want to take full advantage of your position in Christ.

We hear John 3:36 all the time

/John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." \

But how many of you have looked at the context of that verse because if you look one verse before in John 3:35 you can see the power we have being in union with the Lord Jesus Christ.

/John 3:35

"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.\

God the Father gives the Lord Jesus Christ what? ALL. Since you're here taking in the Word of God you're aware that we have the Spirit, not by measure, as the disciples, but in all fullness. God gives all of Himself to the believer so as we hear the opening song dwell on the

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013**

many provisions from God especially the Holy Spirit and put the pressures of life aside. Cast your fears on the Lord because I know the plans He has for you; plans for happiness and not for disaster to give you a bright future full of hope.

**/MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

A Heart That Forgives - Kevin LeVar \

**/OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

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

Thank you for this opportunity to speak from my Pastor's pulpit.

Thank you for the chance to see through your eyes and the eyes of my Pastor.

I have a whole new appreciation for the level of preparation that is necessary for these lessons.

Help us to use your unconditional love in our everyday lives, and especially with our coworkers and ourselves.

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

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

Deacon Denny Goodall\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Deacon Denny Goodall. You're listening to lesson four hundred and fifty-five 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. Welcome to a

## THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013

place where you can let your guard down and build up your love for God and for everyone in your life. Now if you're like me you've probably let the pressures of life creep back into you mind. Just push them aside because as the Holy Spirit teaches us the Lord is taking care of you. You can take heart in Deuteronomy 31:7...

/Deuteronomy 31:7

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you\

### **/Today's Study**

The Creator's Unconditional Love Can Alleviate Conflicts in Your Career\

We have been using the Creator Clock to learn about our God. Recently we have made a shift to the center of the clock to focus on God's unconditional love. I like to check the thesaurus to better understand the definition of words we use to learn about God. When I looked up unconditional I found unrestricted, total, absolute, unlimited. You see God loves all of us no matter what we have done or will do. No amount of evil deeds or time can change the extent that our God loves us.

So today I want to talk about using God's unconditional love at work. We need to have unrestricted love for our coworkers, our bosses, our customers, and ultimately ourselves. I know I know that sounds crazy. How could we love those jerks at work? Now some of you may actually have the perfect boss or coworkers so they're easy to love, but most of us don't.

I plan to present five methods to help us reflect the unconditional love of God at work. My desire is that these things can relieve conflicts at work and help us enjoy work rather than despise it. I think if we can learn to love our coworkers, bosses, and customers then we can certainly love our family members.

I know for myself, work has its good days and its bad days. Often

## THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013

just thinking about all the issues at work makes me want to crack a beer or seven. So just so you know, when I wrote this I was drunk...with the Holy Spirit...because His mentorship is the only way to keep focus on God's unconditional love. Romans 8:5 and 6 confirms the power we have with the Holy Spirit.

/Romans 8:5-6

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. //For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace\

This verse says we can have peace by setting our mind on the Spirit but to be honest sometimes work feels more like war than peace. It was a real struggle to write this lesson because the more I think about my mental attitude or my actions at work I realize I don't always have unconditional love at work. If I were being honest I would rather choke some of my coworkers and customers than to forgive them. My heart would rather have me punch them than love them. I jokingly call our shop the Fun Factory.

I'm reminded of a quote by Drew Carey...

/Oh, you hate your job? Why didn't you say so? There's a support group for that. It's called EVERYBODY, and they meet at the bar. — Drew Carey\

So I work at a custom cabinet shop. Our work ranges from high-end whole house new builds, which can cost over one hundred thousand dollars to small entertainment system remodels that cost a couple thousand dollars.

I'm in a unique position at my job. I have 5% ownership in the company but I also work right along side the guys in the shop. So, I'm kind of a middleman between the owners and the workforce. I have taken on many different responsibilities from management to production. As shop manger I direct labor but also take part in the labor. My role gives me authority over all the guys except the two owners.

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013**

This brings us to method number one.

**/Choose the Company\**

Since I'm in the middle between the suits and the workers it seems like I'm forced to take sides. For the longest time I only saw two sides...them - the owners and us - the workers. However there are actually more. The owners, the workers, and the business itself make three sides. So when conflict arises I take the side of the business. Choosing the business means to see all for one and one for all. That makes it simple because if the business succeeds then we all succeed.

For example when you remodel a kitchen it's easy for the bosses to miss a couple small details. When the guys return from the install a small detail has turned into a huge ordeal. The guys will vent their frustrations to me. It's all too easy to pile on and bash the bosses for missing something but this never really helps. Rather than siding with the guys which fans the flames or siding with the bosses which invalidates their frustrations I have to side with the business. I compliment them for having the skills to make the best out of a tough situation while reminding them that our bosses are only human and can't always catch every detail. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:16-19

/2 Corinthians 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. //Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come./

/2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, // namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.\

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013**

One of the big implications of this, as I see it, since we're in union with Christ we are to see them, more than anything else, not as members of this group or that group, but as brothers and sisters in Christ. And even those who are not yet in union with Christ we are to see as souls for whom Jesus died, and individuals with whom we may potentially spend eternity together in heaven.

Overall the guys are great at getting the job done. But no matter where I have worked there always seems to be one or two people that are like nails on a chalkboard. They just don't fit in.

Our free will is a grace gift but it is also the very bane of human existence. Human nature will always create gaps in thinking & philosophy, and no matter how much we all wish it wasn't so...it is. So the question then becomes how to effectively deal with conflict when it arises. It is essential for the health and performance of a company that conflict be accepted and addressed.

This brings us to method number two

**/Choose Conflict Head-On\**

As I said some guys just don't always fit in. I think it's just a fact of life that we can't all be great friends but we can still be friends. We can't always prevent conflicts; it has been my experience that the secret to conflict resolution is in fact conflict prevention where possible. By actually seeking out areas of potential conflict and proactively intervening you will likely prevent certain conflicts from ever arising. I find that humor really helps to disrupt the tension when it does arise. When a conflict does flair up, you will likely minimize its severity by dealing with it quickly. Time spent identifying and understanding natural tensions will help to avoid unnecessary conflict.

One area of conflict at the Fun Factory that I have identified is the cleaning of our Dust Collector. Have you ever seen the TV show, Dirty Jobs? Cleaning this monster could be on that show. The

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013**

collector is two stories tall and produces ten to twelve fifty gallon barrels of sawdust. When we take off the barrels on the bottom the dust goes everywhere. I mean it's not as bad as cleaning Elliott's bathroom but you basically get coated in dust and if you're sweaty it's like getting tarred and feathered. I don't really have to help but I do. I just jump right in so the guys can't complain that not everyone is helping. Some of the new guys seem to magically disappear when we empty the sawdust. So I scream and holler like we're having a party. Woo, yeah, woo this is fun I'll yell. I act like I've just been dying to empty the dust out. They guys laugh and probably think I'm crazy but it works. We get it done and by the end they're all yelling and they other guys want to be apart of it. Woo. I'm reminded of Hebrews 10:24 and 25...

/Hebrews 10:24-25

Let us consider how to stimulate one another to 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.\

Everyone in your company needs encouragement and wants to feel a part of something greater than themselves. When we invest time together we can build the relationships and trust that create a more positive and loving culture. By being funny and loud I become the annoying one so the guys can laugh at me rather than the new guys.

So lets take a five-minute break and please don't fast forward through the song. Listen to this and remember to take what we know and live it out.

**/BREAK**

Abandon – Live It Out\

Welcome back. Hopefully you enjoyed that simple, uplifting song that reminds us to focus on the new self and tear down the walls we construct between each other.

So lets move on to method number three.



**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013**

**/Choose Gratitude\**

It seems like a lot of tension at work is in our own head. We highlight the mistakes of others while minimizing our own. This focus on the flaws and errors of others causes us to mentally jump ship. We begin to entertain the thought that the grass is greener on the other side.

I know I've had this very thought. We have one boss who is very organized while the other is very unstructured. I like to have a clear, repeatable process for everything. So half of our work is easy to fabricate and assemble and the other half is unclear and frustrating. This drives me crazy. Why can't it all be the same? Just do it the same. Then I think the large companies must have a rigid and productive structure. I could just go there and all my worries would be gone right? Actually that's wrong. Turn in your bibles to 1 Thessalonians 5:16 through 18.

"Come on Caleb flip those pages, beat me there don't meet me there."

/1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always; // pray without ceasing; // in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.\

So the bible says rejoice always and give thanks in everything. I'm not rejoicing if I'm ready to leave. It's amazing how the Lord works because we have just hired a new IT guy to consolidate the designs from the two bosses. So not only has my life been made easier but also the new guy has experience at many of the larger cabinet manufacturers in the valley. He has told me how crazy and unorganized these places are. We have one tenth of the problems that they have. Just to name a few they have unqualified personal in key positions as well as overbearing and unnecessary paperwork.

Another thought I've had is I'll show them. I'm gonna leave, they need me more than I need them. While that may be true, is that reflecting the love of God?...not really, because there are entire families depending on this company. Leaving out of vengeance is selfish and reflects human perspective not divine perspective.



**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013**

So when I have an attitude of appreciation rather than frustration the guys can see the very same love that God has for us all.

This brings us to method number four

**/Choose Discretion\**

This means to pick your battles and avoid conflict for the sake of conflict. Not every issue is worth fighting over. Sometimes you just have to give people the benefit of the doubt. Just like you want them to do for you.

However if the issue is important enough to create a conflict then it is surely important enough to resolve. If the issue, circumstance, or situation is important enough, and there is enough at stake, people will do what is necessary to open lines of communication and close positional gaps.

Just like Rory said when you try to have real strict adherence to the rules people rebel. However when you tell them the rules and give them freedom to abide in them they begin to voluntarily take part. So remember Proverbs 14:16...

/Proverbs 14:16

A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless\

Choose your battles wisely and people will take notice that you don't fight over everything. They will realize that you only bring things up if they really matter to the company.

So moving on to our fifth and final method for using unconditional love to ease the tensions at work.

**/Choose Opportunity\**

Hidden within virtually every conflict is the potential for a tremendous learning opportunity. Where there is disagreement there is an inherent potential for growth and development. Divergent positions that are addressed properly can stimulate innovation and learning. Smart leaders look for the upside in all differing opinions. We should

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013**

use the conflict to flush out the differing opinions and use them to teach why things either work as is or why there is a need for change.

Colossians 4:5 reminds us how to handle situations of conflict...

/Colossians 4:5

Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity\

Bottom line...I believe resolution can be found with conflicts where there is a sincere desire to do so. Turning the other cheek, compromise, forgiveness, compassion, empathy, finding common ground, being an active listener, service above self, and numerous other approaches will always allow one to be successful in building relationships if the underlying desire is strong enough.

So in closing I hope you can use your freedom of choice to use some or all of these methods to assist you at work. Like I said in the beginning I need to work on all these things myself. I used choice in each method because at the end of the day you have free will to forgive and use unconditional love or not. So side with the company, seek out areas of conflict, appreciate your position, pick your battles and take advantage of teachable moments. If you can do these simple things I think you cannot only have fun at work but you can be successful and build lasting relationships.

So don't fear conflict, embrace it and appreciate the perfection in tough situations because you know your God is right there with you. He will never leave you or forsake you. Day by day our gracious God is renewing our soul and helping us to see life through His eyes.

**/CLOSING SONG**

Brandon Heath – Give Me Your Eyes\

**CLOSING VERSES**

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 455 – April 21, 2013**

/1 John 4:7-9

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.// The one who does not love does not know God, for God is (unconditional) love.// By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.\

/James 4:7-8

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.// Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.\

/2 Corinthians 4:14-15

Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. //For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.\

**/CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

Father in Heaven; thank you for giving us the perfect set of tools to help us treat others well even when they don't deserve it.

Thank you for designing these tools for others and ourselves.

Thank you for giving us an advocate in Christ who has felt our pain and actually applied the word of God.

I pray that you help us to live what we have learned and have peace and happiness even at work.

It shouldn't take a tragedy for us to come together.

I pray help and heal those affected by the bombing in Boston.

## THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 455 - April 21, 2013

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!

[www.barahministries.com](http://www.barahministries.com)\