

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 456– April 28, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

Good morning! First John, Chapter 2, Verses 4 to 6 say...

/1JO 2:4-6

The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; //but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him://the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

The Christian Way of Living is an outward manifestation of an inner reality. As Christians, we seek to obey our God because we know that He knows the things that work. We watch closely as He changes our inner beings into creatures who do all of His will. We come to bible study to learn His will so that we can be instruments of His will and reflections of His glory.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Bible study is a time of RENEWING, a time to learn intentionally all of the marvelous divine assets that we have at our disposal. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

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

This time of renewing is a time to let yourselves be changed by God. In the classroom setting our knowledge is changed...in turn, that renewing has an affect on our thoughts...it gives us new thoughts to think...and then those new thoughts show up in the form of a manifest Christianity that shines brightly for all to see.

Welcome to the place where our Mentor and Teacher, God the Holy Spirit, uses His enabling power to prepare you to "in humility 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

I Love You Lord/As the Deer\

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 how much the Lord Jesus Christ loves you occupy your mind. The opening song is I LOVE YOU LORD/AS THE DEER.

/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 lay aside the Old Self, to put on the New Self, and to be perfect reflections of your will...

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, for the building up of the body of Christ...God's Royal Family...into a unified force.

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

Adoption of Unconditional Love is an Admission of Defeat

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.

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<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. Who is the CREATOR? Turn in your bibles to John, Chapter 1...Verses 1 to 3 and Verse 14 tell us who the CREATOR is...

/JOH 1:1-2

*In the beginning was the Word (God the Son), and the Word was with God (the Father), and the Word (God the Son) was God (the same in essence as God the Father). // He (God the Son) was (existed) in the beginning with God (the Father). *

/JOH 1:3

*All things came into being through Him (God the Son), and apart from Him (God the Son) nothing came into being that has come into being. *

/JOH 1:14

*And the Word (God the Son) became flesh (taking on the form of true humanity), and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we saw (beheld) His glory (His essence), glory as of the only begotten (uniquely born One, a gift) from (God) the Father, full of grace and truth. *

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things...the Lord Jesus Christ is God...and we are happy and excited to be here to worship Him today... Tick Tock...what time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK?

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE no dial>

It's First Corinthians Thirteen O'clock on the Creator Clock! 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. *

At the center of the CREATOR CLOCK is one of the most important ideas in biblical Christianity... LOVE...it's the Greek word *agapao*...a word for unconditional love. Christianity is a lifestyle of unconditional love...and we

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are studying now what we would have done well to study from the very beginning, the unconditional love of God...because without an understanding of unconditional love, it's pretty tough to understand Christianity or the Lord Jesus Christ.

Turn in your bibles to James, Chapter 2, Verse 14. If you adopt a lifestyle of unconditional love, did it ever occur to you that you are simultaneously admitting defeat? Conversely, did it ever occur to you that if you don't admit defeat, you aren't adopting a lifestyle of unconditional love? Let's investigate this idea. We have to ask ourselves a question...what's the difference between being a Christian and being a non-Christian? Is there any difference? James, Chapter 2, beginning at Verse 14...James asks...

/JAM 2:14

What use is it, my brethren (believers in Christ), if (3) someone says (alleges) he has faith (in the Lord Jesus Christ...maybe you will and maybe you won't be verbal about it) but he (the believer in Christ) has no works (as evidence of his faith)? Can that faith save (deliver) him?

In other words, if a believer has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, yet his faith is not evident in the deeds that he does, is that faith impressive to anyone? Decidedly not! Did you hear a mirror shift its gaze to Barah Ministries? As a congregation, do we make a difference in our community? As Christians, do we make a difference to the people in our periphery?

/JAM 2:15-16

If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, //and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that ("faith")?

When we see people who are hurting, does a powerless approach to helping them make a difference? Do you say, "I can't help you unless you are willing to help yourself!" Every day, we see people around us who are hurting. Do we bring them here to give them a dose of the unconditional love of the Word of God? Or do we back off? We have a lot of unbelievers in our periphery. Unbelievers believe what they can see! Do they see your faith in action? If not, what would make them entertain the notion of being Christians when a Christian does nothing different than they would do?

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/JAM 2:17-18

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.//But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

Lifeless. When we have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and it does not show up in works, our faith is lifeless. Our faith without evidence of works has no vitality and no heartbeat.

/JAM 2:19

You believe that God is one (that there is one God). You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Demons...fallen angels...believe in God...hold your places here at James, Chapter 2, Verse 19, and turn in your bibles to Acts, Chapter 19, Verse 13...

/ACT 19:13

But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

/ACT 19:14-15

Seven sons of one (man named) Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this (the exorcisms).//And the evil spirit (a demon) answered and said to them, “I recognize Jesus (through interactions and experience), and I know about Paul, but who are you?”

The demons, fallen angels, KNOW there is one God...they even know who He is, and they have interacted with Him...they have seen Him...but they have not placed their faith in Him for salvation after their fall. Thus it is not enough to KNOW God...we must also believe in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ, that is) for salvation. Back to James, Chapter 2, Verse 20...

/JAM 2:20

But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

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James is saying that real faith has genuine works that follow it. For those who have real faith, it shows up...it is manifest...it is clearly visible in divine good works.

/JAM 2:21

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

Be clear on one thing here...Abraham was justified, that is declared righteous, because of His faith in Jehovah Elohim...the Lord Jesus Christ in His pre-incarnate state...before the Lord came to earth...James is commenting here on the proof of Abraham's faith...evidence...action...that Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son at the Lord's request. Yet Abraham's post salvation faith was strong...Genesis, Chapter 22, Verse 5...

/GEN 22:5

*Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad (Isaac) will go over there; and we will worship and return to you." *

Abraham knew the Lord well enough to know that He would never ask Abraham to sacrifice his son...back to James...Chapter 2, Verses 22 and 23...

/JAM 2:22-23

You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected//and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

The value of faith is fulfilled when there is action behind it. Prayer comes to mind. When we see the Lord come through for us when we express our faith in Him through prayer, we see His completion of our request. We believe in Him even more as a result. We have faith and He acts. When faith is followed by action...it is more believable.

/JAM 2:24-25

You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.//In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

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Again...this is not a reference to salvation...James is talking to believers... he is telling them that faith and deeds are like soup and sandwich...like love and marriage...they just go together...and when one is absent...notably works...something is wrong...

/JAM 2:26

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Genuine faith is evidenced by works. If this is true, then the difference between the Christian and the non-Christian must be profound! Yet is it? Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

*Celebrate Jesus Celebrate
When I Think About Home*

Welcome back!

What's the difference between being a Christian and being a non-Christian? Is there any difference? You'd have to say the first difference is one of attitude...and attitude is thought...

/PRO 23:7a

For as he thinks within himself, so he is.

Christians are commanded to think differently...

/PHI 2:5

Have this attitude (this thinking) in yourselves which was (the thinking) also (resident) in Christ Jesus...

Do you have the same attitude in you as a Christian that was also in Christ Jesus?

/What IS the same attitude that Jesus has?

His Attitude Toward God the Father

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Obedience

His Attitude Toward Self

Acceptance

His Attitude Toward Others

Unconditional Love\

Are these the attitudes displayed by non-Christians? More importantly, are these the attitudes displayed by you as a Christian? Do you have the same attitude in you as a Christian that was also in Christ Jesus? Does your attitude separate the doer from the deed? Do you have the same attitude that the Lord has toward your children? Do you have the same attitude that the Lord has toward family members and toward unreasonable bosses? Or is your attitude, “If they would just change then I’d be willing to be different?”

If you are telling the truth, you have to say, “No, I don’t have the same attitude in me that is also in Christ Jesus!” Yet when you adopt unconditional love as your point of view you have to admit defeat! You have to admit that the Old Self Life that you bought into in the past, and that you still run, does not work!

In the past, when we were religious...when we were legalistic...when we took our tour of the sin nature and we adopted its viewpoint...we hung on to the Old Self Life approach.

<OLD SELF SLIDE>

We adopted its strengths...perhaps we did giving with wrong motivation, under coercion because we felt guilty that we are so much more privileged than everyone else...in effect accusing God, in our souls, of unfairness. Second Corinthians, Chapter 9, Verse 7 says...

/2CO 9:7

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver.

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We take license with weaknesses, and since all of our sins are paid for, we assume it is perfectly okay to sin any time we want to. Yet Romans, Chapter 6, Verses 1 and 2 recommend against it...

/ROM 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?//May it never be! How shall we who died to (the sovereignty of the) sin (nature) still live in it (under its influence)?

<OLD SELF SLIDE>

We become anti-nomian in our approach and act as if there are no rules and that our freedom absolves us from the law of liberty that is Christianity. James, Chapter 1, Verse 25 says...

/JAM 1:25

But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

We become lascivious and overindulge in the lusts of the flesh...like sex, and drugs, and alcohol, and pornography. Romans, Chapter 6 Verse 12 says...

/ROM 6:12

Therefore do not let (the) sin (nature) reign (as sovereign) in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts...

We engage in self-righteous legalism, as if we know what's best for everyone in the world. Isaiah, Chapter 64, Verse 6 says...

/ISA 64:6

For all of us have become like one who is unclean (a woman who is menstruating), And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment (a used tampon)...

We engage in self-denial...asceticism...yet Colossians, Chapter 2, Verses 20 to 23 say...

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/COL 2:20-21

If (I) you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world (and you have), why, as if you were living in the world (according to its rules), do you submit yourself (in function) to (legalistic) decrees, such as, //“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”

/COL 2:22-23

(which all refer to things destined to perish with use) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? //These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against (halting) fleshly indulgence.

After a period of time experiencing each of these, hopefully we realize that none of them work, and we must admit defeat. Have you admitted defeat? Here's how you know...the real challenge is outlined in Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 1...

/EPH 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...

Genuine faith, followed by works, produces the fruit of the Spirit...

/GAL 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, //gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Do you produce the fruit of the spirit through your works?

God expects us to change our thoughts...

/JAM 1:21

Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

God expects us to know and then to act...

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/JAM 1:22-23

*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.//For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror... *

/JAM 1:24

*...for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.//But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. *

So the test you can take to see if you have the same attitude in yourself that is also in Christ Jesus is to ask yourself about your attitude toward the despicable?

Joseph Stalin...Adolf Hitler...Nero...John Wayne Gacy...Richard Speck
Jeffrey Dahmer...Jerry Sandusky.

What is your attitude toward people who engage in acts you despise?

Homosexuality...Prostitution...Pederasty...Bestiality

What I see toward the despicable is Christians demonstrating an insatiable desire to have these people treated like they “should” be treated...that they get what they “deserve” rather than that they get treated the way God treats people...in grace.

Christianity is 180 degrees in apposition to the world system of thinking. Does your life reflect to the unbelievers in your periphery that you are a Christian...or does your life, your attitude, your thoughts reflect the thinking of the world. Does your attitude bring credit to your Savior...in how you treat your family...in how you treat your neighbor...in how you talk about others...in how you think about the despicable? If not...you may want to reconsider your approach to Christianity. As James says...if you have faith in God...it probably needs to show up in your works.

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/JAM 2:14

What use is it, my brethren (believers in Christ), if (3) someone says (alleges) he has faith (in the Lord Jesus Christ...maybe you will and maybe you won't be verbal about it) but he (the believer in Christ) has no works (as evidence of his faith)? Can that faith save (deliver) him?

/CLOSING SONG

Essence of God\

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.

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/Thanks for coming!
Thanks for watching!
Thanks for listening!

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