

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 465– May 19, 2013**

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

**Good Morning!**

**Let's Make a Mental Shift \**

Good morning! John, Chapter 3, Verses 19 to 21 say...

/JOH 3:19

*“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”\*

/JOH 3:20

*“For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”\*

/JOH 3:21

*“But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”\*

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we were not created to serve idols...nor to settle for cheap substitutes for the Christian Way of Life. We are to live as unto the Light. This means casting aside the temptations and the trappings of the Old Self as if somehow its offer has something for us. Often, that anything in our lives, as believers in Christ, that is not Christ, has to go! Bible study teaches us what Christ is eliminating from our lives.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

We come to bible study for the refreshment of 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...*

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During bible study you also let God the Holy Spirit 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

Destiny\

As God prepares your soul and your thoughts for RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is...DESTINY.

### **/OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

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

Show us what You are doing with us...help us to embrace the new life You have given us...teach us how to stop listening to the old self life...help us to put on a new identity...

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 assist you in the development of a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

You may have heard the unconditional love of God described as impersonal love. What a pathetic description of unconditional love. How can a deep intimate and personal relationship with God ever be described as “impersonal?” The Lord Jesus Christ is anything but impersonal with His

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creatures. Another disgusting coat hanger must be expunged from your spiritual closet.

**/TODAY’S STUDY**

**Unconditional Love Requires a Change in Identity\**

We continue our study of the CREATOR.

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

Who is the CREATOR? He is the Lord Jesus Christ...He is God...He is the One whose life we believers in Christ live...the resurrection life...the Zoe life...the eternal life...a life we live while here on earth and for all eternity. Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20 says...

/GAL 2:20

*“I have been crucified with (the Lord Jesus) 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 (in the body) I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me (unconditionally) and gave Himself up for me.”\*

I have a question for you.

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

Who are you?\

If you are old enough, you may remember a 1978 song from the British rock band “The Who,” which asks the same question...

Well, who are you?  
I really wanna know  
Tell me, who are you?  
‘Cause I really wanna know

Asked another way, “What is your identity?” Our transition out of legalism and into the study of real Biblical Christianity demands an answer to this question...legalism never required this of us...who are you? Legalism GAVE us an identity.

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Another way to ask the question is, “How have you changed now that you are studying Biblical Christianity and not legalism?” If we take a few liberties with the translation of Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20...it may shed a bit of light on the subject of your new identity...

/GAL 2:20 <5 reveals>

*The “I” life is crucified with (the Lord Jesus) Christ...*

*...and it is no longer the “I” life that lives...*

*but it is the “Christ Life” that lives in(dwelling) me...*

*...and the “Christ Life...” the (Zoe) life which I now live in the flesh (in the body) I live by faith in (dependence on) the Son of God...*

*...who loved me (unconditionally) and gave Himself up for me.\*

Our move into the study of Biblical Christianity must illuminate for us an established fact...that the life we were living in legalism was a dead life. Yet we were completely satisfied with it. The life most Christians live today is a dead life. We are completely immersed in it. We were completely committed to learning it. We are completely comfortable with it. Yet it is dead. We are in love with a corpse. We are the dead walking. And we are so identified with the corpse, that there was no difference between the corpse and us. We have made the corpse our identity. If you're being truthful with yourself, it is still that way for you...even though we are now studying Biblical Christianity.

Yet according to Scripture, we believers in Christ WERE a corpse before salvation. Turn to Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 11...

/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.\*

/ROM 6:12

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

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/ROM 6:13

*...and do not go on presenting the members of your body to (the) sin (nature) as instruments of unrighteousness; but (instead) present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members (of your body) as instruments of righteousness to God.\*

/ROM 6:14

*For (the) sin (nature) shall not be master over you, for you are not under (Mosaic) law but (you are) under grace.\*

/ROM 6:15

*What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!\*

/ROM 6:16

*Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone (like the sin nature, for example) as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either (slaves) of (the) sin (nature) resulting in death, or (slaves) of obedience (to God) resulting in righteousness?\*

/ROM 6:17

*But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of (the) sin (nature as unbelievers...in the past), you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed (the gospel message)... \*

/ROM 6:18

*...and having been freed from (the sovereignty of the) sin (nature), you became slaves of righteousness.\*

Is the requirement of our move from legalism to Biblical Christianity lost on you? Do you understand that our move from legalism to Biblical Christianity requires something new from you? It requires a change in masters at your very core. It requires a change in identity. What is identity?

/IDENTITY

Your sense of self\

This is not hard for you to understand, although you may wish to make it so. You describe your identity all the time...“I’m the type of person who...”

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/IDENTITY DESCRIPTIONS

I'm a blonde

I'm gay

I'm a ghetto boy

I'm a simple person

I'm a winner\

We have various ways we like to describe ourselves. It's called our identity. It's our sense of self...it's how we see ourselves...and we become how we describe ourselves. Our decision in the matter of our identity is so powerful, it affects who we are and everything we do. If you want to know how you see your body, look in the mirror. It is this body that you identify with and that you defend. Nothing will change with that body until you stop settling for the body that you have and until you decide that your physical identity will be different. So it is with spirituality as well.

As religious Christians...as legalistic Christians...we voluntarily took on an identity that is a cheap substitute for the Christian Way of Life. It is a self-life. It is the Old Self Life. It is the life we WERE as unbelievers. We are so committed to our previous identity that we refuse to let it go. In this way we are "identity pack rats." We refuse to give our Old Self Life to Goodwill Industries so that we can make room in our spiritual closets for the New Self Life, the Zoe Life, that the Lord planned for us as believers in Christ in eternity past. The Lord Jesus Christ crucified that Old Self Life, that "I" life at the Cross...and it is DEAD! Yet we continue to breathe life into that mangled corpse...and the stench of that life paralyzes us...hypnotizes us...Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20...

/GAL 2:20 <5 reveals>

*The "I" life is crucified with (the Lord Jesus) Christ...*

*...and it is no longer the "I" life that lives...*

*but it is the "Christ Life" that lives in(dwelling) me...*

*...and the "Christ Life..." the (Zoe) life which I now live in the flesh (in the body) I live by faith in (dependence on) the Son of God...*

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*...who loved me (unconditionally) and gave Himself up for me.\*

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

*Shout to the Lord*

*When I Think About Home\*

Welcome back!

James minced no words when He spoke of the need for a transition out of the Old Self Life for believers...

/JAM 4:4

*You (spiritual) adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.\*

/JAM 4:5

*Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?”\*

What makes us choose to be so committed to a friendship with our enemy?

How do you see yourself? What is your sense of self? What is your identity? If I wanted to paralyze you I would just ask you to write out an identity statement...I'd ask you to write out a one-page statement of how you see yourself. If I wanted to paralyze you more, I'd ask you to ask those you trust to tell you how closely you live your life to your own image of yourself. Both of those exercises would sicken you at the stomach. If you really think about it, when is it that the truth does not set us free? John, Chapter 8, Verse 32 says...

/JOH 8:32

*“...and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”\*

The truth does not always make us free. Most of the time we feel beaten up by the truth...beaten like a baby seal...and when are those times when the truth does not “set us free?” Isn't the truth not freeing during the times when

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the truth brings us out of our illusion about how wonderful and how on track we are? In Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 22 to 24, the bible tells Christians that we are to do...

/EPH 4:22

*...in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit... \*

/EPH 4:23

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

/EPH 4:24

*...and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. \*

If we are going to successfully lay aside the Old Self Life...we must lay aside the identity to which we have become accustomed...forever...and never put it on again. Philippians, Chapter 3, Verses 13 and 14 say...

/PHI 3:13

*Brethren (believers in Christ), I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead... \*

/PHI 3:14

*...I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in (union with) Christ Jesus. \*

Our lives, as believers in Christ...our identities, as believers in Christ...do not lie behind us...our identity is defined by our dependence on Christ...our identity is defined by our dependence on God the Holy Spirit, the Mentor and Teacher of our lives...our lives and our identities must come from them. In other words, we must see our lives and ourselves as our God sees us...and not reduce the magnificence of the Zoe Life, the resurrection life, to some bastardized and legalistic view of it.

<JESUS RIO STATUE>



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Perhaps the statue of the Lord Jesus Christ that towers above the city of Rio de Janeiro, the second largest city in Brazil, can give us a mental image for the formation of a new identity. If this statue's back were hollowed out, and you could crawl into its back and look out through its eyes at yourself, seeing yourself and your identity as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself sees it...what would you see? How does the Lord Jesus Christ see you as a believer in Christ? How does the Lord Jesus Christ see you as a person? What does He see when He inspects your life? I'm sure it doesn't take a large stretch in your imagination to know that He sees you much differently than you see yourself. He sees you as perfection in progress. Philippians, Chapter 1, Verse 6 says...

/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.\*

I'm also quite sure that when you see the disparity between how He sees you and how you see yourself, it makes you want to throw up a little bit in your mouth...it makes you a little sick to the stomach. This truth does not set you free. And when this truth does not set you free, realize that you are looking at yourself through the eyes of your old dead self.

The Old Self Life seeks to enslave you, and you are its willing victim. Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 16...

/ROM 6:16

*Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone (like the sin nature) as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of (the) sin (nature) resulting in death, or of obedience (to God) resulting in righteousness?\*

But the truth is, this Old Self Life is dead to you and it must be laid aside...it must be buried...it must be put down and never picked up again. Turn to Genesis, Chapter 19, Verse 15...so it was with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah...

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/GEN 19:15

*When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.”\*

/GEN 19:16

*But he (Lot) hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the Lord was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.\*

/GEN 19:17

*When they had brought them outside, one said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.”\*

So it is with the Old Self Life...the life of our unbelief...we are to put it behind and never pick it up again...we are not to look back. We are to climb the mountain of the New Self Life. Yet we love the past. We define ourselves by describing our past. We are much more interested in the comfort of our known past than we are interested in the guaranteed highest and best future the Lord has planned for us. And as with Lot's wife...we look back. Genesis, Chapter 19, Verse 26...

/GEN 19:26

*But his (Lot's) wife, from behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.\*

And isn't it the same with us? Don't we spend most of our time looking back, when our future is not behind us? Instead we are to be...

/HEB 12:2

*...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...*

We are to depend on God the Holy Spirit...we are to be lead by Him...

/JOH 16:13

*“But when He, (God) the (Holy) Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth...”\*

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But the life of legalism teaches us that we are responsible for our future...we can advance ourselves to spiritual maturity...we can purge our sins...we can live the right - wrong life...the life of death...as the Christian Way of Life...and thus we can ignore the life that Christ has planned for us...and we do so willingly.

When we live the right wrong life, we are acknowledging that sin has a place in our lives. That sin is okay. A legalist who tripped through our congregation accused me once of having “a casual attitude toward sin.” Maybe I did. I didn’t agree, but I considered the feedback as something to consider. In retrospect, I think what he was seeing was my gracious attitude toward the sinner...an ability to separate the doer from the deed. God loves the sinner but He hates sin. Perhaps in being soft on the sinner, I was also being soft on the issue of sin. In fact, I think I was, and perhaps rightfully so. I was balking at the religious and legalistic harping on sin. I didn’t know why at the time, but I knew it was the right thing to do. I kept saying to myself, “there is life beyond right and wrong!” There is. I was trying to lay aside the Old Self Life which traps us into a right versus wrong existence and encourages us to clean up the Old Self with rightness every time it does wrong. This is not the life of grace. This is not the life of liberty. This is the Old Self Life refusing to die with us refusing to stop resuscitating it.

Make no mistake about it. Sin leads to death. It never works out. We are to live a different life.

/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... \*

We are to walk in a different manner...to have a different lifestyle...in our Old Self Life we never feel worthy...but when we see ourselves as God sees us...we will realize He made us worthy...

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/GAL 2:20

*...and the “Christ Life...” the (Zoe) life which I now live in the flesh (in the body) I live by faith in (dependence on) the Son of God... \*

Is this your identity?

### **/CLOSING SONG**

Worthy \

### **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.

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

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