

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 474– June 9, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

**Let's Make a Mental Shift **

Good morning!

The Word of God warns us against fear...the sin that cuts off our thinking. Cowardice has no place in the plan of God. In Second Timothy, Chapter 1, Verse 7...

/2TI 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity (fear...cowardice), but (God has given us a spirit) of power and (unconditional) love and discipline.

In Isaiah, Chapter 41, Verse 10, the Lord says to us...

/ISA 41:10

'Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'\

Our God is faithful, even in our weaknesses...as people and even as a nation. In Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 15 it says...

/ROM 8:15

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"\

Many things in the world seek to enslave our mentality, and the manifestation of that slavery to the details of the cosmic life is fear. But our God has conquered fear on our behalf so we can live in the confident expectation that in our inadequacy, He will deliver us to victory every time.

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

Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2 says...

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ROM 12:2

...(keep on) be(ing) transformed by (God in) the RENEWING of your mind...

The mental renewing of biblical study gives us a perspective that conquers fear. Welcome to the place where God the Holy Spirit enables you with power 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

Fear Not\

As God prepares your soul and your thoughts for RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song reminds you that you to lay aside any fear that is hindering your advance in life...the song is FEAR NOT.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

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

Show us how to use our unity as a body for your glory...

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 to help you develop a deep,

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intimate and personal relationship with the Sovereign of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

/TODAY'S STUDY

Unconditional Love is the Conduct of the Body of Christ

Have you ever had someone say to you, “You shouldn’t feel that way?”

It’s a comment that typically follows your admission that you feel brokenness in some part of your life. Last week I said that I felt depressed in spirit... feelings like this are a daily occurrence for me, and I’m quite sure I am not alone in these feelings. Paul highlights the point in Romans, Chapter 7, Verse 21...

/ROM 7:21

I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

This is more than a feeling, according to Paul...it’s a principle of evil. We are broken. We are imperfect. There are cracks in our lives...gaping holes in our lives...sadnesses in our lives...disasters in our lives...regrets in our lives. I’m not sure there is a way to stop these feelings as long as we have the noisy Old Self Life rearing its dead and crucified and ugly head every day with its temptations and its lusts.

It’s quite natural to wish we were different...to wish we always obeyed the One we love, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...to wish that we were perfect in seeking Him out...to wish we always had Him at the forefront of our thoughts as we busy ourselves throughout the day. But a candid admission from each of us would have to readily say that we fall short again and again. There is another principle in play...Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23...

/ROM 3:23

...ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory (essence) of God...

I don’t mind that I fall short. I don’t hear “shouldn’t feel that way” when it is said. I don’t WANT to feel my inadequacies. I don’t want to be depressed in spirit. Yet I do feel that way, quite often. It’s practically

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impossible not to feel like you fall short when you are constantly exposed to the standard of perfection that is our God through the study of the Word of God. It's almost impossible to feel adequate when you compare yourself to others and think that their walk is somehow more special than yours.

So I don't mind, at all, reminding you of my shortcomings so that you don't have to feel so bad...so that you don't have to "should" all over yourselves. There is a principle in play...we are imperfect, and our road to a comfort with our brokenness is paved with feelings of disappointment for falling short. Luckily we can go behind the eyes of our God to look at ourselves, and when we see what He sees...the end product of the work of His hands...we can feel encouraged, even as our feelings yo-yo between self-castigation and self-acceptance...we can feel encouraged that we are one day closer to the time when we will never feel inadequate again. Rather we will be certain of the established and irrevocable fact that our God perfected us in the past and we will experience it fully in this soon to be coming future.

We learn more and more every day the truth of the sentiment expressed in Second Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verse 3...

/2CO 11:3

But I (Paul) am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.\

Devotion to Christ means devotion to learning His mind...His exact thinking. It means ignoring the ramblings of the Old Self. So I have another assignment for you this week. I want you to pull out the New American Standard version of the bible...I want you to sit someplace quiet...and I want you to read Paul's letter to the people up the road from the Colossians...Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

/ASSIGNMENT THIS WEEK

Read Paul's Letter to the Ephesians\

I'm not saying to you this is optional, if you feel like it. I am asking you to do it. This is about a sixty minute read, so you may have to read it in two parts. It's six chapters instead of four, so you may even read it in six parts.

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It's up to you. Get somewhere, in quiet and in solitude and let God speak to you through His Word. Ask Him to speak to you.

Unconditional Love is not only the conduct of the individual believer...it is also the conduct of the body of Christ...of us Church Age believers as a collective unit. Ephesians Chapter 4 gives us the contrast between the Old Self activities of the body of Christ and the New Self activities of the body of Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head...and we, as Church Age believers are the body...and is pointed out in Ephesians, Chapter 1, Verses 9 and 10...

/EPH 1:9

He (God the Father) made known to us (believers in Christ) the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention, which He purposed in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ)...

/EPH 1:10

...with a view to an administration (a dispensation...the Church Age) suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

“The summing up of all things in Christ!” What a powerful reality. During the Lord's Millennial reign He will be restored to full rulership...of the heavens AND the earth. For a brief time, Satan is the ruler of planet earth. During the Lord's Millennial reign, Satan will be banished for a thousand years in to the abyss...while all things are returned to the Lord's peaceful rule here on earth. Look at Revelation, Chapter 20, Verse 1...

/REV 20:1

Then I (John the Revelator) saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

/REV 20:2

And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...

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/REV 20:3

...and he ((the angel) threw him (Satan) into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he (Satan) would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he (Satan) must be released for a short time.

<HADES SLIDE>

As you read the book of Ephesians, you will see a simple beauty in its structure...author Watchman Nee highlighted the structure in his book *Sit, Walk, Stand...*

/STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS reveals

Chapters 1-3	SIT	We are to learn God's plan for our lives
Chapters 4-5	WALK	We incorporate God's plan into our lifestyle
Chapter 6	STAND	We take a stand against the devil\

Let's take a look at some of the language of Ephesians, Chapters 4 as we continue our learning about the New Self lifestyle, this time focusing on us the Body of Christ. Take a look at Ephesians, Chapter 4, beginning at Verse 1...

/EPH 4:1

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

<READ EPHESIANS CHAPTER 4>

When we return from break we'll survey the language of Chapter 4...

/BREAK

Arms of Love

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

Unconditional Love is the conduct of the Body of Christ. What are some of the instructions concerning New Self Life conduct in Ephesians 4?

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/NEW SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR “THE BODY” reveals

walk in a manner worthy of the calling
with which you have been called

walk with all humility

walk with all gentleness

walk with all patience

showing tolerance for one another in (unconditional) love\

/NEW SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR “THE BODY” reveals

being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit

walk in the bond of peace

build up of the body of Christ

attain the unity of the faith

attain the knowledge of the Son of God

become mature

walk to the measure of the stature which
belongs to the fullness of Christ\

/NEW SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR “THE BODY” reveals

speaking the truth in (unconditional) love

grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head...Christ

growth of the body for the building up of itself in love

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We're also encouraged to cease and desist from Old Self Life conduct.

/STOP IT! TO OLD SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR "THE BODY" reveals

no longer to be children

no longer to be tossed here and there by waves

no longer to be carried about by every wind of doctrine

no longer to be fooled by the trickery of men

no longer be fooled by craftiness in deceitful scheming\

/STOP IT! TO OLD SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR "THE BODY" reveals

you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk...
in the futility of their mind

no longer be darkened in your understanding

no longer be excluded from the life of God because of ignorance

no longer be hard of heart

no longer be callous\

/STOP IT! TO OLD SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR "THE BODY" reveals

no longer give yourself over to sensuality

no longer practice every kind of impurity with greediness

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\

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/NEW SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR “THE BODY” reveals

be renewed in the spirit of your mind

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

laying aside falsehood\

/NEW SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR “THE BODY” reveals

SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR

BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN

do not let the sun go down on your anger

do not give the devil an opportunity\

/STOP IT! TO OLD SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR “THE BODY” reveals

He who steals must steal no longer...but rather...labor...
performing with your own hands what is good...have something to
share with one who has need

let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth...only words
good for edification according to the need of the moment\

/STOP IT! TO OLD SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR “THE BODY” reveals

do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

let all bitterness and wrath and anger be put away from you

let all clamor and slander be put away from you

let all malice be put away from you\

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/NEW SELF LIFE CONDUCT FOR “THE BODY” reveals

be kind to one another

be tender-hearted

forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you\

Let’s finish up by reading chapter 5 together...as you read this chapter privately, perhaps you’ll want to go over what you see in it, separating out the commands about the Old Self Life and the conduct of the New Self Life.

<READ EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5>

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/CLOSING SONG

When You Suffer\

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 unconditional love, your person, your thinking, your work, 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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