

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 483 – June 23, 2013

**/Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church
Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher**

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.”

bible study is our time to come to the Light...to learn...to grow...to be nurtured...to flourish under Gods watchful hand.

<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...

During bible study your God the Holy Spirit prepares 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

You Own Me \

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song, as you think about your sphere of freedom in which the Lord allows you to operate. The opening song is...You Own Me.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...(0:30)

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

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

**/Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church
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 the purpose of equipping you believers in Christ for the work of service. Welcome to a ministry designed for people who want to open themselves to what the Lord Jesus Christ has to offer...a personal relationship powered by an unconditional love...given as a gift from God to us...a relationship that is intense and personal and passionate.

/TODAY'S STUDY

The Challenge of Receiving Unconditional Love

First, a few announcements....

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/ANNOUNCEMENTS

/Mark Your Calendars!

The next Lord's Supper Celebration is July 14, 2013\

/Mark Your Calendars!

HOMECOMING

for the

“Soon to Be Resident” Congregation

October 5th and 6th, 2013\

Comments about the Homecoming

The Deacons

Caleb and Mandy

Van and Jenny

Concert

Nancy Rubyal and John Messenger

People from the Soon to Be Resident Congregation

Larry Collins

/Mark Your Calendars!

No Face-to-Face Bible Study

June 30

THAT'S NEXT WEEK!\

The Deacons Caleb, Denny and Elliott have prepared lessons and they will be posted on Sunday, June 30.

/Mark Your Calendars!

No Face-to-Face Bible Study

August 25

September 1

December 8

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December 29\

/Happy Birthday
Cheryl Vallejo
July 5\

/Prayers
John Miller\

Kidney stone procedure went well...pray for his speedy recovery.

/The Barah Ministries Website\

- Video on the Website
- Audio on the Website
- Signup for Podcasts
- New Doctrinal Statement on the Website
- Turned Off All Lessons Prior to January

/BARAH MINISTRIES
On Pal Talk!\

Barah Ministries is on Pal Talk Monday to Friday at 7PM CDT. Tuning into these lessons is easy to do. Here's the process...

/BARAH MINISTRIES ON PAL TALK revealing

www.paltalk.com

Download the software

Choose a nickname

Sign into the Royal Family Room

Listen!\

Next, let's take the offering.

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/THE OFFERING

Deacon Elliott Clark\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

No price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who desires biblical teaching may have it free of charge.\

/PRO 3:9-10

*Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce //
So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

/Remember to give with the motivation suggested in Scripture

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.

/OFFERING SONG

Better than Life

/TODAY'S STUDY

The Challenge of Receiving Unconditional Love

What is your response to unconditional love?

Lately, I have been questioning God's sanity, while not His wisdom, in the matter of loving us unconditionally. How does He do it? As I mentioned a couple of lessons ago, I am pretty good at loving others unconditionally, at giving unconditional love, but eventually I have a reaction in my soul, that I can describe now only as anger, when I see the response to my unconditional love. What response? No response.

Unconditional love is transformative, more amazing than any love. At least, perhaps, God's version of it is. But I haven't seen this be the case in my version of unconditional love. I guess I would say that I think my unconditional love for others deserves a better response from others.

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I figure it out this week...I tell you my story so you can figure out your own.

What is your response to unconditional love when you receive it?

I know I am not alone in these thoughts. I know that you have people in your lives whom you love unconditionally, in your human version of it, and the response from them is equally poor. Many of the “Soon-to Be Resident” congregation members shared their stories with me during the Homecoming, and it was clear to me that I am not alone in the challenges of unconditional love. I heard heart wrenching stories about unconditional love rendered to family members with a response from these family members that can only be described as repeated rejection and repeated hurt.

So I’m asking you, “how do you respond to unconditional love?” When I receive unconditional love from others, I feel that it obligates me to walk in a manner worthy. I don't know why I feel that way, but I do. I feel that when others trust me enough to give themselves to me, to invest in me, that I owe them something. I know, however, courtesy of some of the people I have loved, that they do not share this sense of obligation. Frankly, it confounds me, which is why I question God’s sanity at loving us unconditionally even though I don’t question His Word or His wisdom. I know there is something about unconditional love, in the giving and the receiving, that I am just missing.

Truthfully, I’d have to say that if you love someone unconditionally, they’re going to take advantage of you. I think that is exactly what God wants. I’d say that is the last thing that I want. I don’t want people to worship me when I love them unconditionally...I don’t want them to feel obligated to me...I certainly don’t want their praise or bragging. But I do want something, and I can’t figure out what it is. And I’m wondering if I want something different than God wants when He gives unconditional love.

I am willing to acknowledge the wisdom of Father Cavanaugh from the movie Rudy...who expressed these words of wisdom to Rudy...

/FATHER CAVANAUGH TO RUDY RUETTIGER

Son, in 35 years of religious study, I have only come up with two hard incontrovertible facts: there is a God, and I’m not Him. \

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So as we end the first half of a very tough year on the emotional side of things, this is the quandary that exists in my mind as I ponder this thing we are studying called unconditional love.

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

So in the three lesson for today I have asked you to contemplate three things...

What are you like in the matter of giving unconditional love?

How well do you walk in a manner worthy of the unconditional love calling to which you have been called?

What are you like in the matter of receiving unconditional love?

Since we have the day off next week, those are three questions you'd do well to consider. And I'd love to hear your real answers. Not your guilt riddled answers... "Oh I know I'm not as good as I should be" ... but your real answers. Because the more I think about it, giving unconditional love is probably the easiest of the three things. Receiving it is probably hardest. Walking in a manner worthy of it is imperative. And as I think about it now, the thing I'll be looking at is the connection between the three things. Therein may lie the answer to this quandary our study leaves me with so far.

Before we go, here are the main messages I think our study of unconditional love has surfaced so far...

/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Number 1

Unconditional Love is the foundation of Christianity

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1CO 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.

/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Number 2

If you don't understand unconditional love you can't understand God

1JO 4:8

The one who does not love (unconditionally) does not know God, for God is (unconditional) love.

/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Number 3

Unconditional Love Separates the Doer From the Deed

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.

/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Number 4

Unconditional Love Lays Aside the Old Self

COL 3:9

Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices...

/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Number 5

Unconditional Love Picks Up and Puts on the New Self

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COL 3:10

...and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him —

/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
Number 6

Unconditional Love Comes From the Spirit

2CO 6:4-6

*...but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, //in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, //in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love... *

/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
Number 7

Unconditional Love Means Listening to a Different Voice

JOH 16:13

*“But when He, (God) the (Holy) Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” *

/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
Number 8

Unconditional Love Comes from the Heart Not the Head

1SA 16:7b

*“...God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” *

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/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Number 9

Unconditional Loves Forgives Even Though it Seldom Forgets\

/TEN POINTS TO PONDER ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Number 10

Unconditional Love Does Not Mean God Wants You to Sin

1JO 2:1

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. \

I hope you enjoy your time for reflection over the next two weeks...I thank you for hanging in there this first half of this year of shaking, and I look forward to more of the same as we begin the second half of 2013, studying the Word of God which is alive and powerful.

/CLOSING SONG

The Word is Alive\

CLOSING VERSES

/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.” \

/1PE 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. \

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/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!

www.barahministries.com\