

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 490– July 14, 2013

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

Good morning! Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 1 and Verses 4 to 7 say...

/EPH 2:1

And you (at physical birth) were (spiritually) dead in your trespasses and sin...

/EPH 2:4

But God (the Father), being rich in mercy, because of His great (unconditional) love with which He loved us...

/EPH 2:5

...even when we were (spiritually) dead in our transgressions, made us (spiritually) alive (born again) together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)...

/EPH 2:6

...and raised us up (in resurrection) with Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in (union with) Christ Jesus...

/EPH 2:7

...so that in the ages to come He (God the Father) might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us (who are) in (union with) Christ Jesus.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Welcome to a place where the Mentor and Teacher, God the Holy Spirit, uses His enabling power to prepare you to “in humility receive the Word of God implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

Bible study is a time of RENEWING, a time to learn about the divine assets at our disposal...a time to learn about Christianity...a relationship with the

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Sovereign of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

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

Thank you for coming to receive this renewing and thank you for letting yourselves be changed by God as you learn His Word.

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

We Fall Down\

As God prepares your soul for RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is WE FALL DOWN.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

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

Clothe us with your unconditional love so that we might reflect it to a lost and dying world, one person at a time, to everyone in our periphery.

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 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

How Do You End a Study of Unconditional Love?

For over six years you have heard me say, “We continue our study of the CREATOR.”

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

Well the CREATOR is quite satisfied with our progress in getting to know Him. So He has asked me, through God the Holy Spirit, to lay aside the continuation of our study of the CREATOR, and to teach you instead how to study a letter, an epistle in the bible.

In our study of the CREATOR we’ve taken quite a tour! We introduced you to several different parts of God’s Essence. So for the last time for a while I’ll say, “Tick. Tock. What time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK?”

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

At One O’clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we know that we have only ONE God. We believers in Christ aren’t confused. Deuteronomy, Chapter 4, Verse 7 says...

/DEU 4:7

“For what great nation is there (like Israel) that has a god so near to it as is the Lord (Jesus Christ) our God... (near) whenever we call on Him?”

Deuteronomy, Chapter 4, Verse 39 says...

/DEU 4:39

“Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the Lord (Jesus Christ), He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other (God).”

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

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At Two O'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we know that we have only ONE truth...the Bible...the Word of God...the inerrant Canon of Scripture.

Second Timothy, Chapter 3, Verses 16 and 17 say...

/2TI 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God (theoneustos... God breathed) and (is) profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training (instruction) in righteousness; //so that the man of God may be adequate (mature), equipped (thoroughly furnished) for every good work. \

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

At Three O'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we know that God is Triune. There is one God, yet He exists as three separate and distinct persons...God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 26 says...

/GEN 1:26

Then God (the Father) said, "Let Us (the Triune Godhead) make man(kind) in Our image, according to Our likeness..." \

The physical manifestation of the Godhead is the uniquely born One, the Lord Jesus Christ...100% God and 100% Man in one Person forever. He is like the other members of the Godhead in that He is Deity...the same in essence as the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit...He is unlike the other members of the Godhead in that He is true humanity, every bit as human as you and I. John, Chapter 14, Verses 5 and 6 say...

/JOH 14:5

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" \

/JOH 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way (to salvation), and (I am) the truth (my thoughts are the content of the Word of God), and (I am) the (Zoe) life (the resurrection life); no one comes to (God) the Father but through (believing in) Me. \

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<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

At Four O'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we know that the CREATOR is fair. God is judicial in all of His dealing with us, an impartial judge, and there is never a time when He is unfair to anyone of us or a time when He is partial with anyone. Deuteronomy, Chapter 32, Verse 4b says...

/DEU 32:4b

For all His ways are just...

Acts, Chapter 10, Verses 34 and 35 say...

/ACT 10:34

Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality..."

/ACT 10:35

*"...but in every nation the man who fears (respects) Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) and does what is right is welcome to Him." *

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

At Five O'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we know that the CREATOR is Gracious. John, Chapter 1, Verses 16 and 17 say...

/JOH 1:16-17

For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.//For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through (the Lord) Jesus Christ.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

At Six O'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we know that the CREATOR is Knowledgeable. Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 18 says...

/2PE 3:18

...but grow in the (sphere of) grace and (in the) knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

At Seven O'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we know that the CREATOR is Willing. Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9 says...

/2PE 3:9

The Lord (Jesus Christ) is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness (as some accuse Him of being), but is patient toward you (unbelievers), (and He is) not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (a change of mind about the Lord Jesus Christ).\

The central issue in human history boils down to a single question for every creature...Matthew, Chapter 22, Verse 42 asks...

/MAT 22:42

"What do you think about the Christ (the Messiah), whose son is He?"\

We aborted our study of God's will to go to the center of the CREATOR CLOCK...Tick Tock, what time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK? It's First Corinthians Thirteen O'clock at the center of 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.\

For the last several lessons, we have been studying the CREATOR'S unconditional love.

If we were to continue to count down the CREATOR CLOCK we would need to finish Seven O'clock, the study of God's will... we would need to finish Eight O'clock, the study of God's faithfulness...we would need to finish Nine O'clock, the study of God's omnipresence...we would need to finish Ten O'clock, the study of God's perfection...we would need to finish Eleven O'clock, the study of God's power...we would need to finish Twelve O'clock, the study of God's eternal nature. And if we kept studying forever, we could never get our arms around Thirteen O'clock...the study of God's unconditional love. God's unconditional love is the first thing every

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CREATURE should learn. So how do we end a study that can't ever be ended or forgotten? Take a five-minute break and I'll show you how.

/BREAK

*Awesome is the Lord Most High
When I Think About Home*

Welcome back!

How do we end a study on unconditional love? A letter from a congregation member put whipped cream and a cherry on top of our amazing study of the central issue in the Plan of God...unconditional love.

/ON UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Dear Pastor:

Recently, I was thinking, if every relationship in our lives were great, how could we ever learn unconditional love? If every circumstance in our lives were perfect, how could we ever learn faith? If there were never people in our lives that hurt us and scared and scarred us to our very core, so deeply that we are not even sure we will ever fully heal, how could we ever learn forgiveness?\

/ON UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Learning the “principles” of unconditional love is great...so I don't mean that...I mean, without experiencing these painful circumstances in our lives which require unconditional love, how could we ever consider ourselves able? In those times when we think we are about to shatter into a million pieces...and God comes swooping in from every angle with His unconditional love and holds us together, teaching us all the way, strengthening us in a way that produces hope...a tremendous gift from God...if we could not live that hurt, and feel the pain of that love, how could we ever really know love?\

/ON UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

I found myself asking God recently why he gave me two very painful

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relationships in my lives. One person who squeezes me dry of every drop of everything that I can give and then asks for more...even when I see and absolutely know deep in my heart that more will never be enough. Why did God give me another person who puts the “butt” in “butthead,” one who always finds a way to put me down and to pretend it isn’t happening?\

/ON UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Why can’t I just walk away from them? Why can’t I ever say enough is enough with them? Why do I just keep going back for more of their pain over and over again, even though I already know the outcome of loving them? Why do I love these two people so much that it makes me feel like a fool?\

/ON UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

This is why... if every relationship in our lives were great, how could we ever learn unconditional love? If every circumstance in our lives were perfect how could we ever learn faith? If there were never people in our lives that hurt us and scared and scarred us to our very core, so deeply that we are not even sure we will ever fully heal, how could we ever learn forgiveness?\

/ON UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Today I am grateful to God for the people in my life that hurt me. And while God gave me an amazing spouse and amazing parents...He also gave me amazing siblings and amazing friends...some of them are teaching me how to RECEIVE unconditional love, while the others are teaching me how to GIVE it.\

/ON UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

I see now that the word LOVE has so many other words dancing in between its letters that are not so visible, unless you truly look closely. I see the word WAR dancing in between its letters...I see the word CONFLICT dancing in between its letters, I see the word PAIN dancing in between its letters...I see the word TEARS dancing in between its letters...I see the word ANGER dancing in between its letters.\

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/ON UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

But I also see God dancing in between its letters...I see the word FORGIVENESS dancing in between its letters...I see PATIENCE dancing in between its letters...and I see GRACE and KINDNESS and other gentle words that can be used to build each other up dancing in between its letters. What a word! LOVE.\

/ON UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

No wonder LOVE is such a hard word to wrap the mind around...because I don't think it is just one word...or one feeling...but it's a word that represents a canvas of colors in our souls. It's a word that gives us texture. It's the most important word in the universe.\

And this is why I teach. If something, anything, I teach can hit a soul in this way, and can offer this insight about my God, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then I will have felt that my life is worthwhile when this earthly tent of mine has breathed its last breath. First John, Chapter 4, Verse 8...

/1JO 4:8

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

Turn to First Corinthians, Chapter 13...

/1CO 13:1

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have (unconditional) love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

/1CO 13:2

If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have (unconditional) love, I am nothing.

/1CO 13:3

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have (unconditional) love, it profits me nothing.

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/1CO 13:4

(Unconditional) Love is patient, (unconditional) love is kind and is not jealous; (unconditional) love does not brag and is not arrogant...

/1CO 13:5

...(unconditional love) does not act unbecomingly; it (unconditional love) does not seek its own, (unconditional love) is not provoked, (unconditional love) does not take into account a wrong suffered...

/1CO 13:6

...(unconditional love) does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth...

/1CO 13:7

...(unconditional love) bears all things, (unconditional love) believes all things, (unconditional love) hopes all things, (unconditional love) endures all things.

/1CO 13:8

(Unconditional) Love never fails...

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.

Who knows what the Lord Jesus Christ is going to say to us when we speak to Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ? Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 10 says...

/2CO 5:10

For we (believers in Christ) must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed (compensated) for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

I certainly don't know what the Lord will say to me. But if I were a betting man, I would bet that He would want to know how well I reflected His unconditional love. If He does, I'll just show Him the scars on my heart.

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I reflect Paul's sentiment...Philippians, Chapter 3, Verses 13 and 14 say...

/PHI 3:13-14

Brethren, 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, //I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

It is this I seek with my new knowledge of unconditional love and its many facets...to GIVE...yes...to FORGIVE...yes...to be GRACIOUS...yes...to allow FREEDOM to exist between souls...yes...to RECEIVE willingly unconditional love...yes...to love UNCONDITIONALLY...yes...but more than this...Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 1...

/EPH 4:1

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

...to reflect my Lord and Savior in everything I think...in everything I say....in everything I do...and when He does this for me...the greatest of the things all will see is unconditional love. Amen.

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/CLOSING SONG

When I Say I Love You\

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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