

Teaching E-mail 71 When You Just Feel Like Crying...

(May 15, 2013)

The Kingdom Will Come When **Clergy-Managers** Cease

We recently received Gary Wilkerson's teaching e-mail, "*Why We Can't Afford to Be Normal.*"

<http://www.worldchallenge.org/view/newsletters/Why_We_Cant_Afford_to_Be_Normal.pdf>

Gary's topic piggy-backed on what the Spirit prompted us to write about the effects of **clergy-managers** in our recent e-mail, *Recognizing the Soil of Your Soul*. In his letter Gary scolded the religious system for its complacency and outright rebellion against serving our Lord. Our sadness is that he continues to point to the *clergy-managers* as the cornerstone to effect change. For us it's like asking cancer cells to make the body healthy or the fox to guard the hen house.

Clergy-managers are the ones who keep the called-out-ones, the "church," penned up in religious institutionalism, making it ever more comfortable for people in the pew to do nothing. These Late Majority and Laggard clergy promote an **ANTI-CHRIST** attitude. How? When the vast majority of people in their faith communities are *not* actively serving our Lord during the week, then in their sloth they are serving Satan! Souls around them are going to hell and these people don't care. What a slight to our Lord that they even call themselves "Christian."

Right after Gary's letter we received the latest issue of *Mission Frontiers* magazine. Editor Rick Wood's article is a painful reminder of the failure of contemporary Christendom to represent our Father's purpose for the collective called-out ones.

<<http://www.missionfrontiers.org/pdfs/35-3-rick-wood-editorial.pdf>>

In the same issue Francis Patt writes in *Equipping The People Of God For the Mission Of God: How Are We Doing?* about Evangelical practices that seem immune from question or criticism. These are the same matters our Father has told us to warn about since we returned from Israel with the Hebraic foundations in 1994:

"Sacred Cows that need to be turned into hamburger:

1. Worship services ad nauseum
2. Preaching without teaching/training
3. Orthodoxy without orthopraxy (See our January 1997 Newsletter: *Orthodoxy vs. Orthopraxy.*)
4. Proliferation of church property dedicated to no one but those already Christians
5. Education as sufficient preparation for ministry without character development and competence in disciple-making (See Lesson 20 of *Discussing How to Restore the Early Church: Hellenism and Romanism Today—The Impact of Hellenist Seminaries.*)
6. Understanding the "gospel" as primarily an issue of salvation. (See our Hebraic Article: *The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation.*)"

While we applaud these particular articles, we are saddened that as with Gary's letter most of the *Mission Frontiers* articles still build their solutions on the ineffectual "institutional church" system. Please pray with us that people of influence would finally open their eyes and understand that our Father is restoring key truths and purposes which the clergy-managers have snatched from His

Kingdom followers.

What are some of the God-ordained purposes, goals and methods of our Father for His people? Consider this summation of Ephesians 4:11-16:

- *Jesus gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, and older men as shepherd/teachers;*
- *to prepare ALL of God's people for works of service;*
- *until we ALL reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature;*
- *attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*
- *Then we will no longer be infants held captive by clergy-managers;*
- *divided by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming of creeds that divide us;*
- *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him Who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

If you sit under the teaching of a clergy-manager, we challenge you to ask him about this all-important passage of Scripture. How are these combined anointings working in your faith community—IF they are at all? Why isn't he part of facilitating their mutual cooperation? We warn you: Be prepared to incur his disdain or disregard. We encourage you to take this step before our Lord needs to chastise you in loving discipline. Evidence of your love for Him is your obedience to His commands. And a religious system in which His commands are ignored, such as His truth through His servant Paul, is DISobedience you don't want to be part of.

Two of the anointings listed in the

Ephesians 4 passage are singled out earlier in Paul's letter because of their particularly distinctive nature:

*“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Chief Cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord”* (Ephesians 2:19-21).

*“In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has **now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets**”* (Ephesians 3:5).

God's household, His authentic family in union with Jesus, has been laid on the foundations He gave to the apostles and prophets. Note that no mention of clergy or intermediary between God and His family exists, certainly not a clergy person. Through Jesus, Jew and Gentile alike can now freely access the Throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16).

The old Hellenist/Roman ecclesiastical structure has for too long interfered with the intimacy of responsive, love-grounded, obedient trust our Father has given His own in Christ through His Spirit. That which He is now restoring will occur *outside* the religious establishment and its system of vested interests.

Let's take a closer look at the vital anointings Jesus gave to equip and prepare *all* His people for service:

- An apostle (Hebrew *shaliach*/Greek *apostolos*) is a person who is sent forth to an appointed place on a mission. It's *not* a position of dominance either through ecclesiastical role or through anointing. While the Twelve, then

Paul, received special commissioning from Jesus, note that other believers were also referred to as apostles: Andronicus and Junias (Romans 16:7), Barnabas (Acts 14:14), Silvanus and Timothy (1 Thessalonians 2:7). Even Jesus Himself is called an “apostle” since He was heaven-sent on a particular mission! (See Hebrews 3:1.)

The heart of an apostle is so dedicated to our Lord that he can be sent outside a faith community to complete a particular mission or assignment. He isn't independent of a faith community but can serve in an at-large capacity. In this light Paul reported to faith communities what he had done in his apostolic ministry (Acts 14:27; 21: 17-19).

- A prophet (Hebrew *nabil*/Greek *prophetes*) is someone to whom and through whom God speaks for the benefit of His people. Prophets extend warnings when there is tolerated sin or impending disasters so that God's people might repent and return to His ways. While prophets generally function beyond the confines of a faith community, Paul expanded the gift to include prophetic messages shared within worship gatherings as means of encouragement (1Corinthians 14:3).

- An evangelist (Hebrew *magid*/Greek *euaggelistes*) is a faith community planter and repairer. This individual not only shares the Gospel but also stays on and gathers together a faith community which he will leave in the responsible care of shepherd/teacher(s). Timothy and Titus were evangelists and faith community planters: “But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, *do the work of an evangelist*, discharge all the duties of your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:5), and, “The reason I left you in Crete was that you might *straighten out what was left unfinished* and *appoint elders* [shepherd/teachers] in every town, as I directed you” (Titus 1:5).

- A shepherd (Hebrew *zaken*/Greek *poimen*)

was a biblical elder: a gray-haired, proven man of leadership who imparted wisdom and counsel to a specific group of people (1Peter 5:2). As a teacher (Hebrew *rab*/Greek *didaskalos*) he rightly divided the Word to bring clarity to others and to exhort them to action in Kingdom service (1Timothy 2:7).

Clergy-managers have for centuries deceived people into believing that the roles of apostle and prophet have ceased. Nowhere in God's Word is it indicated or even hinted that these anointings are no longer in operation through followers of Jesus. Sadly too, the gift of evangelist has been diminished by ecclesiastical authorities to the role of “crusades.” The biblical parameter of *faith community planting and repair* isn't included. The result of this curtailment? Over 90% of the people who go forward at these "evangelistic crusades" later forsake Jesus.

The anointings of the apostle, prophet, and evangelist keep God's people focused outward on their Kingdom privileges and responsibilities of loving service to the King. None of these anointings was ever intended to keep a complacent religious system operating just so people who attend as spectators can get their weekly religious “fix.” Rather, the individuals serving in these three capacities stretch followers of Jesus to use their own giftings to serve our Lord and extend His Kingdom. Over the years we've encountered so few in the clergy-managed system who even *know* their gifts, and even fewer putting them to use.

We hope you realize that these anointings which are needed to equip God's people for service are still functioning. *Our Lord Jesus* gave them—and He hasn't done away with them! Yet within the clergy-managed system those who walk lovingly and boldly in the gifting

the Spirit has apportioned them are a threat to a more-readily managed complacent religious system.

You may have one or more anointings of the Spirit but have quenched them through an erroneous expectation that the religious leaders are supposed to do all the serving. Ironically, a number of the clergy we have met over the years have the gift of evangelism, but because of their religious system's constraints have to serve the role of "pastor" in order to get paid. Over time this mismatch of gifting and service fails because it's done in the flesh. Ultimately they walk away despondent and disillusioned.

We do want to encourage you that we've met authentic biblical shepherd/teachers! These are older men who've tasted the mercy of our Father's forgiveness and can extend that compassion to others. Because of what they've learned along their own life journey they can now by His grace role model a way of life that's pleasing to Him. A number of these men have indeed stumbled at some time in their life. But through repentance and utter gratefulness for their Father's forgiveness and the Spirit's transforming work within, they're now equipped and useful in the Kingdom in ways they wouldn't have been earlier.

Likely Daniel speaks of these men when he prophesies, "*Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time*" (Daniel 11:35). These older men have tasted the mercy of God and have grown in wisdom. They don't seek to teach at others as much as reflect the sanctifying work of the Spirit of Jesus within them. This gives others hope of the transforming work ONLY our Lord can do in them.

We realize that perhaps you can't fathom that our Father would let a religious system that opposes His Kingdom ways and purposes go on for so many centuries. But ask yourself:

- Why did He allow the Bible to be hidden in Latin obscurity for 1100 years?
- Why has He permitted Israel to experience a hardening until the full number of Gentiles puts their faith in Jesus? (Romans 11:25)

No one but He knows the answer to these questions. But He does call His children to fully trust in His sovereign right to let a religious system that is not of Him to continue. He always has a good purpose for everything!

Consider this. ***Each of us must fervently seek the truth in order that we will recognize Truth personified, Jesus, when our Father chooses to reveal Him to us.*** Our Hebraic ancestors understood the intensity of spiritual pursuit since the phrase "*heart and soul*" appears in over 35 verses! And from a Hebraic understanding, that pursuit is neither vicarious (done by someone else on your behalf) nor is it just a half-hearted nod of agreement. You must be willing to embrace the cost of *living* the Truth.

When Jesus proclaims, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*" (John 14:6), He is summing up so much of Scripture about *Himself* in one sentence. Our Lord is telling you that He is the ONLY Source for you to know the truth that sets you free.

It's only by looking to Jesus with the eyes of the Spirit that the truths of God's Word can be understood (1Corinthians 2:13,14). In and through our relationship with our Lord as His beloved blood-bought servant/slaves do *biblical commands* make sense. He is the ONLY Head of all who belong to Him; *no one* comes

between Him and those who follow Him as their Lord and Savior. His indwelling Spirit is the transforming power that enables us to grow like Him in love, sacrifice, and obedient application of the truths of His Word.

If you don't regard Jesus as the Way in which you learn truth; if you have swallowed traditions and dictates of religious systems *alongside* His Word as your own way—then you have embraced lies. You've been seduced by clergy-managers into spiritual lethargy—which James refers to as *dead faith!* (See James 2:20,26.)

Mike: Years ago we raised sheep when I counseled clergy in New England. Having a prophetic gift I wanted to understand the role of shepherd, so we acquired a flock of sheep. We learned quickly that unlike the independent goats we already had on the farm, sheep NEED a shepherd—especially during lambing season. When ewes had a breach presen-

tation it was a real struggle to turn the lamb around in the birth canal. Because of her smaller hands, Sue would reach in elbow deep to perform the maneuver between contractions. This was a difficult and painful process for both mother and lamb, a process that wasn't always successful.

This lambing process comes to mind as we are given these warnings to share with you by the Spirit of our Lord. Just as the lamb had to be *turned around* in order to come out alive, *you* may need an about-face in your own thinking to live for our Lord Jesus heart and soul!

Mike & Sue

“For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10).

*“Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. **Test everything.** Hold on to the good”* (1Thessalonians 5:19-21).