

# The Way of the Lord

## 9. Our Lord's Love-based Priority of Relationships

Previous video segments have shown you the path to spiritual freedom that our Lord Jesus promises. By His power He's delivered us from demonic influence and made it possible for our wounded emotions to be healed. When you're spiritually and emotionally free, you can enjoy the fullness of relationship our Father and Jesus desire to have with you through the Holy Spirit in you.

Our Father is all about relationships. Because of His amazing LOVE, He made a way through the death and resurrection of Jesus for all who trust in Him to live in loving intimacy with Him. During our time in Israel, Father unfolded what He wanted us to share when we returned to the US. As we neared our departure date, He gave us a visual image of His RELATIONAL PRIORITIES.

We want to introduce you to these priorities. In our next video segments we'll examine each of these in depth.

Because our Father created us, He fully understands human nature. He knows we're limited in many ways. Relationally, we're NOT ABLE to be equally devoted and committed to all the people in our lives. Father's design is that we PRIORITIZE our relationships. This means that we MAKE A DISTINCTION among those we hold dearest to us and those whose relationship with us is more casual.

The first and most important relationship you'll ever have is the one our Father and Jesus want with each of us through the Spirit. LOVE forms the ALL-encompassing foundation for your relationship with our God:

"LOVE the Lord your God with ALL your heart and with ALL your soul and with ALL your strength and with ALL your mind" (Luke 10:27a).

Building off your love relationship with our Lord, His priorities for all your OTHER relationships flow from His command: "LOVE your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27b).

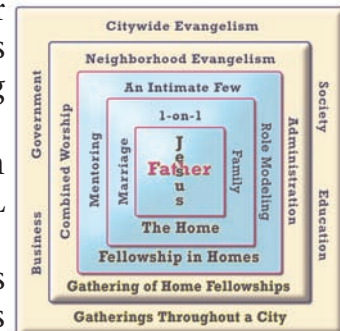
Loving others begins in Your Home.

Our Father ordained that your HOME should be the primary place for spiritual development, as well as for physical and emotional nurture. In your HOME, the character of Jesus begins to be cultivated through 1-on-1 interaction.

In your Home, His love and character develop and mature so that your MARRIAGE covenant will reflect the Covenant you have with Him. And, in your HOME, your children are raised to encounter Him through YOU. And through YOU, they learn to keep the way of the LORD by doing what's right and just from God's perspective.

The next relational priority is Fellowship in Homes.

This is where individuals and families join together as extended spiritual family in Jesus. The COLLECTIVE family of the home fellowship help one another maintain righteousness through repentance and through intentional discipling.



These relationships are LOAD-BEARING. As brothers and sisters in Christ, they carry each others joys and needs through the 54 “one-anothers” cited in the Newer Testament. In this way they help strengthen and support each HOME for the spiritual growth of each person. Among the extended family of the Home Fellowship, the spiritually mature role model and mentor the less mature to help each person focus on fulfilling their Kingdom purposes.

The next relational priority is the Gathering of Home Fellowships.

Home fellowship families can gather together collectively in what today is called a “congregation”. The Gathering of Home Fellowships GROWS OUT of the home and home fellowship. If you reverse the process from a congregation down to a contrived home fellowship, you’ll end up with immature and even disillusioned “churchgoers”.

This SPIRITUAL UNREST is why over 20 million people in the United States have fled the current congregational system. They’re discovering God’s relational priorities and revitalizing their spirits and homes.

The last relational priority is Gatherings Throughout a City.

Congregations within a city are relationally connected through their leadership as they meet and work together for Kingdom goals. Through their combined cooperation they can influence for Christ the realms of business, government, society and education — and ultimately reach out to the Nation and the World.

Spiritual health begins in the relational commitment of the inner three priorities: The Father and Jesus; The Home, and, fellowship in homes.

Then the outer two priorities inherently find their foundations strong.

We’ll be discussing relational priorities in forthcoming segments. For now we hope you’ll understand the implications to your way of life that these priorities hold.

The relational priorities in our “Restoration Diagram” look like a layer cake.

Each level is based on love and on applying God’s Word as appropriate for each of those relationships. You begin with our Father and His Son, Jesus. Next, your marriage and family. Then those in your home fellowship. And so on...

Let’s sum this up:

The quality of LOVE and of how you obey GOD’S COMMANDS at each level flows into the relationship BELOW it. His GRACE flows down and out through you.

Since over 20 million people have left congregations in this nation, we’re seeing the hand of God in why this is happening and what He may be trying to do through it. To explain this, let’s look at Scripture:

The Psalmist writes with unshakable assurance,

“He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will NEVER BE SHAKEN” (Psalms 62:2).

Later, the writer to the Hebrews addresses this SHAKING:

“At that time His voice SHOOK the earth, but now He has promised,

‘Once more I will SHAKE not only the earth but also the heavens.’

The words ‘once more’ indicate the removing of what CAN be shaken—

that is, things that are made, that those things which CANNOT be shaken may

remain" (Hebrews 12:26,27).

In our Restoration Diagram we see our Father SHAKING people from the least important priorities. Then He can bring them to a place where HE is first and foremost in their lives. In recent years He's been removing people's confidence in business, government, society and education.

Through His Spirit He's also stirring people to leave congregations that are established on priorities CONTRARY to His. Out of LOVE, God's ultimate goal is to bring individuals, families, and extended families to Himself so they can develop the intimate love relationship He wants with each one. And, through His relational priorities, He can work by His Spirit as they deepen their love for one another and help each other walk in His ways.

If you've been going through negative circumstances for awhile, consider if our Father isn't putting up a stop sign for you out of LOVE. He may be alerting you to align YOUR relational priorities with HIS. We encourage you to ingrain the Restoration Diagram into your mind. Understanding which relationships should hold a higher priority than others will make the WAY of the Lord clearer to you.

#### **For Further Study**

See the Restoration Ministries Home page on our website:  
<Restorationministries.org>