

Being The Reality Of Jesus To A Wicked World

Reality 11. Christ-like Relationships Are Free Of Self Sovereignty



Pinpointing Key Facets Of The Hebraic Foundations

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Reality 11. Christ-Like Relationships Are Free of Self Sovereignty



The myriad of halo effects that are undermining marriage and family today are numerous, especially **self sovereignty** which strongly appeals to our sin nature. In these next emails and Realities you'll find many links to materials we've produced over the past 28 years. (We apologize for some of the quality, which at the time was the best available.) As we do with ourselves, we're relying on you and the Holy Spirit to prayerfully apply what our Father is restoring today.

With the Spirit guiding you as you apply these truths to your life, we'll help you spot "halos" which are trying to destroy your marriage and/or your home fellowship family.

A look back at a major influence that championed today's self sovereignty:

Many grandparents and parents of the past were captivated by the sovereignty of self which was propagated by the late Dr. Benjamin Spock. His popular (and unbiblical) book, *Baby and Child Care* (1946) conveyed a diabolic humanist view of mankind: **"Children are born basically good. Society makes them evil."** If a child is "basically good", then parental correction and the need for moral boundaries is eliminated, as they have in today's society and Christianity. Through Spock's influence, the US moved from a "child-centered" society to today's "child-dominated" society — uncorrected and self-absorbed offspring who lack any moral framework.

Urged on by Humanism-infused teachers, deluded parents became obsessed with their children's **"self-esteem"** instead of concentrating on their character. Character training and the correction that's needed to instill it vanished in both public education and the home. And even more repugnant is that long-standing studies had already shown that people with the highest level of self-esteem are in prisons on death row.

These days self-esteem is heralded throughout public education, pulpits, and counseling.** The unabashed pursuit of self-esteem and self-gratification are considered inalienable rights in this nation. Even within much of Christianity, homes are hotbeds for humanist narcissism with its self-obsession and emphasis on physical appearance to enhance self-esteem.

** Read [Coaching Fathers To Serve Lord Jesus](#), Practice 5, for more on the insidious obsession with self esteem. Also read Lesson 42, [Children: Born With A Sin Nature—Destined For Eternity](#) in our [Discussing How To Restore The Early Church](#) series.

We aren't the first nation to experience the self-destruction which follows mass departure from God's righteous ways. Israel of old found itself in exactly the same place as our society: *"As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths"* (Isaiah 3:12; also 3:4). All through Isaiah chapter 3 the prophet describes the spiritual adultery of Israel and why God was compelled to judge that nation. God could write the same accusation to the US today – youths oppress and women rule! As God told the Israelites, He is telling Christians today, *"I am filled with fury against you", declares the Sovereign*

LORD, ‘when you do all these things, acting like a brazen prostitute!’” (Ezekiel 16:30; see also Jeremiah 3:3). And just as Israel refused to repent, too many Christians today have the same scoffing response—**impudence regarding repentance!** **

Only the **awesome fear of our holy God** which we commented on in our last email and in Reality 9 can enable us to collectively undo our brazen insolence toward Him. Many variables contributed to Israel’s downfall and eviction from the land which God promised them. Not only did their guides, their religious leaders, lead them astray. It was the failure of men, especially husbands and fathers, which added to the curse of youths oppressing and women ruling. Men who shrugged off their responsibilities before God opened the way for rule by those to whom He never gave authority. In this nation men began to be subtly undermined when the National Education Association signed the Humanist Manifesto in 1932. ** During the years following this God-denying intrusion, the printed media, movies and later TV increasingly portrayed the centrality of pursuit of happiness — a pursuit which was devoid of God’s moral boundaries.

** See **IMPUDENCE - Reflection of the Anti-Christ Spirit in Today’s Church.**

** See page 34 of **Hebraic Home Fellowships Must Produce Godly Generations** for more insight into the Humanist Manifesto.

Now with decades of the slick, sin nature-accommodating evil of sovereign self, it’s much more difficult to experience **Christ-like marriages** and **fellowship families who are sacrificially serving** the purposes of our Father and the building up of one-another in Christ. It will take a cooperative and intentional effort of males and females both young and old who love our Lord Jesus and who fear our God in order to remove all vestiges of impudent rule from our marriages, families and home fellowships:

1. Husbands must ask Jesus for His love for their wives, and resolutely guide their families as loving servant/leaders in applying the Word of God to all aspects of their lives.
2. By God’s grace women must relinquish the rule they are exercising over men whether in actions, attitudes or words.
3. Young people must learn the character trait of the deference of Jesus toward their parents and toward the older people of wisdom whom God puts in their lives.

Devoted Bonding Is The Core of a Christ-like Marriage & Home Fellowship

Even though God created humanity to be social beings, the **intimate bonding** of one person to another requires a lot of gracious consideration for the other, as well as mega determination. Even the Covenant union with our Father and our Lord Jesus stipulates that we yield graciously and respond with resolute sense of purpose. The deeper the bonding with one another, the more consideration and determination that are needed. We say this because Christ-like marriages and home fellowship families are having to exist within a society and system of Christianity that are dominated by sovereign self. It can’t be a balancing act! You either need to abandon all vestiges of sovereign self or forfeit intimate bonding with one another through the Spirit. That’s the parameter of love-grounded self-denial which our Father and Lord Jesus require. And your spouse or home fellowship family should experience this same relational self-yielding which Jesus personified. Putting the interests of others first is the most effective way for you to bond.

For you married people: Once you anchor the fact that your spiritual Covenant with our Father and Lord Jesus is to be physically and relationally expressed through your marriage covenant, the easier it will be for you to cooperate in seeing your marriage be bonded together more closely. Both covenants are intricately connected!

“What God has joined together, let no one separate” (Mark 10:9). **

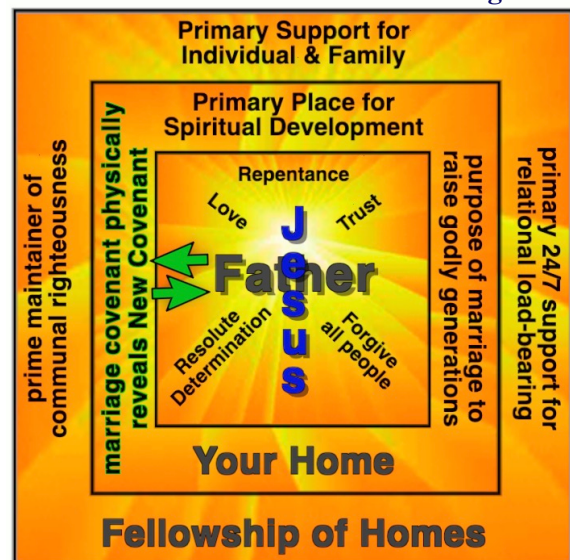
You may be among our readers who are currently married. Others are divorced or remarried. And still others are widowed or haven’t married. We realize that if you’re still “churched”, you may be offended when we state that the **clergy system** — a leading occupation for divorce in this nation — and the religious establishment that supports them is just as influential as society and the media in demolishing marriages. In light of what surveys of Christianity have found over the years (some of which we cited in Reality 9), sometimes we’d tell parents at our seminars, *“If you want your children to stay married, don’t bring them to ‘church’.”*

You are called to impart Jesus to your children in your home, supported by the extended spiritual family of your home fellowship if you have one. How your children will develop in their faith journey is first of all caught by what they see in your marriage and in the lives and marriages of your home fellowship family.

** It’s essential for you to realize that The Relational Priorities Of The Kingdom which are being restored today are more akin to the tribal relationships of family and extended family than they are to organized religious systems. It’s the depth of committed relationship within each relational priority that enables it to be an authentic expression of our Lord’s body — the body our Lord envisioned for His called-out ones. And His Spirit is the glue that binds the bond in the body together.

The quality of a marriage that’s grounded in Jesus flows out of the Covenant which each partner has with our heavenly Father. The more resolute you are about dwelling with grace in the central priority of our Father and Jesus, the more your marriage is strengthened to reflect the **love, forgiveness** and **compassion** of Jesus our Lord. These qualities are essential for a marriage and home fellowship which reflect His Reality in their midst.

The Relational Priorities Of The Kingdom



** For a quick insight into our heavenly Father’s view of your relationship with Him and your marriage, we encourage you to read: **Our Heavenly Father’s Two Paramount Covenants – Interwoven And Made Possible By The True Gospel.**

** We discuss the nature of the New Covenant our Father offers and how we enter this covenant in our series **Jesus In Your Home, specifically The Father & Jesus–THE Source For All True Love & Intimacy**, and in our article, **The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation.**

Please heed this warning. God has made clear that He hates divorce (Malachi 2:14-16). Not only is a sacred covenant being broken; His plan for godly offspring through the couple is being obstructed. In our Father's view there is no such thing as **"no fault divorce"**. The person who files for divorce is guilty of breaking the covenant of marriage, unless there's proof of infidelity or heinous actions on the part of the offending spouse. By Heaven's standards no divorced person is considered completely innocent. If you have gone through divorce, remember with gratitude that because of Jesus you can confess your dissolved marriage covenant as a sin and receive Father's forgiveness and cleansing (1John 1:9). Forgive your former spouse from your heart, and ask forgiveness for your part in causing or contributing to the divorce. And if you haven't already done this, ask your children to forgive you for the hurt your divorce has caused them. These steps allow the Spirit of Christ to fully heal you of any sting from that part of your life so that you can keep focused on now and the days ahead rather than on what was in the past.

A warning for everyone. Too often we've met individuals who have divorced and have refused to repent of their own wrongdoing or ask forgiveness from those who are involved in its dissolution. Most go on in life slandering their ex-spouse and fanning bitterness in their children against that parent. Please, if you have relationships with people who have divorced and who bad-mouth their former partner, silence them! Do this for their sake as well as for yours so that you won't be part of one-sided slander. Misguided empathy in the face of slander or gossip is a sin in Father's sight!

And a warning if you are considering divorce. The effect of divorce on children is deep-seated, and anyone who causes children for whatever reason to fall into harm brings forth severe consequences on themselves. *"Jesus said to His disciples, 'It is impossible that no offenses [actions which lead to ruin or harm] should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea than that he should offend [cause to stumble] one of these little ones'" (Luke 17:1,2).* There's a specific reason we're citing the lasting effects of divorce on children.

Mike: Near the end of our time of living near Jerusalem I was sitting on the wall in front of Dominus Flevit, the church building which commemorates where Jesus wept. It's located halfway down the Mount of Olives overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem. In the greatest depth of sorrow I'd ever experienced, I heard my heavenly Father imprint this statement into my heart: ***"The reason I brought you to Israel is that the children of divorce in the United States are breaking My heart."*** I sobbed as I heard these words and felt the deep sorrow of Abba.

Soon after our return to the States we read a longterm study on the effects of divorce on children. Tragically, the most prevalent and relationally destructive effect on children of divorce is this: **"They can never let themselves fully belong to other people."** In other words, children of divorce erect an emotional safeguard around themselves to keep from being hurt again. In so doing they find it nearly impossible to trust others, even our heavenly Father.

This reality brings tears to our Father's eyes, but it doesn't grieve the majority of divorced parents. In this nation there are an overabundance of devastated children of di-

voice who need the deliverance and healing of Jesus. They also need their parents to ask them for forgiveness for their loss in not being raised in a home with a father and mother who loved them. Research shows that children of divorce are more likely to experience a divorce themselves: “Parental divorce is one of the best documented risk factors for marriage dissolution of their children.” What a damaging and unloving legacy to give your children. But there is healing to be had if you humble yourself and take responsibility for your part in this.

Sue: I should add here that my parents divorced in 1956 when I was 8. Raised by a single mom who was always exhausted from her job and household responsibilities, I learned early that independence and self-reliance were necessary life skills. But little did I realize then how greatly these engrained traits would hinder my bonding with my husband and developing a “WE” frame of reference with him instead of my entrenched “I”.

One way to view a marriage or a fellowship of homes for that matter is that they comprise the various past and current **frames of reference** each person has. Some of these are conducive to intimate bonding, while others are destructive if the frame of reference isn’t changed. Keep in mind that in the past half century few have started their marriage with our Father’s frame of reference about the intertwining of the marriage covenant and His Covenant in Christ that leads to salvation. And the majority of home fellowships in this nation fail because those within those faith families keep their own frames of reference hidden. So prepare yourself to repent and change your frame of reference to that of Jesus!

***“They broke bread in their homes and ate together
with glad and sincere hearts” (Acts 2:46).***

It takes deep personal commitment to belong to a fellowship family of homes that’s becoming bonded to each other through the Spirit of Christ. Your fellowship family is the primary support for your home, and your bonding together must be based on each home living fully committed to our heavenly Father’s priorities because they begin in each home:

1. Your fellowship with others must spur you on to glorify our Father through praise, worship, and a lifestyle that yields glorifying testimony of praise to Him. [See Matthew 5:13-16; and also ***Kingdom Living Today***.]
2. Your fellowship with one another should result in progressive growth in Christlike character in each person as you walk in the scriptural “one-anothers”. [See 1Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 2:5-11; see also ***Today, What Would Jesus Do If He Were You?***]
3. Your fellowship must provide the corrective and confrontational means to help each other uphold communal righteousness. [See Matthew 18:15-17; also, our book ***Growing Relationships Through Confrontation***.]
4. Your fellowship must strive to extend the Kingdom of God on earth, pursuing the lost so that they too may enter Covenant with our Father in Jesus. [See Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; also ***The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation***]**

Please take this to heart. Belonging to our Lord Jesus as His loving and obedient brother or sister while you're still on earth carries with it far more responsibility than most religious leaders teach — especially those who over-emphasize that “getting saved” is all that's required of you. The Newer Testament is filled with 1,050 commands, most of which must be mutually put into practice. Mutually putting these commands into practice verifies that each of you is *genuinely* born again and that the Holy Spirit indwells you. Our Father's **grace with purpose** enables you to cooperatively apply His commands to your mutual way of life. And intimate bonding is His blessing for living this way.

Mike & Sue

✱✱ For greater insight into the home fellowships that are being restored, see [Jesus In Your Home](#), videos 90 thru 139. Or read [Discussing How To Restore The Early Church](#), Lessons 45 thru 50, and Lessons 1 thru 4 in “Preparing Home Fellowship Families for the Dark Days of Chastisement.” Also read and discuss, [Fellowship In Homes – The Hebraic Model](#). And read, [Hebraic Home Fellowships Must Produce Godly Generations](#)