

Only His Lordship Will Impart Confidence In Jesus

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

The Bible specifies the unique identification that only human beings have with our God: **“Let Us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness...”** (Genesis 1:26). God makes plain that we can be thoroughly confident in His hand having orchestrated all of Creation. He especially intended that humanity alone bear His image and likeness so that we’d have the capacity for spiritual relationship with Him. Yet that glorious reality has been smothered and denied through the theory of evolution’s dominance in education and in the media. A growing number of clergy, too, dismiss the role of God as Creator, opting to compromise with scientific arguments which cast doubt on the Bible account. Shortly we’ll be sending out the next Reality in which we discuss the gender ramifications of Genesis 1:27, **“So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; *male and female* (no in-betweens) He created them.”** Your absolute confidence in God the Creator has tremendous effect on how you appreciate the opposite gender as well as accept the gender He gave you in the womb.

- A Female
- B Male
- C Non-binary
- D Transgender
- E Intersex
- F Let me type...
- G I prefer not to say

Our hearts are burdened for the unrighteous condition of Christianity in this nation. The holy and righteous name of our Lord Jesus is being mocked and vilified by an unbelieving world — a reaction that has come about through the compromised lives of those who say they belong to Him but live like everybody else. We see so many **“Christian zombies”** (people who are spiritually neither dead nor alive) who go through all the religious motions and practices. But they lack the Spirit-given confidence that comes only through the LORDSHIP of Jesus in the lives of His own. The one thing that’s fully alive and active in the zombies is their **sin nature** as it rules their self-absorbed view of themselves. Let’s identify the distinctives we see in Christian zombies.

“LET US MAKE GOD IN OUR OWN IMAGE AND LIKENESS” (Humanism 1:1).

It can’t be said more plainly than this! Christian zombies have made God into their own image — a “dead” uninvolved “God” Who cares nothing about how they live their life and has no sacrificial love for others. To them, God is “out there” and they have to make their own choices and decisions apart from any input about His will. While they’d like their self-constructed “god” to make them happy, given the sorry state of affairs around them He must have fallen asleep. Furthermore they have no confidence in the Lordship of Jesus, neither when they pray nor when it comes to living to love and serve Him. We grieve over the religious diddly-squat we hear and see among the zombies. They aren’t brothers and sisters of our Lord, and they’re not ours either. (Are there any religious zombies among your own relationships?)

Humanism’s thrust that **“mankind is his own god”** is spurred on by countless clergy and media evangelists who preach **Humanism disguised as grace**. This means there’s no sin, no guilt, no need to repent. It breaks our hearts to observe the many ways in which Humanism has fed the sin nature of so many Christian zombies. We who

follow Jesus as Lord of our lives can't let ourselves be seduced by Humanism and its lies. Choosing to live as our own "god" like the zombies do is a slippery slope that leads to destruction.

We will take a different tone regarding religious leaders and the deceptions they placate their congregations with when we hear that certain actions have taken place: • religious leaders calling their congregations to their knees in repentance so that Father will hear their prayers; • leaders refusing to even start a worship service until all have first repented, receiving the cleansing work of the Spirit. When these same leaders have led their people into repentance, we'd like to see them call the President and cabinet officials and congressional leaders to their knees. Why? So that these men and women would humbly repent and ask our Sovereign God to intervene in this nation, the Ukraine, Russia, and elsewhere. If we claim to be "One nation under God," then let's live it!

The cost of being true to Jesus as your Lord:

Years ago when we were living in Colorado Springs, we went fishing along one of the mountain streams. Two fish and game wardens approached us on horseback. They'd ridden by our van and saw the signs on our doors, "***The Family of Jesus Do Their Father's Will. Are You His Family?***" We talked back and forth about our faith in Jesus. Then they told us how their pastor, who loves the Lord Jesus and insists on repentance among the fellowship family, was losing congregants to the liberal (***Humanism disguised as grace***) congregation in their small mountain community.

Several weeks later back in Colorado Springs, Mike was walking out of the local Home Depot to our van. A man was standing next to it and staring at the sign on the door. The Holy Spirit told Mike, "*That man is the pastor whom those men told you about at the stream a few weeks ago. He is downtrodden by the loss of his people. Go tell him how proud Jesus is of him, and encourage him not to water down his messages.*" After Mike repeated what the Holy Spirit had said, the man wept. Putting his arms around Mike, he told him how much that message meant to him. Is your clergy person someone Jesus would be proud of?

Keep this in mind when you're thinking about the atrocities taking place in the Ukraine: Putin is just a pawn in the hands of demonic principalities even as every other self-serving dictator has been. Putin's actions and political power can be suddenly halted as repentant people come before Father in the name of Jesus. (Look in your concordance for how often "suddenly" appears in God's Word!) This war will pass. But will you have come before Father with clean hands and a pure heart asking that He show Himself mighty so "Then they will know that I am the LORD"?

Christian zombies erroneously believe that any leader, whether political or religious, doesn't need to live repentantly themselves to do good on behalf of the people. But if you've put your confidence in any politician or religious leader whose own life is not in sync with that of our Lord Jesus, then you are misplacing your trust. That perspective is as deluded as you believing that your own lack of living repentantly is okay

with God. Christian zombies have done more to damage the holy reputation of Jesus by what they've done and have failed to do than has any unbeliever who doesn't know better.

Be watchful, be vigilant!

Years ago a prominent Christian ministry that centered on families was itself riddled with divorce even as the top executives tried to hide it. Word eventually got out, though, and unbelievers who were aware of the hypocrisy started putting bumper stickers on their vehicles, "Focus on your own (expletive) family!" It's time that we who follow Jesus as our Lord scrutinize our own relationship with Him. Biblical fellowship involves walking in the steps of Jesus, and if we are choosing to "fellowship" with people whose goals and values are mingled with the world's, then we are being drawn into zombie darkness.

Jesus Himself says that we must strive and anguish to get through the narrow gate (Luke 13:24). The vicarious religious practices of self-indulgent zombies aren't acceptable to Him (see Luke 13:25-27). So make sure you ask each other in your fellowship family if resolutely pressing on together toward the narrow gate in Jesus is near the foremost of your collective motives. It's all too easy for **zombie self-indulgence** to try to sidetrack your joyful determination to bring praise to Father through your obedient trust!

Purpose to gratefully live each day in the Lordship of Jesus, confident in His grace. Our Lord offers some stark word pictures about the kingdom requirements for living free from unconfessed sin which are on par with His warning about entertaining unrighteous values and habits. Note that the body parts He cites didn't cause you to sin — it was your own self-willed sin nature which propelled you. And the consequence for ongoing rebellion against God and His ways is unquenchable fire.

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where "Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43-47).



Escape The Diddy-Squat of Nicolaitan Dominance and Zombie Christianity

"If you do not stand firm in your trust, you will not stand at all" (Isaiah 7:9). If you're genuinely born again, then you have genuine confidence in Jesus as your Lord. We've been told that what the Holy Spirit gives us to share is kin to the "Holiness Movements" that arose in the 19th century among Protestant churches in the United States and were characterized by a doctrine of sanctification. But unlike these movements, we aren't proposing denominations with ecclesiastical leaders demanding that you jump through their creedal hoops. Far from it! We are encouraging you to have confidence in the indwelling Spirit of our Lord Jesus and the authority of the Bible to guide your way of life. The Spirit of Christ as your Head will guide you to those who will be

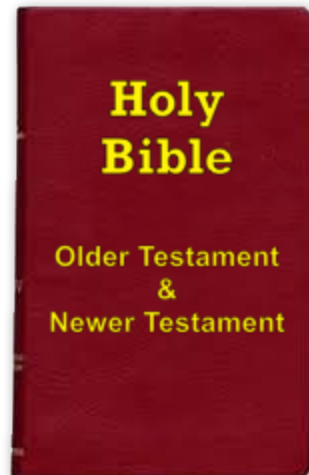
your specific fellowship family and will confirm that relationship. Just make sure that 🇵🇸 *Jesus is Lord of your life*, 🇵🇸 *you live repentantly with His love by His grace*, 🇵🇸 *you are free from demonic influence/control*, 🇵🇸 *you aren't consistently ruled by your sin nature*. These are the foundations of **communal righteousness** which is at the core of the fellowship families of which our Lord Jesus is Head.

Jesus Is Lord Of Your Life

Your Life Is An Expression Of His Lordship

<p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">The Preeminence of Jesus</p> <p><u>"[JESUS] is the Head of His called-out ones; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy"</u> (Colossians 1:18).</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">Jesus Only A Biblical Notable</p> <p><u>"They have lost connection with the Head, from Whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow"</u> (Colossians 2:19).</p>
<p style="color: blue;">Jesus As Your Lord</p> 	<p style="color: blue;">Jesus Is No More Than A Savior</p> 
<p>Beloved servant with interactive relationship</p> <p>Your confidence in the Lordship of Jesus is expressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In your life and love reflecting Him to the world • Your humble, repentant convictions • Your absolute reliance on His indwelling Holy Spirit • Your life striving by grace to enter the narrow gate • Your resolute determination to do your Father's will • Your heartfelt worship in Spirit and in truth 	<p>Zombies without an interactive relationship</p> <p>You are obsessed with your desires, not Jesus's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your life doesn't emanate from Jesus as your Head • You are your own god doing what you want • Repentance is non-existent, or maybe optional • You're content thinking you're going to heaven • Everything you truly value is here on earth • Your worship is satisfying to you, but not the Father

We've frequently emphasized the importance of the Holy Spirit's *rhema* to guide you in applying to your way of life any of the 613 commands in the Older Testament (apart from the Levitical priesthood ordinances) and the 1,050 commands in the Newer Testament. These are all practical expressions of love for our Lord and for one another! You aren't trying to earn God's approval by living according to His way. Rather, as you put into practice these Scripture applications, your character is being conformed to that of Jesus. And each application of God's Word is a testimony of your love and a confidence builder because the presence of the Spirit of Jesus is in your midst (Matthew 18:18-20).



You may have been taught to devalue the importance of the Older Testament. But keep this fact in mind: *The Newer Testament contains 1600 Old Testament verses, including direct quotes, unacknowledged quotes, and reworded or paraphrased verses.* Every place in the Newer Testament that you see the word "Scripture", it's referring solely to the Older Testament. That was the only Bible known to Jesus, the apostles, Paul, and the first century followers of Jesus. Don't ever reduce the significance of what they considered essential. And don't be like the zombies who eliminate the crucial foundation of the Older Testament.

We deeply desire to help you have **absolute confidence** in the God of the Bible, have **absolute confidence** in His indwelling Holy Spirit, and have **absolute confidence** in the Spirit of our Lord to take God's Word and inspire *rhema* from it to guide your character and your way of life.

Too many zombies are deceived that their intellectual knowledge of the Bible represents this depth of confidence. But in reality they “believe” that Jesus is a Savior Who has guaranteed their ticket to heaven because they recited a prayer. Yet to just believe that He is a Savior requires no intimate bonding or trust-filled interaction with Him as their Lord. By their very resistance to follow Jesus as Lord of their life, they defame Him. Tragically, they are the living dead.

Absolute confidence in Jesus as your Lord deepens and matures through your daily experience with His Spirit. Be assured that there is no condemnation for us in union with Christ Jesus who do not live according to our sin nature but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:1). But as Paul lamented in Galatians 5:17, there's a battle going on within us for rule: our sin nature or the Holy Spirit. The Spirit must rule over the sin nature in your mind, will and emotions. The audacity of the human sin nature is unparalleled in its subterfuge to keep you from recognizing sin as sin. Your sin nature resists even considering repentance when the Holy Spirit or even your conscience is telling you that you're doing wrong. We know as a biblical truth that if we live according to our sin nature, we will die; but if by the Spirit we put to death our sin nature's misdeeds of the body, we will live (Romans 8:13).

But our human sin nature is obsessed with anything that is opposite God and His righteous and just ways. Your sin nature promotes negative afflictions in your mind, especially **inferiority**, **insecurity** and **inadequacy**. To compensate for these overriding assaults on your dignity, those who are beset obsess on their looks, their attire and their earthly possessions. The sin nature shakes a defiant fist at God through sensuality and sexuality, greed, self-promotion and acclaim.

It's because of the sin nature that negative news excites people more than positive news does. As the marketing slogan blazons, “**Negative news sells.**” Your sin nature solicits bad reports about others to help you cover over your own personal misgivings: “*The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts*” (Proverbs 18:8). Over the years we've warned Christians who enjoyed hearing and sharing bad reports about others,

“There's demonic power in possessing negative information that discredits someone else. Through the influence of your sin nature's unChristlike thoughts you're robbing that person of the dignity God created them with.”

Willingly serving your sin nature is like shaking your fist at God.



Eventually your sin nature will seduce you into doubting God *if* you aren't confidently focused on loving and serving Jesus as Lord and doing Father's will. Christian zombies all too readily feed their sin nature by rationalizing just how much (or how little) they'll yield to God's will. Zombies and their sin nature say, "Lord, I'll tell You what I will do for You. But don't You tell me what You want me to do for You." Zombies are **outcome-based**, making sure that they (and their self-obsessed sin nature) have control over every aspect of any situation. If they shake their defiant fist at God too long they attract a crowd of demons.

In contrast, the person who lives with Jesus as their Lord is **obedience-based**, impelled by loving trust. Ruled by the Holy Spirit, you live to love and serve your Lord with the prime purpose to glorify your Father. If this describes you, then you're one with Father's purpose and one with Jesus' family of blood-bought brothers and sisters.

Mike & Sue

Persistent yielding to your sin nature is rebellion, helping demons establish strongholds

