

Faithful Family In Jesus Abide Together To Do Father's Will

(A quick reference to the Hebraic foundations and your service to Lord Jesus in the Kingdom.)

Helping you establish a solid frame of reference for your spiritual life

It's a biblical reality that the Hebraic foundations are about *deep intimate relationships* — beginning with your heavenly Father and Lord Jesus, then flowing out through your home and fellowship family of homes. Within the Hebraic foundations you find •the relational priorities of the Kingdom, •your privilege and responsibilities through the Holy Spirit to collectively serve Jesus your Lord and King, •the power of the indwelling Spirit to stand in firm assurance against Satan's wiles and his demonic workers who hold captive the people in your relational sphere (Ephesians 6:10-13).

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to state that there may be as many people who are abiding in spiritual darkness within Christianity as there are outside it. Certain characteristics distinguish the spiritual darkness within "Christians" who are in reality living for themselves: 🙄 their refusal to daily love and serve Jesus as Lord of their lives, 😞 their complacent passivity and resistance to fulfilling our Father's will and bringing Him glory, 🙄 their failure to reflect the compassionate concern of Jesus for the eternal destiny of unbelievers among their relationships.

Unless you closely scrutinize Christian history, you may be deceived into thinking that *all of the denominational divisiveness* is part of God's plan. But it's not. In fact Jesus Himself prayed that all who trusted Him would be one (John 17:20,21). Keep in mind that the God of the Bible views everything from eternity's perspective. He has allowed Christianity to endure a long period of **self-delusion** as it has strayed from His purposes. Yet just as He did with Israel, God has sent prophets to warn the ever-evolving "**Christian establishment**". The diagram below depicts a simplified summary of Christian history as it has revised and severed itself from its Hebraic roots.



From the mid-second century onward anti-Semitism (anti- anything Jewish) has plagued Christian theology, resulting in a fractured "Christianity" of countless denominations and sects. The same observation which Jesus made about Satan's kingdom could very well describe the

divisive factions within Christianity today: *"And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, how then can his kingdom stand?"* (Mark 3:26). Each theological rupture along the way failed to restore the Hebraic foundations and the Lordship of Jesus among His called-out ones. **Ecclesiastical dominance over Christianity has repeatedly prevented this return to the biblically Hebraic roots!**

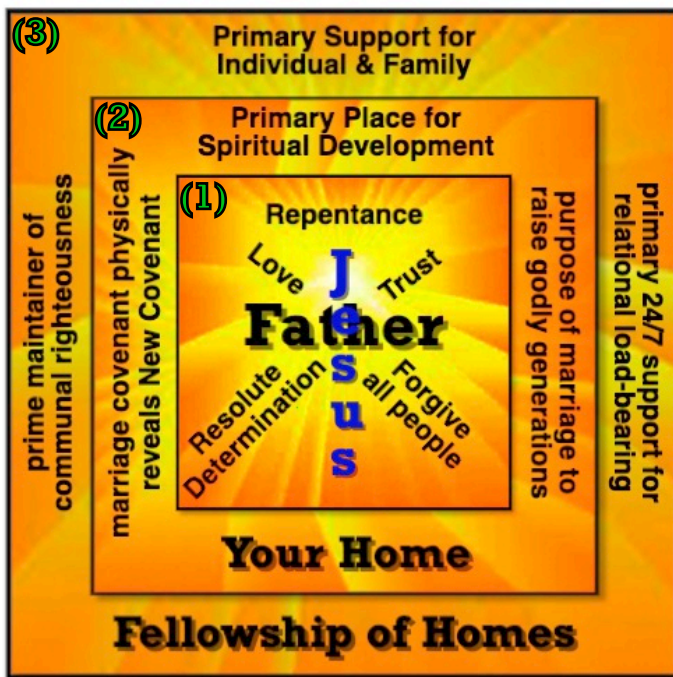
The Hebraic foundations can only be put into practice outside the organized religious establishment. Our Lord Jesus warned His followers then and now that "religion" has no part in the pure trust in Him alone as the Head of the *genuinely* born again:

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment... Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into freshly prepared wineskins, and in this way both are preserved" (Matthew 9:16,17).

In saying this, our Lord was well aware that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on the *genuinely* born again as *"new wine into new wineskins."* Scathing anti-Semitism ushered into Christianity the compromising influences of Hellenism, Romanism and clergy domination. But today the "new wine" is being restored to freshly prepared "wineskins". We just need to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying and follow through in love-grounded obedient trust. The way of life that pleases our heavenly Father is only made possible through the direct intervention and guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Each of us who follows Jesus as our Lord has a choice to make: either placing unwarranted confidence in education-dependent theologians and seminary-indoctrinated clergy, or trusting in the indwelling presence of our Lord's Spirit (Luke 10:21; 1Corinthians 1:18-29; 2:4). To the *genuinely* born again the decision is readily apparent.

The Kingdom Is Established on Abiding Relationships

Father's Abiding Relational Priorities



Often when Christians first encounter the Hebraic foundations and the abiding relational qualities and priorities of Kingdom living, they try to patch them onto their current religious practices. This never works! A few have proposed starting another denomination based on the Hebraic foundations. But this is not what our Father intends. Others look around for a home fellowship that's already putting the foundations into practice. But unless the Spirit has specifically directed their path, that doesn't succeed either.

Too often the frustration comes because the seekers have missed the relational priorities shown in diagram, left. What our heavenly Father is restoring begins with your abiding relationship with Him and with our Lord Jesus through the indwelling Holy Spirit. And the quality of this intimate relationship is first expressed in your home and is then supported

as you take part in a fellowship family of homes.

(1). Our Father and Lord Jesus

Our heavenly Father offers you the same New Covenant relationship that was first offered to the earliest followers of Jesus. At the core of what is being restored is the grace of *life-long, love-impelled sacrificial service* in the Kingdom under the Lordship of Jesus. Kingdom living means that you are actively fulfilling your Father's will to His glory. Father gives the indwelling Holy Spirit to the *genuinely* born again to guarantee His part of the New Covenant. And it's through the indwelling Holy Spirit that you are able to carry out Father's will through His *grace with purpose*. The clearest way to understand the New Covenant is that your Father has sovereignly recruited you to be a Kingdom ambassador for His Son Jesus up until the time you are welcomed into heaven (see 2Corinthians 5:17-20). His goal for you as His child and as an ambassador for His Son is that you are compelled by the same burden of love our Lord Jesus had on the cross for the lost in your neighborhood, workplace, among your relatives, and for everyone you encounter.



The heartfelt qualities which confirm your intent to abide by the requisites of the New Covenant are your •repentance •love •trust •resolute determination •forgiveness of others. These requirements for embracing the New Covenant are actually found in the Older Testament, the Hebrew Scriptures to which our Lord Jesus pointed His followers for all time:

"Whoever trusts in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' By this He meant the Spirit, whom those trusting in Him would receive..." (John 7:38,39). You find in the Older Testament the essential requisites for becoming genuinely born again in Christ as presented in the Newer Testament. And the Newer Testament describes in detail a way of life for those who enter the New Covenant.

To all who would seek to be *genuinely* born from above in their spirit, our Lord Jesus directed them to the truths of the Older Testament. He was going back to the Hebrew Scriptures because they were the only Bible at that time. Through divine understanding Jesus connected the truths of the **Hebraic foundations** with the **New Covenant** and the **Kingdom** which He came to establish. As the book of Hebrews makes abundantly clear, you need to thoroughly grasp the reality of Older Testament truths, especially your desperate need for Jesus as your only great High Priest and Substitute Sacrifice for your sins. Otherwise you'll have no understanding of why and how He accomplished this amazing act of love on your behalf!

In order to be set apart for our Father's use as Christ's own, each person who embraced the requisites of the New Covenant needed the indwelling Holy Spirit to extend the Kingdom on earth. Through those who did embrace the New Covenant, the Spirit would flow through each *genuinely* born again person as *rivers of living water* from each *"temple of the Holy Spirit"* (1Corinthians 6:19). To fulfill our Father's glorious plan, no longer would there be a religious building or established rituals or traditional forms that needed to be observed. Nor would there be human intermediaries (Nicolaitans or sacerdotals) coming between Lord Jesus and His followers. Each *genuinely* born again person would be equipped with divine guidance and spiritual power to effectively wage war against the demonic forces which hold humanity in bondage.

The fragrant aroma of the indwelling Holy Spirit's presence is manifested by **love** and its kindred characteristics of **forgiveness** and **compassion**. Both Testaments proclaim the same bedrock command, *"LOVE the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength"* (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37). From within your inner being the Holy Spirit is THE source to the love that binds you to our Lord Jesus. And it's this sacrificial

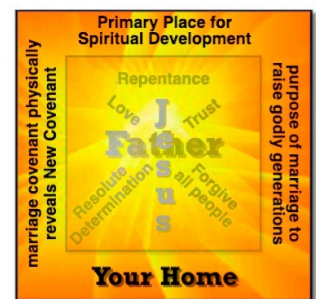
love, this *agape* love, which enables you to reflect our Lord Jesus in your relationships: first in your home, then in your fellowship family of homes, and then to the world around you. Love is the primary fiber in the fabric of your abiding relationships: *"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity"* (Colossians 3:14).

Because of *agape* love you willingly forgive others no matter what they have done (Matthew 6:14,15). This forgiveness is a key indicator that you keenly discern your own sinful depravity which so desperately needed the death of Jesus on your behalf. Your willingness to forgive others reveals how much you appreciate what you've been forgiven of by your heavenly Father. And your compassion for others demonstrates that you view other people with the heart motive of our Lord Jesus. Compassion is a compelling force within you to actively reveal Jesus to those who have yet to embrace the New Covenant.

Please read and discuss ***The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation*** for a more complete understanding of the New Covenant our heavenly Father offers you in Jesus.

(2). Your Home

The character of Jesus within you is first of all developed *and* manifested in your home. Your home is THE primary place for your spiritual development because that's where those with whom you live are privy to the real you rather than the outward you which you might want others to see. Your home is the first place in which repentant living is expressed, and the arena of your closest relationships. A repentant home is a home of ***communal righteousness*** in which each person turns away from what they know to be wrong and turns back to God's way.



For the married the home is a place in which a husband and a wife refuse to hold onto unconfessed sin whether in attitude or word or deed. The covenant of marriage is intended to express in the physical realm the New Covenant which each spouse has with our heavenly Father and Lord Jesus. This parallel requires relying on the indwelling Holy Spirit Who sanctifies followers of Jesus, transforming us into holy vessels that are fit and available to be used by Father: *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, by His Spirit"* (2Corinthians 3:17,18).

The relationship between a husband and a wife is intended to manifest the Covenant union they have with the Father through Jesus by the inner working of the Holy Spirit. As a role model for other human relationships, the marriage Covenant reflects the *interpersonal and cooperative nature* of the New Covenant with our Father and Lord Jesus. And it's within their home that parents are called to reproduce in their children the same commitment to love and serve our Lord Jesus. Belonging to our Lord Jesus and serving Him is experiential. This means that parents are discipling their children in the ever-increasing character of Jesus and their need for Him. Parents reveal their selfless motives through their words which are authenticated by their actions. And growth in Christlike character can't be taught without it being role modeled as our Lord Jesus did with His disciples.

For further insight into marriage and family, please read and discuss ***Our Heavenly Father's Two Paramount Covenants***, and lessons 30 thru 44 of ***Discussing How To Restore The Early Church*** for further insights into Christ-like living in your home.

Also, if videos are meaningful to you, see ***Jesus In Your Home***, videos 15 thru 89.

(3). Your Fellowship of Homes

A fellowship of homes supports each individual home in fulfilling our heavenly Father's will and bringing Him glory. As an extended spiritual family, a fellowship of homes augments the spiritual commitment to Kingdom living that is enacted in each home. The earliest followers of Jesus gathered in homes to support communal righteousness in each home, helping each other be accountable for any sin and turn away from it to walk as Jesus would. Being a family of brothers and sisters was expressed through their 24/7 relational load-bearing. Collectively these spiritual family relationships spurred each other on in fulfilling our Father's goals and purposes.



The relational connectedness of the earliest followers of Jesus was tribal in nature, organized according to the pattern found among Abraham's descendants. Tribal relationships begin with the individual, then the family, and are supported by the clan. The sum of the clans make up a tribe. The fellowship of homes in the Kingdom is similar in its tribal framework of individual, then family, then clan – the extended spiritual family.

The Newer Testament cites followers of Jesus meeting in homes, a practice which was taking place among the Hebraic stream of Jews before the coming of our Lord Jesus. These fellowship families served multiple purposes, such as:

- a seven-day-a-week relational commitment;
- extended spiritual family;
- the first line of support for marriages, families, singles, and widows;
- intergenerational, with the collective responsibility of the older generations to spiritually train the younger generations.

The four, *non-optional* criteria for biblical fellowship are:

1. Your fellowship with others must spur you on to glorify our Father and Jesus through praise, worship, and living testimony (1 Corinthians 10:31).
2. Your fellowship with each other must stir you to grow in Christ's likeness by His Spirit at work in and through you (see Philippians 2:12).
3. Your shared fellowship must stimulate you to live repentantly as you help each other toward the narrow gate (Matthew 7:13,14).
4. Your fellowship as extended spiritual family must energize you to reveal Jesus to the lost in your daily lives (2 Corinthians 5:18,19).

Why Did Our Heavenly Father Have His Children Meet In Homes?

1. **To uphold communal righteousness.**
2. **To provide load-bearing relationships.**
3. **To prepare succeeding generations to follow Jesus.**
4. **To multiply through actively sharing the Gospel.**

1. Uphold communal righteousness.

Humans are bent on sinning — no surprise there. But because our Hebraic forefathers understood God from the perspective of the Hebrew Bible (the Older Testament), they recognized His conditions for answering their prayers: *righteousness in approaching Him, and trust in His faithfulness*. Hammering home both the requirement for righteous living as well as trust in the

faithfulness of God to hear prayer, Peter recites Psalm 34:16,17: *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”* (1Peter 3:12). Our Father’s condition for answering prayer was echoed by a blind man whom Jesus healed: *“We know that God does not listen to sinners. He hears the godly man who does His will”* (John 9:31).

The earliest followers of Jesus also understood from the Hebrew scriptures that they were their *“brother’s keeper”* (Genesis 4:9). This meant that they were collectively responsible for upholding righteousness as brothers and sisters in Christ. As parts of one body expressed in their fellowship family, one person’s unrepentance in their midst hindered the Father from answering the prayers of all of them. That sense of communal awareness — of belonging to one another in authentic fellowship — was an important stimulus for individuals and families to remain repentant: they all wanted our Father to answer their prayers. Peter’s miraculous release from prison is just one example of the repentant praying in a home and seeing God respond as only He could (Acts 12:3-16).

Fellowship in homes provided the mutual accountability for unrepentance to be confronted and confessed. Confession and repentance are always the key to ongoing prayer that brings divine answers: *“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops”* (James 5:16-18).

Our spiritual ancestors in Jesus approached our Father to worship Him and to have their prayers answered. This may sound like a small point, but think about it. It wasn’t just the act of praying, but answered prayer that got the followers of Jesus noticed! Are you seeking our Father for something that only He can bring about? Are you in a fellowship of homes that supports communal righteousness?

2. Provide load-bearing relationships.

Followers of Jesus are family — we share the same blood tie through the indwelling Spirit of Christ with all who are in Covenant with Him. Jesus unabashedly affirmed this connectedness: *“Whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother”* (Matthew 12:50). True spiritual family is evidenced by the loving and trust-filled obedience which the Spirit empowers.

The fruit of upholding communal righteousness in the home and home fellowship family results in each one humbly serving the others in “load-bearing” — the 54 “one anothering” passages in the Newer Testament. Followers of Jesus in a home fellowship are spiritual relatives — family you look forward to being with, and family with whom you are developing an ever-deepening, load-bearing relationship. Extended spiritual families are mutually determined to fulfill our Father’s goals and purposes knowing that together they are far more effective than going on alone.

3. Prepare succeeding generations to follow Jesus.

Our spiritual father, the Hebrew Abraham, was chosen by God because He could trust him to carry out an important intergenerational responsibility: to prepare successors in the faith. *“For I have chosen Abraham [the father of all who put their trust in Jesus—see Romans 4:16] so that he will command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just...”* (Genesis 18:19).

How tragic that this directive to Abraham has been so neglected today, contributing to the downfall of so many children who have been raised in Christian homes but were also indoctrinated in government-sponsored schools. Is compromise with the world's self-obsessed ways and values and goals what you want for your children? your grandchildren? your spiritual family's children? Humanism, the religion of government-sponsored education today, directly opposes God-centered child-raising. By exalting man as the center of all things, Humanism denies the Creator of the universe and all moral absolutes. To this day Sunday schools and youth groups have been woefully inadequate to counter this insidious and overriding influence.

Beginning with the elders, the home fellowship has the intergenerational responsibility to support each person's home as the primary building block for training the next generation. Because of their strong sense of communal awareness, each first century faith community shared the responsibility to raise succeeding generations to follow Jesus. In biblical times the purpose of learning was to train up individuals to love and to serve God their whole lives. Learning was a life-long pursuit of studying God's Word and applying it to every situation in life. In ancient Israel it wasn't until age forty or fifty that both men and women were regarded as having the wisdom and experience to counsel others. That perspective carried over into the spiritual life of faith communities in Jesus as well.

We today who follow Jesus as Lord of our lives must rekindle the determined emphasis which God consigns to each generation to ensure that succeeding ones follow in the way of the Lord: *"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands [what you do] and bind them on your foreheads [what you think]. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates [so you'll recall them when you are entering and leaving]"* (see Deuteronomy 6:1-9).

For further insight into the communal responsibility of a fellowship of homes to raise godly generations, please read and discuss: ***Hebraic Home Fellowships Must Produce Godly Generations***

4. Multiply through actively sharing the Gospel.

Fellowships that gather in homes multiply by planting perimeters of holiness, safeguarding these, and extending the perimeters through love and answered prayer. Our Father's heart is to extend the Kingdom of His Son through people who love and serve Him. For you to do this:

a. Plant a perimeter of holiness around each home of your faith community.

Each family in your fellowship needs to prayerfully go through their home and eliminate any thing or any activity that leads to ungodliness.

- Perimeters secure a sanctuary of spiritual refuge for each family member.
- People dwelling within the perimeters experience unity as they pay the price of forfeiting fleshly desires in order to please their Lord and be wholly available for His use.

b. Safeguard your perimeter, protect it from infiltration.

When holy perimeters are established, Satan will scheme to infiltrate your home or fellowship of homes. Unrighteousness will seek you out like never before as an aggressive demonic weapon. Be vigilant and pray for one another!

c. Extend your perimeter.

Answered prayer provides testimony as you personally share the love of Jesus with others. Pray for your neighborhood, school, workplace, and look for opportunities to establish relationships with unbelievers to reach their hearts.

- Make a prayer list of the unbelievers with whom each person in your faith community has contact and is burdened for their salvation.
- As a community and in your own prayer time, regularly intercede for each of these who has yet to follow Jesus. Weaken the power of the enemy by praying for them!
- In Jesus you have authority over demonic spirits that will try to interfere with the salvation of the ones for whom you're praying: "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name!" (Luke 10:17). As you pray, bind and gag the spirits in the name of Jesus.
- Ask those in your faith community to put a sign on their homes to indicate that theirs is a house of prayer, and that they'll pray for any of the needs in their neighborhood. Watch our Father work!

d. Destroy Satan's domain — Multiply your faith community.

What will you do when our Father brings you new believers? Provision for new faith communities to be discipled and launched is critical. Keep in mind:

- In your expansion you are developing extended spiritual family. Plan ahead to nurture and disciple new believers.
- Mature shepherds should be purposefully training successors to protect, nurture, and equip the new flocks.

For further insight into fellowships of homes, please read and discuss *Pastoring By Elders*, and lessons 45 thru 50 of *Discussing How To Restore The Early Church*. Also, if videos are meaningful to you, see *Jesus In Your Home* videos 90 thru 139.

It Begins With You And The Holy Spirit

This is a call to each and every person who desires to belong to the type of home fellowship family that made the first followers of our Lord Jesus so relationally intimate and spiritually powerful. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, or single, everyone has a part to play. You are vital in preparing the next generation to follow Jesus as Lord of their lives and in extending our Lord's Kingdom for the praise of His Name!

The relational responsibility and personal intimacy that are shared in home fellowships are counter to today's impersonal religious culture of attending services and/or taking part in activities. You'll need forceful determination and trust-filled prayerful reliance on our Father to fulfill His plans. Are you and your family ready? For more information on how you can reestablish fellowship in homes that fulfill our Father's goals and purposes, see: **Restoration Ministries International**