

It Might All Just Be Up To Older Women!

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

As Sue has been working on a series of Teaching Emails for older women and widows in particular, two realities hit us head on: **1.** Many Christians have little or no understanding of the spiritually perilous times in which we are now living. In this Teaching Email we'll highlight some important points in Christian history which have led to where we are today, specifically in lacking the unity Christ promises His own and being divided by over 40,000 competing denominations and sects. **2.** Even though women outlive men around the world, very few older Christian women have prepared themselves or have been prepared for their biblical role. This preparation would have entailed intentional involvement with several people:

- ✠ a godly father or father-figure who was Lordship-committed and instructed her how to apply God's Word to her character, her goals, and her relationships (Ephesians 6:1-4).
- ✠ a godly husband who is or was Lordship-committed and joined her in mutually exploring ways to apply God's Word to every aspect of their lives together (Ephesians 5:25).
- ✠ godly older women who in her younger years were Lordship-committed and came alongside her in His love to role model God's commands and help her walk in them by the indwelling Holy Spirit (Titus 2:4,5).

Don't be dismayed that none of these relationships were part of your own life! It's a tragic missing element in Christianity today that most or all of these relationships are non-existent in helping a woman mature in her faith walk. Part of the reason is that anti-Semitic scribal theology has drastically downplayed the biblical responsibilities of fathers, husbands and righteous older women. The "church institution" has usurped the biblical responsibilities of fathers and husbands in particular by eliminating the home as God's basic place for spiritual development. Instead, these men have been encouraged by the religious establishment to outsource their wives and children to them for their religious instruction. (See our brief *Jesus In Your Home videos*, segments 15 thru 19 as we discuss why your Home is so important to your family's spiritual development.)

When we arrived back from Israel with the Hebraic foundations in 1994, Mike went to talk with several clergymen he knew. When he asked about the purposes for their various programs, such as their Sunday school, their youth groups, their women's Bible study, they all admitted these existed to compensate for irresponsible (or absentee) husbands and fathers.

The Hebraic foundations stem from the trust-based, obedient way of life of the patriarch Abraham. Abraham didn't "outsource" his family to others to train. Rather, he took on that God-given role which our Father intends for every husband and father He draws to Christ: "*For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what He has promised him" (Genesis 18:19).*

It's not only men who've been hindered by centuries of anti-Semitic scribal theology within Christianity. You older women, especially you widows, have also been crippled in fulfilling your God-given (and we do mean GOD-given!) responsibilities as you love and serve our Lord Jesus. Today's Christianity abounds in divorce that exceeds the rate of unbelievers, and in immorality (hetero and homo) that's on par with people who don't profess Christ. Have you considered that a chunk of those sorry life choices have come about because you older women have kept silent about the unrighteous relationships your family members are involved in? And don't think you

can excuse your silence because you may be divorced or were immoral yourself. If you've repented before our Lord, then humble yourself and ask your family for forgiveness for not having loved them as Jesus would by warning them *because you love them* that they're not on His path. Confess to them that you were wrong to have stayed silent about His righteous ways all this time.

In what other ways has anti-Semitic scribal theology hamstrung you and fettered so many families? Through emphasizing trust in your particular religious denomination as being the right one and encouraging blind loyalty to your clergy and denominational creed. But those practices woefully negated your home as the primary place of spiritual development, the place in which our Hebraic forefathers in Christ first lived out His teachings and biblical commands.

Consider this vital role which older women were reminded to enact as they followed Jesus as Lord, a role for them which Paul drew from his own Hebraic understanding:

“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God” (Titus 2:3-5).

You grandmothers and widows and older women are threaded in many ways to a number of generations through your fathers and mothers, your husbands, and your children and grandchildren. Sue will be delving into this more, but we want to touch upon our own experience: 🖐️ Many righteous older women have told us how they have to admonish or avoid so many of their female peers because of habitual bad-mouthing through slander and gossip. And we've found that women who are divorced and are still carrying bitterness or anger or wounding are likelier to participate in this dignity-robbing habit. 🖐️ In surveying hundreds of wives and mothers during our retreat center days, we'd ask whether they would rather “love their families” or “control them”. The overwhelming majority answered “control.” (Sue will explain why in an upcoming Teaching Email.)

Most older Christian women today have never been instructed by fathers, husbands, and older women who out of Christ's love have actively fulfilled their personal responsibilities as commanded in God's Word. Most have never experienced a quality that's so desperately needed in this self-obsessed, rebellious society: ***heritage of ever-increasing spiritual wisdom*** that's been accumulated and passed down along generations of a family who lived Lordship-committed and applied God's Word to their way of life. For the majority, attending church services with all its pleasant and familiar rituals was their highest religious expression.

You may be an older woman, especially a widow, who hasn't been given a biblical heritage for your family to add to. It's time to realize that it's not too late! We firmly believe that older wives and widows who belong to our Lord Jesus are being given the opportunity to clean up any mess which you and your husband may be leaving unaddressed in your family: ✓ tolerated sin, ✓ undemolished strongholds, ✓ unreconciled relationships, and ✓ ensuring by our Lord's grace that your progeny are genuinely born again and aimed toward the narrow gate into heaven. You may not have thought much about any of these spiritual messes in your family (or have backed away from addressing them), but our Lord clearly recognizes these — and He has specific purposes for you among your family members to bring them freedom in Him!

What Was Is Now Being Restored!!!

“And [Jesus] Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some shepherd/teachers, for the equipping of the saints...” (For our Lord's purposes in these roles, see Ephesians 4:11-16.)

The thrust of what our Father has given us to share for the past 30 years is restoration of the foundations which produced such relational intimacy and spiritual power among followers of Jesus. If you look around Christianity you clearly notice that those specific ministry roles our Lord established for His own are scarce. Without our Lord's foundations, fathers and husbands in particular have been hampered by the clergy system in helping the women in their lives mature in our Lord Jesus through applying His Word. We want to touch upon some Christian history so you can grasp how far too many Christians today have strayed from spiritual intimacy with our Lord Jesus and the love-grounded, obedient trust way of life that His Word commands.

The anti-Semitic scribal establishment by far serves its own controlling interests rather than the Lordship of Jesus in fulfilling our heavenly Father's will. Consider the vast difference between how our God perceives His role in theocracy among His own in Christ, and the anti-Semitic scribal outworking of theology:

👍 God's definition of theocracy is "rule by God" in the lives of those who love and serve Him.

👎 Scribal definition of theocracy is "a form of government in which priests or religious leaders rule in the name of God."

You don't need seminary training or vast intellect to understand **theocracy** as ***the rule of God in the lives of His own***. Our Lord Jesus highlights this: *“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You concealed these things from the sophisticated and educated and you revealed them to ordinary folks”* (Matthew 11:25, CJB). In our Lord's view it's extraordinary to be ordinary because it's not what you know but how you live in response to Him.

Over the centuries our Father has intervened to restore the Hebraic foundations and the relational intimacy and spiritual power of our Lord's first followers. Protestant Reformers restored some key Hebraic foundational truths which had been extinguished by the Roman Catholic hierarchy: ***sola scriptura***—Scripture as the sole and final authority for Christians; ***sola fides***—acceptance by and reconciliation with God through faith alone; ***sola gratia***—deliverance from sin only by God's grace; ***sola Christos***—salvation through Christ, in Christ alone; ***solī deo gloria***—glory to God alone. (It's also because of the Reformers that the Bible is in the languages of the ordinary people.)

Each of these biblical principles is Hebraic to the core, permeating the Newer Testament as well as the Hebrew Scriptures from which they were drawn. The Reformation would have been a fitting point in history to restore ALL the Hebraic foundations. But they didn't! The Reformers wouldn't set aside the anti-Semitism they inherited from the Roman Catholics, including the **pagan-based clergy system** and **observance of religious celebrations also adopted from pagans** without discerning if they were God's will and found in His Word.

As just one of many examples, Paul describes the participational gathering of our Lord's earliest followers: *“When you come together, **each one** has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up”* (1Corinthians 14:26; see also 14:12, 27-33). **But** Pope Gregory “the Great” invented an order of worship that became the only authorized format to be used in all congregations. For Roman Catholics even today, that “order of worship” has remained basically unchanged. Protestants too are similarly constrained in their

worship services. During the Reformation, Martin Luther and John Calvin developed a pattern of worship that has remained standard for most Protestant services to this day: welcoming prayer, hymns, announcements, prayer, offertory, sermon, hymn, benediction.

We're writing especially to you older women and widows about this because your biblical roles have been ripped away from your spiritual understanding and practice. Christianity has departed from its original Hebraic foundations and given way to what you see today. How the Holy Spirit would use you in the lives of others has been sorely diminished or lost. For more on this, please read ***Restoring the Early Church***, Volume 3. How Christianity Lost Its Hebraic Roots:

- Chapter 17. The Loss Of Our Hebraic Roots
- Chapter 18. The Treatment Of The Jewish People By “Christians”
- Chapter 19. Platonism Displaced The Hebraic In Christianity
- Chapter 20. Hellenism Invaded Christianity And Conquered It
- Chapter 21. Roman Authoritarianism Now Rules Christianity
- Chapter 22. Obsession With Programs And Institutionalism
- Chapter 23. The Hebraic Restoration And The Jewish People

An important point to consider: Armed with the well-documented history of the Reformation whose participants tried earnestly to reform Christianity, we in the 21st century can now see that any attempt at reform without a full return to the Hebraic foundations of the early Church will fail. The early Church with its Hebraic understanding was especially determined to equip new followers of our Lord in their relationship with one another to mutually serve and disciple and reach others with the Gospel. (Grandmothers and older widows played an important part in these essential purposes which we'll discuss in emails to come.) In sharp contrast, the Reformation ultimately produced a denominational divide whose various leaders feared to fully trust the leadership of Lord Jesus and the power of His Spirit to change individuals, families, and societies as in the early Church. Even today, everyone who attempts to regain the interrelational dependency on the Holy Spirit that characterized the early Church will encounter the same opposing force — a **clergy system opposing the apostle, prophet, evangelist and biblical shepherd/teacher**. Out of a deep hunger to be used by Lord Jesus through the Spirit's work in and through them (something they've never encountered in a clergy-run system), millions have departed the religious establishment to discover and experience the love-grounded, obedient trust life of the earliest followers of Jesus.

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the called-out ones and gave Himself up for them to make them holy, cleansing them by the washing with water through the word [rhema – the specific revealed will of our Father], and to present them to Himself as radiant called-out ones, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:25-27).

As you learn more in Sue's upcoming emails, you women may feel in retrospect that you were spiritually victimized by your fathers, and more so by husbands who didn't seek to love you as Jesus does. And your sense of victimization is only made worse if he lacked the humility to diligently seek the *rhema* of our heavenly Father on behalf of you and your family. For you older women in particular, **if** the primary Bible instruction you've received has been based on the **“educational model”** which depends on the *“sophisticated and educated”*, you may have learned a lot about the Bible and the contents of its various books. This instruction isn't wrong in itself and can certainly feel inspiring. But knowing more about the Bible without following through

in what it commands you isn't how God ordained for His Word be used. The educational model of learning Bible facts does little to transform your character into Christ's (Hebrews 4:12) or help you to purposely fulfill our heavenly Father's will out of grateful love for Him.

Bible-based instruction which takes hold of your heart to bring about change is intended to come from your father, your husband, or an older woman who helped you to not only look at the commands in God's Word but also to put into practice those that apply to your way of life. Again, you aren't trying to earn God's approval through what you do or don't do! You are recognizing and gratefully living the way of our Lord Jesus with loving appreciation for His love and mercy and grace toward you.

While the Older Testament traditionally contains 613 commands, there are 1050 commands in the Newer Testament which offer something specific for you to put into practice now. Which of these specific commands of love-grounded obedience can you bear witness to as your way of life in your Lord? Putting our gracious Lord's commands into practice with a loving attitude through the help of His Spirit is the most direct means to developing another facet of Christ's character.

You older women, especially you widows, have a vital role to play in creating a Christ-centered heritage for your families. Just being an "*ordinary folk*" who is available to the Holy Spirit and used by Him strengthens you to live a way that fully pleases our Lord. And having others along with you who purpose to love and serve our Lord, whether your family, friends or faith community, adds to your resolve by grace to keep pressing on!

Mike & Sue