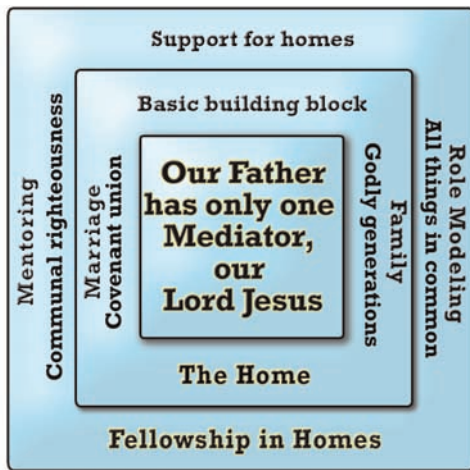


Prophetic Insights

Our Father Has Given Only One Mediator, Our Lord Jesus

March 7, 2014



“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1Timothy 2:5).

A mediator intervenes in order to reconcile two or more parties. Think of the monumental statement by Paul to Timothy and to us of the *unique and unshared role of Jesus* as the only Mediator between you and your heavenly Father. Yet that’s an essential truth that’s been lost to most Christians within the Nicolaitan clergy system.

If our Father has drawn you to Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then two very real occurrences have taken place. The Son has *revealed the Father* to you, and the *Spirit of Christ* has taken up residence in you in your new birth! (See Matthew 11:27; John 6:65; Romans 8:9). Through that Spirit in you, you have access to the *greatest Intercessor and only Mediator*, Jesus (Hebrews 7:25).

Are you *daily mindful* that the only One Who empowers you to relate to your Father and do His will *lives within you*? If you aren’t intentionally making the Spirit of our Lord your first consideration are you in fact living independently of the Father and serving your own will and plan? Is Jesus that

unimportant to you in your faith walk?

How about those in your faith fellowship; what brings you together? Is it the same credal belief system, lively worship, sense of religious duty, entertaining preaching—none of which calls you to repent of sins you’re trying to hide, or spurs you to take action to extend our Lord’s Kingdom?

Authentic fellowship, however, is alive and maturing, knit together and effectively working when *each person* is doing their part through the Spirit in them and the gifting He has given to each one:

“Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:15,16).

Scripture makes clear that Christ is *the only Head* of His called-out ones. Therefore your collective fellowship must be centered around the *Headship of Jesus*. This can only be accomplished IF each person looks to the Spirit within so they’re certain they’re joined with the Head and with each other!

We realize that if you’ve been in the Nicolaitan clergy system for any length of time, the point we’re making may be difficult for you to wrap around. You’re accustomed to religious services: Sunday mornings during which a “man of God” teaches you what to believe. And because you trust him (or at least his position) you probably never thoroughly check your Bible yourself to verify if what he’s saying is actually true (Acts 17:11).

But what you’re really demonstrating is that you haven’t developed your own

confidence in the Spirit of our Lord within you to draw forth what He would have you know and obey through putting God's Word into practice. Are you pinning more confidence on someone who's teaching you what to believe than in the Spirit of our Lord Who would both guide and empower you to follow through?

"[The man of lawlessness] opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God"
(2Thessalonians 2:4).

How could the "man of lawlessness" Paul cites in verse 3 gain control over everything that has to do with God and how He has revealed Himself and His ways through His Word? That kind of deception would take a far-reaching scheme of deceit to turn people away from knowing and following the Lord Who has made Himself known. The outworking of that deceit has come through the **Nicolaitan clergy system** that has deceived and dominated Christendom for centuries. The Nicolaitans (see Revelation 2:6,15) promoted a system of religious hierarchy that displaced our Lord Jesus in His role as Mediator between His Father and His children, making themselves *intermediaries* between the Father and His children.

Scripture notes that God both hates and wars against this insidious system. The Greek word *nicolaitane* means "conquering the people." The first part of the word refers to *nikos*, to conquer or have victory over. The middle of the word comes from *laos*, meaning "the people." The familiar term "laity" stems from it.

Nicolaitan Mediators



Within the Nicolaitan system, clergy subjugate their congregants as "laity," a class separate from the individual who attended seminary and thereby exercises spiritual dominance. Thus the "conquered" laity for the most part depend on the clergy for guidance and faith practice rather than trusting in the Spirit of our Lord within themselves to make clear our Father's will.

But depending on clergy as intermediary keeps a person in spiritual infancy, divesting him or her of the sense of personal responsibility to make God's commands their way of life. Reduced to spiritual immaturity, the typical "lay person" responds, **"My pastor [priest] teaches me all I need to know."**

As we wrote in our last Prophetic Insight, widespread disregard for God's law is practiced throughout Christendom because the *spirit of lawlessness* uses professional clergy to:

Make their teaching entertaining and/or informational and/or pleasant for people who have no intention of repenting or obeying God's Word. From our Lord's vantage point, *lawlessness* within Christendom has become the norm, misconstrued as "grace."

For further insight concerning the Nicolaitan clergy system, see:

- Restoring The Early Church, Chapter 7, *The Roman Conquest of the Church—Is The Reformation Unfinished?*
- Hebraic Article: *I Hate Nicolaitanism*
- Pastoring By Elders, Chapter 2, *Nicolaitanism: Repression of God's People*

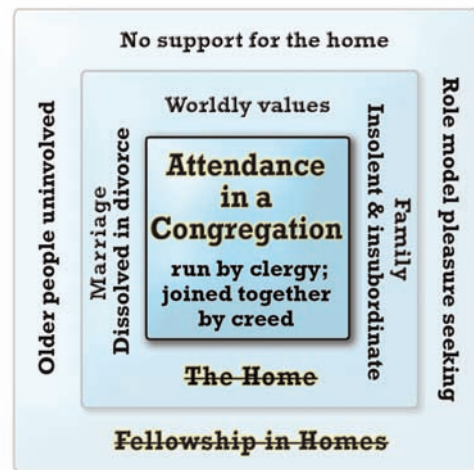
“You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?” (Galatians 5:7).

The Hebraic foundations on which the first followers of our Lord relied and were strengthened were discarded when Constantine made Christianity an acceptable religion (4th century). Over the centuries as the pagan Hellenist clergy-system and Roman Catholic religious enforcement took over, Christians lost sight of the privilege and beauty of Lord Jesus within them as their sole Mediator.

Some of the Reformers attempted to rip away clergy control of Scripture by having it translated into languages the people could understand. Once the Bible was translated into the vernacular of the people, the Spirit of Christ could then breathe life into the sacred text for those earnestly seeking the truth.

Yet the right of all who were indwelt by the Spirit to minister through His gifts was minimally regained since the ongoing distinction between clergy and laity still existed. Sadly, the Reformation failed to restore spiritual unity with our Lord Jesus as the only Mediator and Head of His own. The various denominations continued to depend primarily on *clergy-mediators* between Father and His people. Protestant clergy replaced the Roman Catholic priesthood, while denominations were styled as Roman Catholic congregations mustered around specific creeds.

Nicolaitan Priorities



Many who passively sit in Christendom today do a great disservice to Reformers who were martyred to give people the Bible in their own language.

Years ago a TV series featured two space explorers who'd come to a community in which generation after generation had been raised in prison cells. Few guards were around, and the cells were unlocked. But the families were so accustomed to their captivity that they *refused to leave their cells*.

Generations of families stay trapped today in the Nicolaitan system because they want freedom in Lord Jesus far less than the *familiarity of self-imprisonment*.

“And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be Head over everything for the called-out ones, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way”
(Ephesians 1:22,23).

Before your life ends here on earth, find out if any person or religious practice is hindering you and your family from our Lord Jesus being your ONLY Head. You won't try to escape your Nicolaitan prison until you realize from the Scriptures that our Lord Jesus *hasn't*

been the ONLY Mediator in your life. You've depended on "religious props" to make you "spiritually comfortable."

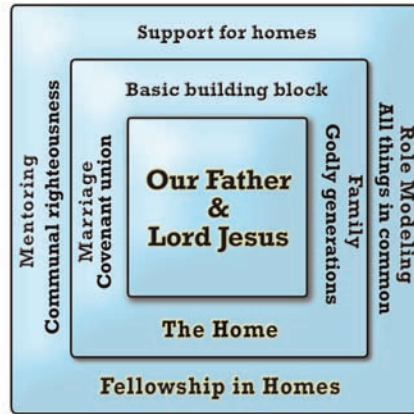
But IF Jesus is truly your Head your home is the basic building block to develop spiritual maturity.

- How do *you* use your home life to instill in your family the 1,600 commands of the God you claim to love and serve?
- In 1517 in Coventry, England, five men and two women were burned at the stake for the heresy of teaching their children the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments in English. Would *you* be this faithfully courageous with your own children or grandchildren?
- Do your children put more trust in their public school teachers, youth pastor, and Sunday School teachers than in you for their values and what they believe? (Children who *don't* trust their parents have a resistant, insolent and disobedient attitude. You may cajole or threaten, but the problem *isn't* them—it's YOU!

God planned that your fellowship family support your *home* in its primary purpose.

- If you're part of a home fellowship based on our Lord Jesus as your Head, how do your conversations support each other's home life?

A deep, heartfelt quality and responsibility permeates the three relational priorities our Father is restoring. First, your *Father and Lord Jesus* is the "vertical" relationship in which you lovingly desire to do your Father's will through the power and guidance of the Spirit of our Lord. Your *home* and *home fellowship family* is the "horizontal" extension of the vertical. These relationships are purposeful as you look to Jesus as your Head and you each do your part. There's no freeloading!



The *three relational priorities* of the Restoration Diagram are the paramount relationships our Father gave us to focus our ministry on. These three were embraced by our Lord's first followers, and these relationships as *family in Him* provided them the relational intimacy and spiritual power to extend His Kingdom.

These brothers and sisters IN Christ had no human intermediary positioned between themselves and their Father. That's because they clearly understood that the Spirit of our Lord was within each of them. The Jewish Levitical priesthood had been done away with (see Hebrews 7:11); the collective family in Jesus was the holy priesthood of the new covenant (1Peter 2:5,9). This chosen people of priests comprised both the *individual* living temple of His Spirit as well as the *collective* temple of the living God (1Corinthians 6:19; 2Corinthians 6:16).

Only in and through the Spirit of our Lord Jesus can you walk out of the unlocked religious door. Your welcome at the Judgment won't come by telling our Lord what religious creed or ritual you devoted yourself to. Rather, He'll know if you loved Him and relied on His indwelling Spirit for guidance and empowerment so you could do your Father's will. Our Father has given only one Mediator, our Lord Jesus!