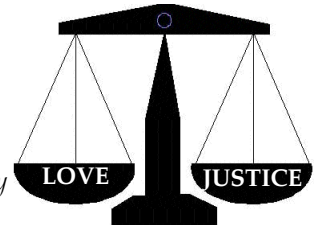


Yeshua MISHPACHAH

A NEWSLETTER TO THE FAMILY OF JESUS FROM RESTORATION MINISTRIES

The Hebraic family is not simply an individual or private matter. Rather, it is an institution in which the whole community has a stake. Thus, the Hebrew word "mishpachah," meaning family, not only refers to parents and children, but to the whole extended family worldwide in the body of "Yeshua" — our Jesus.

UPHOLDING HUMAN
DIGNITY



Matt. 25:31-46

Men Standing in the Gap

Dear Friends,

You probably grieve as we do over the paucity of godly men who are courageous and loving for Jesus. This newsletter pinpoints the challenging task of becoming a follower of Jesus who stands his ground in the world. It also details the kind of leadership for families and faith communities that our God seeks in this time of growing spiritual darkness. In our effeminized culture, raising up stalwart men is difficult, but not impossible — however, it takes extreme resolve!

For me one of saddest verses in the Bible is, "I looked for a man among them who would **build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none**" (Eze. 22:30). The Hebraic Restoration encompasses the necessary elements for mature men to stand in the gap for our Lord *and* to produce successors in the faith.

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matt. 20:26).

None of the rudiments we explore in this letter works in Hellenistic, man-centered Christianity. Whether people want to face it or not, most contemporary leaders lord their influence over others, leading no one anywhere. They *talk at* and *manage*, but *fail to lead* as the godly, observant watchmen God calls for. And sadly, a certain type of people *prefer* to be led nowhere. More on this in a moment.

The Hellenistic system calls for a seminary degree and the ability to orally articulate with a little charisma for effect. How shallow! And how few lives are impacted!

On the other hand, there *are* men today who are being prepared to lead the fellowships akin to those of the early Church. They are learning not only *to serve*, but also to **role model** and to **courageously guard the flocks** the Lord has entrusted to their care. This multifaceted role begins with learning to properly enact godly authority in their home — *an authority that produces peace*. Our Father never commanded leaders to *rule over* His children as worldly leaders do. Instead, He wanted leaders who would *lead by example* and *personally care* for the people.

Few of the men God is raising up will be known beyond their own faith communities. To those who truly yearn to serve Jesus in Spirit and in truth, becoming well-known is more of a pit than a blessing. The men our Father is preparing will *lead people* on the pilgrimage to salvation, not *manage groups* as is so common in Hellenist congregations.

"Your old men will dream dreams" (Acts 2:17)

A few weeks ago our Lord gave me a dream that illustrated the intense sacrifice men who stand in the gap will have to make:

A battle was raging. An Army officer hunkered down in a fox hole spotted one of his troops wounded

in front of him. With bullets flying around him, he crawled from the foxhole and dragged the wounded man back into it. The officer was glad just to have survived the rescue.

A few minutes later a hand grenade was tossed into the foxhole. The wounded soldier was too injured to get away from it. The officer could have jumped out of the foxhole to save himself, leaving the wounded soldier to die. But instead he leaped onto the hand grenade.

This is the nature of leadership that will hallmark the courage of the men who are choosing intimate relationship with and personal responsibility to our Father. *Their love* makes their sacrifice a joy.

I shared this anecdote in a previous letter, and it may be worthwhile to repeat it:

For years at our retreat center I used to test the fruit of Hellenistic Christianity that produces men who desire personal acclaim rather than the servant leaders our Lord requires. I'd simulate throwing a hand grenade in the middle of a group. "You have three seconds before the hand grenade blows up. One...two...three..."

- 50% of the women and teenagers jumped on the hand grenade.
- 10% of the men jumped on the grenade.
- 0% of the clergy ever jumped on the grenade.

Preparing the Family of Jesus for the Dark Days to Come

If you think about this scenario, it appears that Hellenism produces leaders who are more concerned with self-preservation than with personal sacrifice.

Evaluate yourself:

- Would you jump on the hand grenade? *Would you?*
- Would you have to stop and think about it first? . . . BOOM!

Another recent dream recently that came in two parts:

In the first dream I saw a woman giving birth to a child. Her husband was waiting to receive the baby. I knew that the image of the husband awaiting his child symbolized a deep truth.

The Lord explained the dream to me. A healthy biblical tension exists between a mother and a father as they raise their children. Each has a part to play in developing mature young adults. The transition from Momma-dependent to Father-directed has tremendous implications in producing spiritually and emotionally healthy young men and women.

The second dream offered the same scene, a husband waiting to receive the baby from the mother. But this dream featured an added element: A man representing the *government* was standing behind the father, waiting to snatch the child as quickly as possible.

I could feel the father's sorrow as he tried to do his part as God requires. But he was stuck between the dependent child's mother and the government's overbearing influence. [In our website under **Hebraic Articles** is an essay entitled *He Has Showed You*, in which we deal with the quest of government to undermine parental influence in children's lives.] The Holy Spirit used these two dreams as the foundation for this newsletter.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them"(Gen.1:27).

Obviously, God created two genders. Yet, there is much more behind the words 'male' and 'female' than most Christians pay attention to — to our own detriment! Prophetic voices today have been warning how much the spirit of Jezebel, an effeminate domineering spirit, controls this nation, the church included. Effeminate domination has made it very difficult, though not impossible, to raise children who will fulfill the gender responsibilities delineated in the Bible.

If you're leading a home church, you are dealing with the largest group of immature people under 50 years of age that ever existed! You're also dealing with the greatest number of men and women who lack strong gender identification. (We'll discuss this shortly.)

This prolonged adolescence isn't totally their fault. Since the end of World War II in 1945, this nation has dashed headlong into effeminate dominance over many areas of society and church. Few seemed to have examined the Bible to discern God's gender responsibilities. People took it for granted that boys would become men, and girls become women.

In *Restoring the Early Church* and in our article, *He Has Showed You*, we present a comparison of societies throughout history. A healthy society is called the "*Trustee Family*." It is patriarchal, with self-sacrificial men in leadership who serve the interests of the people as a whole. Unhealthy societies are called "*Atomistic*." *People are individualistic and preoccupied with self. Feminism abounds.* Every culture in history that has reached this latter stage has destroyed itself. The U.S. is at this point!

Our purpose in writing is not to save this nation, but to equip the followers of Jesus to live for Him

and to raise Godly generations to succeed them. Biblical faith communities are patriarchal, led by servant leaders. As we continue to share the Hebraic foundations, we're endeavoring to help establish "Trustee"- style faith communities with converts from today's "Atomistic" culture. With God's help it can be done, but the task won't be easy. *Peculiarly humble men* are needed.

What Have I Been Handed?

Study this analogy of what you're facing. You are a high school basketball coach in a *very small* high school. Two players show up in their freshman year to play. One is short but an excellent player, involved in leagues for 5 years. The other is 6'5" but has never shot a basketball before. You need them both!

In the movie *Hoosiers*, the new high school basketball coach arrives the first day of practice and murmurs, "Let's see what I've been handed." Before that practice is over, two insolent boys have been kicked off the team for violating his standards of conduct. Later, one repents, rejoins the team and contributes greatly to winning the Indiana High School Championship that year.

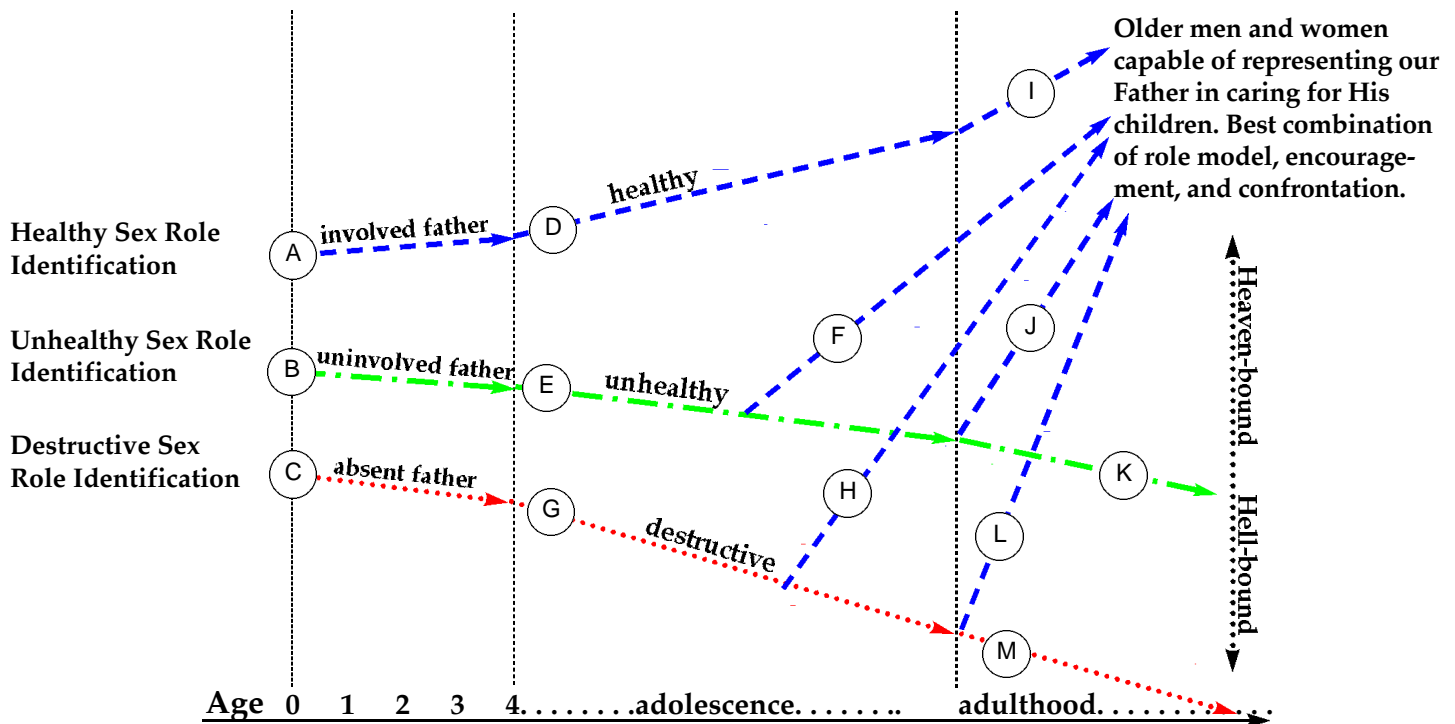
Like the coach, no one who loves God can raise their children without establishing and enforcing His boundaries for them. Commending right behavior and attitudes, and correcting the detrimental ones comes with the authority God gave us over our children. This is the same for leadership of home fellowships.

Like a coach, a true biblical leader must have a *developmental view* of our Father's children as he leads. He's leading them on a pilgrimage to our Father, and along the way they'll be transformed into Christlikeness.

Biblical leaders find themselves "parenting" adults. This is why the older men, like the *zakens* [zah-

Influences Affecting Adult Responsibility

Factors that affect today's home fellowships



KENS] — the gray-bearded elders of the early Church — need to take their rightful place in pastoring faith communities.

So much of the house church movement today has given in to the Atomistic influence of *no boundaries*, and no one to uphold righteous living on behalf of our Father. These gatherings are free-for-all that let wolves in to destroy the sheep. To the detriment of the Name of Jesus, these groups have a turnover rate that no business could tolerate and survive. And still, no one goes after the lost...

Men in the Gap

“He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, or else I will come and strike the land with a curse” (Mal. 4:6).

Especially if you are a servant leader of a home fellowship, it may be worthwhile to review the factors that affect maturation in this country. This may help you understand

the issues that are facing current leadership in God's faith communities. [Refer to the diagram above.]

Age 0-4

Legitimate studies on children over the past 50 years have shown consistently the *crucial influence* that involved fathers have on the lives of their children. Between birth and the age of 4, fathers enable their children, both boys and girls, to develop correct sex-role identification.

Some think that just because a person has particular sex organs, he or she will respond according to that gender. This has been proven wrong. A father is crucial to a child identifying with the role enactment of his or her gender. [We highly recommend *Bringing Up Boys* by Dr. James Dobson for specific studies and insights.]

Group A on the chart represents an involved father raising healthy boys and girls. A father's effect on his children before the age of 4 can't be overstated. The lasting fruit of his involvement is almost miraculous!

In Group B, the father is pre-

sent, but for a variety of reasons, is uninvolved in rearing his children. Group C are children being raised without fathers or a father-figure (grandfather, uncle, close family friend who gives counsel and direction to the mother). An exhaustive study reported 35 years ago demonstrated that children raised without a father's (or father-figure's) influence in the 0-4 age range have a 75% greater chance of growing to be homosexuals and lesbians. Other studies have shown that both homosexuals and rapists have one thing in common: *Both lack proper sex-role identification.*

Studies also reveal that mothers have *no effect at all* in males developing healthy sex-role identification. As a result, several states stopped automatically giving custody of young children of divorce to their mother. The complete absence of a father or influential father-figure has shown itself to be the most destructive environment in general for a child age 0-4.

However, having an uninvolved father or father-figure (Group B) is often better than having no father.

4 The situation is still unhealthy, often leaving some unresolved identity problems for the child later in life. For instance, one unhealthy aspect brought about by an uninvolved father is that a boy often becomes a *Momma's boy*. You may have seen the studies which show the incredible destruction that a *dominant mother—weak father* relationship can bring on their sons. Even the nicest of single-parent mothers end up dominating their sons and daughters if no influential male comes alongside.

Later in life Group B boys face major hurdles when they go through tough times. Rather than learning perseverance they seek *empathy*. Their lives revolve more around their hurt feelings than in doing what is right and responsible. Where a man would admonish them, the women they go to offer them consolation, which only exacerbates their problem.

The daughters of uninvolved fathers become controlling and develop independent spirits. Sadly, these two characteristics are emblems of the feminist movement. These women have difficulty maintaining and enjoying marital intimacy with their husbands. Domination, manipulation, and a resistant spirit surface more than a submissive spirit to either God or husband.

Age 4 through Adolescence

To remain on a healthy track, Group D will need the support of other adults, especially males, who can support the father in the corrective processes that lead to maturity. In the early church this was provided by extended family and other adults in the home church. In healthy tribal societies the adult males within the clan provide this support.

Group B (uninvolved father) has a choice in this time period. Without the influence of appropriate males in positions of authority, they will continue to develop self-cen-

tered pursuit (F). What is detrimental to the Christian community is that many of these men will become leaders in faith communities (K). They'll enjoy relationships as long as they are *in charge*. Their lack of male role-modeling makes them non-confrontive but popular in an effeminate church culture. They enjoy friendliness *without the accountability* that healthy faith communities enjoy.

The E>K males have a tremendous need for recognition. They are the willing "warm bodies" that seeker-friendly churches need to keep the system growing. *These are men who perform for their own benefit or recognition*. Many of these men have what I call the "Judas syndrome": *On the surface they seem to be with you, but when difficult times come they'll let you down or turn on you.*

Group F are those who for one reason or another end up in situations that confront and challenge their attitudes and behavior. Participation in sports or activities under healthy coaching or an after school job with good supervision can help change a boy to grow responsibly. Military service can help, too.

Sue and I came from the B>E>F track. Coaches, teachers, jobs, and the military were instrumental in maturing us. After we came to Christ, older mentors along our life path helped us even more.

The same factors that affect B>E>F apply also to reaching H individuals. Identification factors can be changed in the right environment. Remember, "*Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible'*" (Matt. 19:26).

Because of His love, God will intervene in order to confront people who are going astray. It's amazing how many people who fail to yield to milder forms of confrontation in their lives end up enlisting in the Marines because they "don't want anyone telling them what to do!"

Adulthood . . .

In adulthood, Group I will continue to grow in responsibility. They won't duck correction but will welcome it for their own betterment. Spiritually mature men and women with a servant's attitude are so important to the well-being of the faith communities our Lord is restoring.

Adults in Groups K or M can still change to follow the path of J and L, respectively. However, change is a little harder in adulthood. Group K probably represents the greatest percentage of people in current Hellenized Christianity. Easily attracted into churches that use entertainment to attract them, these are the ones the seeker-friendly churches recruit for "church growth." Enjoyable music and pleasurable sermons that avoid conviction of sin give the illusion of worship.

As the writer to the Hebrews declares about those who wallow in immaturity and don't want to change, "*We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again.*"

You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" (Heb. 5:11-14).

Group K folks prefer easy words from the pulpit because they are unlikely to search the Scriptures for themselves. These people fill singles' groups around the country. Entertainment and distraction rather than confrontation and conviction to press on are their intent.

Group K individuals also represents the majority of lonesome divorced—remarried—redivorced individuals who want to belong to someone, but don't want to learn

5 the boundaries of healthy relationships. Many flock to counselors who supply temporary relief, but most avoid at all cost those who would confront them in Christ's love and hold them accountable.

Group M are lesbians, homosexuals, and sexually promiscuous whose lifestyles are an abomination to God. Homosexual churches that misinterpret Scripture, and New Age congregations that deny the clear truth of the Word are springing up.

During our retreat center days we met people in Group L who were changed through repentance and God's power. Many were blessed with wonderful marriages and families, for our Lord is in the business of saving those who wholeheartedly seek Him!

Group K: "Momma's Boy"

Recently I spent time with two men with whom I've had a close relationship for several years. To my inner joy they both expressed how much I've helped them stop being "Momma's boys." Both of these guys are over 40. The Momma's boy epidemic in this country is the fruit of effeminized public education and the absence of meaningful male role models in Christendom.

A Momma's boy:

1. Is always looking for *recognition* when he accomplishes something. "Momma, Momma, look at me!" still controls his motivation. ("Momma" might be his wife, his boss, even his buddies.)
2. Seeks out *empathy* when his feelings are hurt. He'll do anything to avoid the accountability and confrontation that a mature man would provide.
3. Is *controlled* by the women in his life. He's fearful of displeasing them, and can't face the turmoil any confrontation with them might entail. So many Momma's boys are prisoners in their own

marriage because they fear their wives more than they fear God.

I have some questions for you men to honestly answer:

- Do any of the above statements apply to you?
- Do your child(ren) show more respect to your wife than to you? To whom do they go for permission?
- Are you able to love your wife as Jesus would no matter how she treats you?
- When you're hurt by your wife, do you withhold affection from her? Or, do you go to Jesus for the strength to love her even if she never changes?

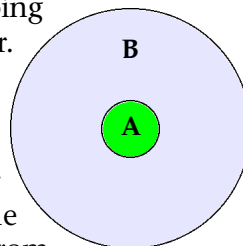
Group K: *Mothering: Fear & Control*

Group K has produced an epidemic of "mothering" women. Blinded by domination, manipulation and a resistant spirit, a "mothering" woman has an *incomplete view* of things going on around her.

Circle A represents the sum of variables *she's willing to pay attention to*. She sees life only from her narrow vantage point, and is unwilling to receive input from others. She's also reluctant to fully yield to men who are in authority.

The *totality of variables* that affect a situation are contained in **Circle B**. The variables represented by B contribute to a decision that benefits everyone involved.

How do your family and others close to you see *you* in regard to this diagram? Wives, can your husband give you input without feeling apprehensive about your response? Do you always have to get your own way, or do you concede, but pout or withdraw affection? Do your decisions really consider the feelings and



values of others? (See Prov. 14:1.)

- Are you a woman who can't trust your husband because of your past? Are you quick to point out faults in your husband or in other men, thinking, "Isn't that just like a man?"
- Are you a woman who tends to mother her husband? Do you take control of areas in which the Bible has assigned *him* responsibility? In particular, do you sweat family finances? Has it occurred to you that your control is destroying the intimacy in your marriage?
- Are you a meddling mother-in-law? Have you had a hand in dissolving the marriage covenant of one of your children? What do you need to do about this?

Men of Loving Courage

"Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others... Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong"
(1 Cor. 10:24; 16:13).

If you are in spiritual leadership remind yourself that you are representing a loving *and* holy Father in the lives of His children. Within His love are *boundaries* for including people in His fellowships as described in His Word. If you *fear* hurting the feelings of people in the course of serving God uprightly, you aren't ready to serve as one of His leaders.

Neither Jesus nor Paul accepted everyone who wanted to go with him. Jesus left behind the rich ruler and those who refused to walk in the light. Paul left behind John Mark and those who preferred the world to Jesus. In order to uphold biblical boundaries, every leader of God's people must have the spiritual courage to confront when necessary. In this Atomistic culture, and

6 especially for Groups K and M, rebuking and confronting may be all you can do to help them turn from their path to death.

No matter where you started in life, if you are in the I, F, H, J, or L lines of mature development, your spirit will yearn to know God's boundaries and uphold them. Because you have learned the beauty of how confrontation helped you to change and become more responsible, you can more easily grasp Paul's words, "Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who **work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who confront you to enable you to change**" (1 Thess. 5:12).

Spiritual Triage

In order to uphold God's Holiness, a spiritual leader must exercise *spiritual triage* [TREE-ahzh].

When Sue and I arrived at the retreat center in 1983, we were asked to 'triage'. Our predecessor had destroyed his ministry at the center because he refused to confront those who refused to turn from their sin. Over time things kept getting worse, until a suicide brought his ministry to an end. We needed to triage in order to rebuild the ministry, so we sought Holy Spirit discernment concerning those who came on retreats.

Triage sorts people into one of three categories. The explanation below shows the category criteria. Again, the guidance of the Holy Spirit is crucial. When we dealt with Levels 2 or 3, it was amazing how the Spirit gave our staff the same discernment concerning an individual.

Level 1 Spiritually Healthy

People who are healthy spiritually will go on following Jesus with or without your help. They are fully functioning as they serve the purposes of Jesus.

Level 2 Spiritually Wounded

These individuals need prompt attention and biblical counsel from someone who genuinely cares for them. If

counsel is *given, received, and acted upon*, their probability of joining Level 1 increases. We subdivided this group using a scale of 0 to 90.

Those nearer to "0" are not seriously wounded. Those with low numbers need *encouragement and direction*. Those nearer "90" are severely wounded, and headed toward Level 3. These people have walked in unrepentance for a long time. They normally need a rebuke to stop their downward fall. The rebuke can act like "paddles" used on a cardiac patient. It's important for those *who accept the rebuke* to be given *specific biblical direction* and ongoing *personal accountability* if they are to grow in spiritual health. Call it "intensive care" for a period of time. Remember, they are near death!

Level 3 Spiritually Dead

These people enjoy their sin and have no desire to change. They are the ones in whom Satan has a foothold. He uses them to wear down healthy followers of Jesus, or to entice the wounded into spiritual death. If you have an "open door" policy in your faith community without discernment over who comes and goes, Satan will send you all the Level 3 people he can. Most will *appear needy*. Yet, behind this seeming neediness they hide a reluctance to deal with their bitterness. Their narratives portray themselves as blameless victims.

Paul recognized the damaging influence the spiritually dead can have on those who seek godly living and answered prayer in their faith community. Read this passage aloud with the passion with which Paul wrote:

"And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this? ...hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord" (1 Cor. 5:2,5).

0
10 }
20 }
30 }
40 }
50 }
60 }
70 }
80 }
90 }

Encouragement
Rebuke

Biblical Leadership: Parenting Adults

For a number of years I was an instructor pilot in the Navy. An instructor has already gone through training and has achieved the required proficiency. With that combination of knowledge, skill and experience, he can then help those behind him develop as his successors.

As a mature leader of God's family, you need to know where you are taking people, and how to help them get there. Remember, you can't take people where you haven't been yourself. [Our study guide on *Hinds' Feet On High Places* entitled **Going to the High Places** is very helpful in this area. You can find it on our website under **Pilgrimage** .]

Just as there are training criteria for an instructor pilot, biblical criteria govern your training of God's people. The following short review offers some biblical criteria that affect what you hope to accomplish through training and role modeling.

- Study Matthew, chapters 5 thru 7. The Beatitudes and Jesus' other teaching about character development is a good place to start.
- How *unholy* can you or those for whom you are responsible before God be? What sins are acceptable to God? "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'" (1 Pet. 1:15,16).
- Do you have an *eternal perspective*? Do you believe you are still proceeding toward your salvation even though there is more our Lord wants to do in and through you before you get there? "Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear" (1 Pet. 1:17).
- In what *worldly values* can you or your people indulge yourselves

7 and still be God's friend? *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — • the cravings of sinful man, • the lust of his eyes • and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever"* (1 John 2:15-17).

- What *sinful attitudes* are acceptable to God? How would you deal with them when you encounter them? *"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind"* (1 Pet. 2:1).
- How intense a devotion to Him does our Lord Jesus require? Are you discerning enough to recognize when people have *idols* that compete with Jesus? *"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it"* (Matt. 10:37-39).
- In Ephesians 5:22-33 and 1 Peter 3:1-7 our Lord presents His criteria for married people to relate to Him and to each other. Can you and your spouse role model these? Can you in love confront others in your faith community concerning their sins to help them *turn to godliness*?
- In 2 Peter 1:5-11 we are given a pattern for spiritual development. Peter emphasizes a point, *"For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Can you lead people into developing the qualities that grow in *"increasing measure"*?

If you want to lead God's people you must be a servant, first of all, of His Son Jesus. Upholding Jesus and His holiness in love is preminent at all cost. With the Cornerstone of Jesus before you, you can serve Him as you serve His people. That service is best seen as you help them grow into the likeness of Jesus. If you keep Jesus first, you'll become more effective as you guide His people. Build from the Scriptures your criteria to guide yourself and others.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16,17).

The Hebraic Restoration teaches *all of Scripture*. The Older Testament is the foreshadow and prophetic forerunner of the Newer. The Bible expands in *depth of heart application* from 613 commands in the Older Testament to 1,050 in the Newer: ***"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome"*** (1 Jn 5:3). How many of these commands—our Lord's directions for godly living—do you know? Which ones are you to observe, and which are no longer applicable?

A biblical leader helps guard the flock from drifting off either side of the path through the Narrow Gate. On one side is legalistic perversion, an inner motive to *gain God's love through obedience*, or to feel *justified by obedience* (see Paul's warnings throughout Galatians). The other side off the path is *"greasy grace,"* perceiving God's grace as a license to sin: *"They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord"* (Jude 4).

Your leadership is crucial to help maintain the righteousness that leads to answered prayer. The lack of answered prayer — God-sized answers — should indicate to you that unrepentant sin is being tolerated in your faith community.

[More on this is found in our book *Pastoring by Elders*, and in Section 3 of *Restoring the Early Church*.]

Remember, our Father is a miracle-worker. He dotes on His children who trust in His Son Jesus. Yet, He Who is One with His Father was constrained by the people's lack of trust (see Matt. 13:58).

Thoughts to Consider

- On the diagram on page 3, where would you put yourself today?
- What track did you take to get where you are?
- If you are in Group K, can you look back and see God's attempts to help you change?
- Almost all the senior adults with whom I speak are in Group K. The desire for the pleasures of retirement seduced them, even those who once were on the A>D path. Are you involved in helping younger generations with the wisdom *you* needed at their age? Have you showed them any hospitality?
- Take the time to talk over the diagram with others who are close to you. If you're a parent or grandparent, talk about your history with your children, and what they can learn from your life.

How little attention is devoted to our Father in many Christian communities. And typically, so many feminize Jesus as *"meek and mild"* but ignore that He is the mighty King of Kings! We hope each person who reads these newsletters will take up their appropriate responsibility to *reflect Jesus* to the world.

May our Father raise up men who will lovingly and courageously ***stand in the gap*** leading others to develop Christ-likeness. Please do more than just read. Ask our Lord to help you *live* more for Him!

Our love, *Mike & Sue*

An Important Note

For some time Sue and I have been deeply concerned with the slavery of legalistic perversion that is rampant in Messianic Judaism. We are burdened with grief for Jew and Gentile alike who are being seduced into a religious system that obscures or even denies Jesus as God Incarnate. We've written an article entitled *The Hebraic Restoration Confronts the Jewish Roots Movement*, available under **Hebraic Articles** on our website. We encourage you to read it and download it for those you care about who have become slaves to legalism and have lost their first love of Jesus.