

The Way of the Lord

41. Theological Hindrances to The LORDship of Jesus (Part 6)

We're going to touch on the last of the points we want to make about how the Roman Catholic institution blasphemed the Holy Spirit, and how little the Protestant Reformers restored. This last issue really hits home. Clergy *usurped* the responsibility of husbands and fathers to spiritually nurture their families in the pattern of Abraham. God chose Abraham, the father of all who put their trust in Jesus, because "...*he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just*" (Genesis 18:19).

Roman Catholic clergy *forcefully prevented fathers* from spiritually training their own families. In fact, they persecuted and even martyred families who prayed and shared Scripture within their own home! They also forbade home fellowships as the primary support for individuals and families. Fellowship in homes had been the pattern of the earliest followers of Jesus (e.g., Romans 16:5; Colossians 4:15).

Roman Catholicism defied the command of Christ that God *alone* is known as Father. No position is to be called that: "*Do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and He is in heaven*" (Matthew 23:9). Yet local priests are referred to as "Father," and the Pope is called "HOLY Father," a designator used by Christ for HIS heavenly Father alone (John 17:11).

They minimized the biblical importance of the *home* for spiritual development by constructing religious buildings which imitated the style of pagan temples. And they violated Scripture by creating idolatrous statues and praying to dead Christians (Exodus 20:4,5). They scorned God's command to have *nothing* to do with heathen customs, and assimilated pagan holidays and practices into their worship calendar and rituals (2 Corinthians 6:15-17).

With the Reformation, the clergy role of "spiritual authority" continued to displace the responsibility of family fathers to shepherd their wives and children *in the home*. They failed to restore the scriptural practice of meeting in homes as extended spiritual family to uphold communal righteousness and carry out the 54 one-another commands of the Newer Testament (Acts 12:12; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Philemon 1:2).

At no time does God allow husbands and fathers to outsource to other people the responsibility to *role model and spiritually train* their households (Ephesians 6:4). But relegating that responsibility to others is exactly what we found among American churchmen when we returned from Israel with the Hebraic foundations. Numerous clergy admitted that their religious programs and activities, in one way or another, compensated for irresponsible husbands and fathers. Whether you're a father or grandfather, if you *aren't* leading your family into the Lordship of Jesus and helping them develop His character, you're blaspheming the Holy Spirit Who gave you this biblical responsibility.

These segments on the theological hindrances to the Lordship of Jesus have addressed only a few key points which we feel blaspheme the Holy Spirit by *discrediting* what He inspired in God's Word. The ongoing revisionist practices and teachings of Roman Catholicism have robbed much of the Bible's authority. Yet clergy domination of Protestantism as well has fallen far short of full restoration of what Lord Jesus intended for His body. You may be wondering *WHY* these religious institutions have been able to

dominate Christendom for so long. Centuries of vested interest by men who wanted *control* allowed them to dictate *what people believe* and *how they express it*. When it comes to matters of faith, it takes a lot of courage to admit that your longstanding religious traditions and practices *violate God*. But rather than focusing on what others failed to do, realize that *you* face two vital issues for your *own* faith practices and for those of your faith community. Ask yourself this:

- Do *eliminating and altering* essential mandates of the Bible blaspheme the Holy Spirit Who breathed out this text?
- Does your participation in a faith community that *nullifies or ignores* key passages of the Bible cause *you* to blaspheme the Holy Spirit in *unholy* compromise?

At the end of this segment we've listed several resources for you to explore if it's your heart's desire to restore a way of life that pleases our Lord. The chapters from our book, *Restoring the Early Church*, present vital issues about your home and your home fellowship family. The written lessons in *Discussing How to Restore the Early Church* parallel the video segments in the *Jesus In Your Home* series. Choose whether you'd rather read or watch, and make sure you *discuss* this material with your family and fellowship family. Our book, *Pastoring By Elders*, fleshes out the role of biblical shepherds, and describes how a biblical home fellowship family works.

Please, closely examine your own faith practices. Make sure each and every one has a biblical foundation that *you've determined for yourself* from God's Word. We hope that out of *love for Jesus* as your LORD you're determined to walk *His* way and uphold *all* His commands, for His glory.

For Further Study

- Book: *Restoring the Early Church*
 - Chapter 9. One-on-One—Marriage
 - Chapter 10. One-on-One—Parenting
 - Chapter 11. Neighborhood Home Fellowship—Promoting Righteousness
 - Chapter 12. Neighborhood Home Fellowship—Load-bearing Relationships
- *Discussing How to Restore the Early Church*
 - The Home: Lessons 30 thru 44
 - Fellowship in Homes: Lessons 45 thru 50
- *Jesus In Your Home* Video Series
 - The Home: Segments 1 thru 22
 - The Home Fellowship: Segments 1 thru 13
- Book: *Pastoring By Elders*

Each is a free download on our website: <restorationministries.org>