

# RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

## Prophetic Insight

June 29, 2018      “Therefore we must pay much more careful heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”

### Being Our Father’s Transitional Generation! (Part 3)

#### ***The Love And Humility Of Jesus Must Be At The Core Of Your Marriage***

As we write about marriage we hope you can understand that both of us experience deep shame because of certain life decisions made by our generation in the past. Our generation followed the "Greatest Generation" that fought in WWII and trusted in the God of the Bible. Yet we who are the offspring of that generation all too often gave way to the rebellion and unrest that characterized our society in the 60s and 70s. WE precipitated the widespread downfall of marriages and disintegration of families which has escalated into a turbulent flood among subsequent generations. We who are now “seniors” once viewed ourselves as good “Christians” — but we were irresponsibly negligent in role-modeling sacrificial and loving Christlike marriages for our descendants. We lived religiously by attending services and participating in various organized programs. Yet we manifested little or no personal testimony to the spiritual power and divine encounters and miraculous interventions of our Lord which the first century of followers of Jesus experienced.

Within our land our heavenly Father has observed from on high the ever-increasing sinful departure from His righteous ways as well as all the blasphemy against His holy name. “Religious” people have created their own belief systems which have *added on* to His Word through countless traditions, rituals, and other unbiblical texts which they deem necessary for salvation. In so doing they have *subtracted from* the authentic gospel of Jesus as the all-sufficient and ONLY way to be forgiven and reconciled to God our Father. Our Father’s long-suffering patience with us collectively is truly an awesome display of His loving restraint. Yet He cannot and will not lower the righteous standard of either His Word or of the Lordship of Jesus among those to whom He has revealed Him (John 14:6).

Too often these past decades, the majority within Christendom have blatantly ignored His involvement and direction in the events that affect lives both personally and nationally. From the national political arena to people’s personal lives, God’s sovereignty and involvement is never acknowledged. It’s as if He didn’t exist! Yet in those who do have repentant hearts and ears to hear, He hasn’t been silenced. The collective warnings to us over the past four millennia have been examples via God’s unchangeable Word that coming to Him and living in and for Him is a *heart matter* with severe consequences for those who treat Him lightly:

***“Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did” (1Corinthians 10:6).***

The entire Old Testament ends with the Book of Malachi in which God offers a scathing view of Israel, the people He had chosen to be His beloved treasured possession (see Deuteronomy 7:6). What a tragic indictment when you consider all His compassion and the multitude of miraculous interventions He accomplished on their behalf:

***“I will reject your descendants; I will throw dung in your faces, I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it” (Malachi 2:3).***

## **A message for you husbands and wives whom our generation has let down:**

Both of us have experienced too many years of sorrow as we've observed so many marriages swiftly heading for God's dung heap, whether through giving up on their covenant vows or by giving way to Satan the deceiver who schemes to destroy covenant unions and thereby cripple the next generations of children. Our hope in writing this Prophetic Insight is that you as a couple would reflect on the depth of loving relationship and grace extended to each other and the commitment of obedient trust in Christ that our heavenly Father wants in you.

The recorded accounts of Esther and Nehemiah have always been a powerful influence in how we both have dedicated ourselves to serve our Lord. Esther's **deference** displayed toward her older cousin Mordecai and the eunuch in charge of the king's harem exemplify the humility that undergirds a woman to whom our Lord and her husband can give great honor: "*A wife of noble character is her husband's crown*" (Proverbs 12:4). This is the character of the woman extolled in Proverbs 31: "*Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all'*" (vv. 28,29).

I have been privileged to be married to such a woman for over 48 years. But I must confess that during the ongoing journey of my own need to grow in the love of Jesus for Sue, I haven't always appreciated the gift my Father gave me. It really wasn't until we had been married 24 years and were living in Israel that I learned the God-given understanding of a Christ-like marriage. A statement I learned there from the Hebraic foundations has been lodged at the core of my relationship with my heavenly Father, my Lord Jesus, and Sue:

**"If you want to know my love for Jesus, watch it in how I love Sue."**

I still trip and stumble in revealing the love of Jesus for Sue. But I know the tremendous importance of ***crying out to Jesus*** for His help in this. For you men who are as naive as I once was regarding our Father's view of a married couple, please take this to heart:

**A wife is the highest gift God ever gives a man.** (There was no Hebrew word for bachelor; that was considered an unblessed state.) **Our Father designed marriage to physically represent the spiritual Covenant we have with Him in union with Christ through His Spirit.** In other words, if you want to know the depth of my love relationship with my Father and my Lord Jesus, then observe it in how my love for Sue is enacted. The sacrificial *agape* love of a man for his wife is the same *agape* love that he must have for our Father and Lord Jesus. (The same Greek word is used for both.)

We redid our marriage vows in Israel based on this new commitment, and over the years since we returned from there we've had contact with numerous married couples. Quite often we've run into two impediments that kept a couple from understanding and internalizing the covenantal foundation for marriage which our Father is restoring. By His grace this has become the foundation for our own marriage, and as we've shared these truths we've identified specific barriers that impact both partners in their relationship with each other.

The first barrier involves husbands who've been unable to grasp the depth of my commitment to grow in the love of my Lord Jesus by crying out to Him for His love so that Sue would be the first recipient of it. As many men have heard from me over the years, **"I judge every man by his wife's eyes."** A wife who is loved with the love of Christ flowing to her through her husband shines in a way that no other woman can who hasn't experienced that kind of love.

The second impediment to an enduring covenant union is the aversion so many married women have had to the depth of *Sue's deference*. By this we mean her deference both to our Father's will and her trust like biblical Sarah had that I would confirm His will (*rhema*) before I

took any action that would affect us both (1Peter 3:1-6). Remember this singular truth: **A woman of deference is the most noble of women.** In our dung heap-bound society, women with the deference Sue has are exceedingly rare. Even many Christian women have embraced God's curse on Eve in her independent decision to give way to deception: **the desire to rule!** And in doing so they fail to trust our heavenly Father in His plans for their lives, and certainly don't trust His sovereignty over their husbands in their decisions. (Our Father is the God who could raise Abraham's son Isaac from the dead if need be, and Abraham truly believed that! Do you believe that His love for you is any less, or His resurrection power?)

For several generations women have sold themselves cheaply, with little nobility to offer a man. Until you acquire from the Spirit the humble deference Sarah had toward Abraham, you'll fall short of being the wife your husband needs. God has called you to be this particular man's "suitable helper" alongside him so that as a couple you would bring Him praise and raise godly children (see Malachi 2:15).

**Many "Christian" women are caught up in the current mantra, "WOMEN RULE!" Biblically these women have condemned themselves to God's dung heap in seizing the "lordship" of their own lives in self-willed defiance. We share this as a warning to you younger women so that you may repent before your hearts become hardened in this curse of independent self-rule and the demonic spirit of Jezebel enslaves you.**

(For more on this, see our Prophetic Insight: "Be a Man! Stand Up Against Jezebel!" <[http://www.restorationministries.org/download/26.stand\\_against\\_jezebel%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.restorationministries.org/download/26.stand_against_jezebel%20(1).pdf)>

**With hearts of grief we say shame on you married couples who lacked the humility that's needed by both husbands and wives for an enduring Christ-like marriage! Your view is too low of the covenant union of marriage and its *generational perspective* which our Father is restoring out of His compassion because of the hurt He feels over the children of divorce.**

**Too many marriage partners have thrown in the towel *because they felt they could and should*, relegating their children to a lingering and gnawing sense of expendability by their parent(s). Little wonder that fewer couples are choosing to not even marry, preferring an open back door of escape if the going gets rough. And yet another generation of children experiences the devastating loss of fathers especially, having no idea how a godly man lives.**

We don't blame you women for this societal meltdown going on as you've chosen to step into the gap of absentee, self-serving men and take the lead. Generations of disconnected fathers, irresponsible fornicating men, and men who've dived wholesale into homosexuality to appease their pain of "not fitting in" have spawned the lust-driven environment in which women have allowed themselves to be degraded. For several generations fathers have displayed irresponsibility toward their daughters in these ways: Fathers have failed to emotionally undergird their daughters as precious jewels worthy of loving protection. Dads haven't screened potential dates beforehand to demonstrate their protective love for their girls. It hasn't even occurred to most fathers today to help prepare their daughters to be the suitable helpmate (*ezer*) for a husband.

And all too many fathers have given in to their petulant daughters by allowing them to forsake modesty in their attire and run after sensuality and sexuality instead. It's important that we recognize that the female penchant for sensuality and sexuality has been promoted by the **gay-dominated apparel industry**. When women lost sight of the biblical imperative for modesty (1Timothy 2:9; 1Peter 3:3,4), fashion industry leaders (many of whom are openly homosexual) showed them how to look seductive and attract men who were after sexual gratification without relational responsibility.

We've spent many years in countless hours of effort simply as well as creatively explaining the Hebraic relational priorities to followers of Jesus who were serious about living for Him and bringing others into His kingdom. We've especially emphasized your relationship with our Father and our Lord Jesus through the indwelling Holy Spirit, and strengthening and deepening your relationships in your home. We have poured out through many varieties of media how this Divine foundation of living is the core of a Christ-like marriage and raising a godly family.



If you know that the spark of Jesus is burning within you, we encourage you to persist in crying out to Him for help with the sacrificial love and spiritual empowerment which ONLY He can give you. There's nothing in the current state of this society that is going to help you to walk uprightly in holiness and sacrificial love. Isaiah testified as much about the woeful condition of today's society as he did the Israel of his day:

*"The look on their faces testifies against them; they parade their sin (homosexuality and lack of compassion for the less fortunate; see Genesis 19:5, Ezekiel 16:49) like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves. Tell the righteous it will be well with them, for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds. Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them! They will be paid back for what their hands have done. Youths oppress My people, women rule over them. My people, your [religious leaders] lead you astray; they turn you from the path" (Isaiah 3:9-12).*

The words God shared through Isaiah are a sad commentary about the useless societal excrement which Israel had reaped for itself. But it's no less so for this nation. Earlier we mentioned Nehemiah and his fortifying influence in our own faith walk. It was his grief over the broken condition of Jerusalem that God used to open the king's heart to let Nehemiah serve as His instrument to begin the restoration of the Israelites back to the land: [King Artaxerxes]: *"Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart" (Nehemiah 2:2).* We want you to know that as with Nehemiah, sadness of heart over the pitfalls facing marriages and families today stirs us to keep writing. It accentuates our desire to be used by the Spirit to help couples who are willing to be loving partners in a marriage that reflects the love and humility of Jesus.

May this Prophetic Insight cause you to reflect on your own life and marriage, and if need be, to get on your knees and cry out to our Lord Jesus for the help that ONLY He can provide. What happens to a nation or a society is nowhere near as important as what happens to you and those you care about at the Judgment Throne.

**Mike & Sue**