

052916 Imitate God

Did you know that **85% of people** who purchase personal improvement books never finish them. why? change is hard?... we are not ignorant of the fact we need to change... But the power to change is another thing... Human beings cannot acquire a properly ordered life through human-initiated and human-dominated activity. For we were created in the image of God, so wholeness requires a communion and union with God. You see God loves this disordered humanity as it is, not as He would have it. And Through love and Patience he reorders it one person at a time....

**As We continue our series Disorderly Conduct (putting our live in order) we will discover four biblical principles that will put our relationships in proper working order..... but first what makes that possible..**

In Jesus there is a restoration of the true human nature, not an external addition of ...some help... to an otherwise self-governing human existence. Salvation consist in a renewed communion with God, making human us fully human again.

**Getting the “vertical” right is followed by getting the “horizontal” right.... Know God...the one who redeems you...then he teaches and directs you in the way to go...**

***Isaiah 48:17* This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.**

- **The Results of the having our redeemer...the one who finds us where we are and brings us to a better place...then teaches us what is best for us, and then who directs us or guides us in the way we should go or live... meets the four critical needs of all people....**
- **Enabling us to grow and holistically function relationally with others... When I am settled in the vertical relationship I am now positioned to have healthy horizontal relationships...**

**Listen... Your spouse, nor anyone or any thing else is able to fulfill your four most critical needs. Those needs can only be filled by God when you are found In Christ.**

### **1. Your Identity**

1. **What is identity...it is That which you are identified by: you are body soul and Spirit**
  - a. Your body is identified by dental records, pictures, finger prints, DNA etc. visible attributes
2. **But What Identifies your invisible man...your soul and spirit...anytime the invisible tries to find its identity in the visible ...we become disordered..**
  - a. If you are not spiritually identified with God...your spirit which is eternal has no proper connecting point... you are spiritually disordered ... there is great void

3. **So that leaves your soul...which is also invisible...if it's identity is not connected spiritually it has to connect itself to that which is visible to find identity... (job, possessions, appearance, prestige, ,power) or human beings...a spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend,...or isolation trying to be ok by your self.....the soul becomes disordered...for all of those things will one day be separated from us...and the people will also, and they can reject...hurt us ...in other words if my souls identity is people places and things...I will be disordered...**

**1 Corinthians 6:17 But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.**

***1 John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.***

4. **You were designed to be eternally identified with God...when that takes place...in my Spirit...my soul gets changed and my relationships and the way I do life on earth changes...only god can meet the critical need of knowing who we truly are!**

**Second only God can meet your critical need to be accepted...**

2. Your acceptance...who or what makes you ok, acceptable
- We are loved by him...individually
  - His love is not based on pedigree, appearance, or talents
  - God is not ashamed of you, nor wishes you were someone else
  - You are accepted and rejoiced over.
  - We are not in competition with others for His love.
  - He is with you now and will never forsake you.
  - His love toward you is everlasting.

**Psalms 13:5 But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.**

**Third our critical need for feeling secure...**

3. Your security... who or what protects me... or what is your source of protection..
- Career....it will end
  - Money...it is volatile
  - People...they can change how they feel about you...or die
  - **If you are secure in God's forgiveness, acceptance, and love, and that he is in charge of everything...you are secure...which gives us the courage to move forward...**

***Romans 8:<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[a]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,<sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else***

in all creation, will be able **to separate us from the love of God** that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- His love for us is more powerful than anything that can come against us...that is security...he will not leave us nor forsake us

**John 8:12** When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**Our fourth critical need can now be met...the need to matter!**

4. Your significance... Who or what determines your worth
  - If what you do or how well you do it determines your worth...at some time you will become worth less because you will lose the ability to perform.
  - If your appearance determines your worth...sorry to say that leaves too.
  - You are significant because God made you. You are His handiwork.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Because of this Relationship to God, our four critical needs are met in us as individuals. We now can relate to other human beings from a place of health...rather than looking to get from them our critical needs met...

**We can now truly begin to love them for their sake and who they are... rather than love them for their ability to meet our needs...**

**\*\*\*\*\*So Just as it is natural for the earthly child to imitate (Greek = mimic) his father, we as children of God must imitate Him as we follow Jesus.**

- There are four pillars of action given in Ephesians 5...on what following Jesus looks like practically speaking...in our relationships

**1. The first one is simply this...we imitate Jesus walk as he followed the God the Father...**

**First: EPH 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children<sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

- **First of all..... a child of God..is always a child before God... As His children we are known and loved individually and as one of all His children we are loved equally, there are no favorites. There is no distinction; we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**...If we do not rest in our relationship to God the Father as beloved children, we will live auditioning for the position continually grading ourselves on our performance, rather than obeying and serving Him simply as faithful children.**

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- we imitate God, and that we are to do that by walking in love.
- Love is the goal of the Christian life. It is one thing against which there is no law. . which means it is always right to do
- **Our lives become a sweet smelling aroma to the one who are close enough to smell us...ie experience us...**
- **One of the primary ways the Father draws people to Jesus is through those who know Jesus**

Now..if you are imitating someone you are careful to watch yourself ...so that you can see how close you are imitating the leader

**Second Pillar :** *EPH 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,<sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*

- **Christians are to be wise people, wisdom entails self analysis.. Wisdom is practical...it teaches us how to behave today: what to do and when to do it.. The proper action at the proper time...**

**Search myself:**

**Psalm 4:4** Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

**Search me God:**

*Psalm 139: 23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

**Why? absolute Wisdom is one of the character traits of God the Father...**

**Job 12:13**“To God **belong** wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.

- **and His Son Jesus:**

**Isaiah 11:2** The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— **the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding**, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

- **And we Receive this from God the Father Jesus and the Holy Spirit...**

**Proverbs 2:6** For the **Lord gives wisdom**; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

**Proverbs 4:11** **I instruct you in the way of wisdom** and lead you along straight paths.

*Proverbs 3:21 My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion;<sup>22</sup> they will be life for you....*

- **So as you walk with God carefully gaining wisdom...imitate wisdom**

- We have to walk carefully...because it is so easy to stumble in the darkness of the days around us...
- The idea behind **opportunity** is that you buy up opportunities like a shrewd businessman. You make the most of every opportunity to use wisdom therefore gaining life.... in every way...including relationships..
- **the exact opposite of those who don't know God, therefore don't follow him, therefore do not imitate him...**
- **Paul gives us a contrast...the wise and the unwise..**
- **How do you identify an unwise person?**

### an Unwise person...

Proverbs 11:2 When **pride** comes, then comes **disgrace**, (dishonor, shame)but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 13:10 Where there is **strife**, there is **pride**, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 17:24 A discerning(astute, smart) person keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth. (not focused, all over the place)

Proverbs 28:26 **Those who trust in themselves** (unteachable) are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.

Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent (farsighted, perceptive) is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is **deception**. ( scam, cheat, manipulate)

- The lack of wisdom destroys our life and our relationships...the opposite of what God desires

*EPH 4:17* So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of **their thinking**,(they lack God's wisdom) <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in **their understanding** and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the **hardening of their hearts**.

- They live by their own thinking...which is futile (Ineffective)
- Their own understanding...which is darkened...limited...dim
- Because they are separated from the life God has for them and are ignorant of that life... because they are completely unteachable..being hardened in their ways..
- **The Result...**

<sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

- Lost all sensitivity to the Lord...they sense him not...so are unable to live life as God knows is best for his creation

- **and are now controlled by their Senses...taste, touch, sight, smell, hear.... but sensuality also includes... pleasure, power and possessions....so by extension people become a means to an end...they are used to fulfill their senses...**
- Continual lusting for more has the idea of being unquenchable ...drinking in as much as you can...but still dying of thirst...
- Trying to give ourselves life inside...but still dying...
- Thus destroying their relationships..
- **Wisdom is costly...but so beneficial...**

**Proverbs 4:7** *The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

**Psalm 90:12** *Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

- **Wisdom enables us to check ourselves daily...How should I handle my relationships today...first with God, myself and others...**

**These are the first two steps in developing healthy relationships... know Jesus follow Jesus.... imitate Jesus.... you will get so wise on how to handle every relationship...with God with yourself with others and things.... seek wisdom...**

**Proverbs 9:9** Instruct the **wise** and they will be **wiser** still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

end



**Proverbs 10:8**

The **wise** in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.

**Proverbs 13:20**

Walk with the **wise** and become **wise**, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

**Proverbs 19:20**

Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the **wise**.

**Proverbs 23:19**

[ *Saying 16* ] Listen, my son, and be **wise**, and set your heart on the right path:

**Matthew 7:24**

[ *The Wise and Foolish Builders* ] "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a **wiseman** who built his house on the rock.

**Paul gives us the third pillar an individual needs to imitate Jesus in our relationships****Third: Be filled with the Spirit or Spirit led.**

*Eph 5:18* Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

- **This principle is also given as a contrast ...being filled by substance/ thing or being filled by the Holy Spirit...one leads to out of control lifestyle the other leads to self control.**
- **A person who is filled by a substance/thing will demonstrate that filling in their lives that the substance controls them and their relationships...**
- **In their finances...**they may not have enough money for necessities...but enough is always allocated for the drink. Etc.... if they are a workaholic...they have money but no time for quality relationships...
- **In their personal relationships...**the relationships are falling apart... usually marked by discontent and complaining....(crying in their beer)...but they have a strong and growing relationship with the substance...it is their friend it is their:
- **Relief from stress...at their job, in their family, from the financial pressures...**
- **The problem with drinking/substances is it only anesthetizes us...numbs us to whatever is causing discomfort....but does absolutely nothing to address and resolve the problem.**
- **And over time not only does it not help in any meaningful way life's troubling issues....**
- **It adds a new ones...dependence and addiction, not to mention it costs money, and oftentimes gets us into legal problems.**

End result...so blinded and confused...you think a drink will help you...when it is the major source of your problems...and if anyone tells you to put the bottle down and come down from on top of the rigging....they're the idiots.

That is a spirit you do not want to be controlled by...but there is one you want...

*Eph 5:18B...instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

- Different Greek word for filled than the one used in Acts 2 (Plarao) instead of (implemi)...does not have to do with miraculous signs or doings but demonstration in living.. **one's life demonstrates that the person is filled..or connected to the Holy Spirit**

For His job is to teach us godly wisdom..

*John 16: 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."*

- The Effects of being Holy Spirit filled or (controlled) are vastly different than control by substances and are also evident:
- He will teach us how to speak to one another...

*Eph 5:19* **Speak to one another** with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.(uplifting words)

### 1. **Speaking.** Our tongues under the spirit's control... build one another

It is interesting that scripture says we are responsible for our own character and the other person's needs...yet in reality we often especially in marriage rip the other person's character and look out for our own needs.

- Your wife's joke doesn't have to be topped?
- Do you correct your husband in the middle of his story?
- Can any idea, feeling or suggestion be discussed and respected in your marriage?
- Do you get laughs at the expense of your spouse?
- Do you allow the other person to star once in a while?
- Do you ask or tell your spouse what to do?

For out of the heart the mouth speaks...

**Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Instead of building each other... ripping...instead of praising God; complaining about God.

Proverbs 29:11 Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.

Teach us how to love our wives...

*COL 3:19* Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

- Harsh = Bitter, sour, a Macho... attitude



- Machoness neither impress God nor endears your wife
- Opposite of harsh = kind in your speaking with them
- Men sometimes have this confused identity. Thinking Machoness is some how attractive and desirable by their wives.
- I have not met a woman yet that would take a macho husband over a husband who was kind.
- Men ask your wives...Honey would you want me to be more macho or more kind? You tell me their answers

.... *Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,*<sup>20</sup> *always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (songs of encouragment)*

2. **Singing to the Lord**; What is the song you sing to the Lord? Maybe the tune needs to change... What Spirit is leading the song...
3. **We are to sing to God what we speak to each other...It is impossible to have a complaining, bitter heart toward people...and a Worshipping heart toward God...For that is incompatible with the Holy Spirit who indwells us.**

*Col 3:16* Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

4. **A heart of gratitude in your hearts** Why?

*RO 8:28* *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

- **The grumbling unthankful spirit is not compatible with being holy, living by God's Word...The Holy Spirit would not lead us that way.**

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### **The Fourth Pillar: Submission**

#### **The key verse for all ordered relationships is**

*Eph 5:21* *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

- **This verse sets up the one thing needed to have healthy relationships**
- **Submit means to not fight against but to be aligned in mutual surrender to each other... bowing to one another... two people bowing...**
- **If this is your position you will enjoy a long and healthy relationship**
- The Greek word *hypotasso* (submit) literally means "arrange under" from the root Taxis "order" **the idea to "arrange in order' ..when we submit we arrange ourselves in proper order...which is a fellow human being...not above nor below another...**

Since we are equal in the sight of God...our worth is found in him...so I can be arranged in an order amongst people...without loss of personhood...

**Submission is the Humble Recognition of the Divine ordering of Society .**

- Submission has to do with God's design for the functioning of society.
- It has to do with the roles we are to perform, not based on worth but function.
- It is Love's response to Love. Christ loves me; I love Christ... Christ loves others; I love others.
- Fulfilling the Golden rule...

*Luke 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

- **Submission is preferring the other person above ones self. Christian submission is giving to others those things that you would want them to give you if you were in their situation -- and it's doing so even if they can't pay you back. In fact, it's doing so especially if they can't pay you back! Christian love is respect for others. It's mercy. It's charity.**
- A person who is emotionally broken tends to see others only for the support they can receive. The greater the brokenness, the less they contribute to the relationships and the more they take.
- Anger toward any authority is the result of many things such as abuse, neglect, abandonment, trauma, or sin. Emotional fragmentation can be the consequence of our own actions or the actions of others.
- We could be either victim or victimizer. Most often we have a dual role. Hurt people hurt people. When brokenness is dominantly the result of being victimized it makes the road to recovery more difficult to embrace.
- Because we surrender to no one...and nothing... This is why the journey to spiritual and emotional health seems at first glance counterintuitive. Our natural inclination is to continuously attempt to meet the needs of hurting people.
- **Major evidence of spiritual and emotional health and wholeness is that you can contribute to the lives and welfare of others. Spiritually whole individuals consider others as more important than themselves.**

*Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you will be your servant.*

- The principle is an attitude of mutual submission, which is a mark of being filled with the Spirit. Often we shy away from submission this step of transformation because it means we have to let go of what we think the answer should be.
- **But submission is an integral part of life that most of us don't want to meet.**

- **We want control, to know what we are facing, and what lies ahead. However, many things are beyond our control, and who really knows what lies ahead? God!**
- **Faith is not knowing what is going to happen; it means knowing that no matter what happens, we are with God and that all the wisdom, strength and courage we need are close at hand. When we embrace this mystery and invite it into our lives,**
- **A Life that we could not possibly imagine becomes our experience. We become sensitive God's spiritual presence... that is always present and to answers and insights that free us from bondage.**

### Romans 13:8

[ *Love Fulfills the Law* ] Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for **whoever** loves others has fulfilled the law.

*GAL 3:26* **You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,** <sup>27</sup> *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* <sup>28</sup> *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

- **Through faith in Jesus Christ we become Children of God.**
- **Imitate God, just as Jesus did, living as His child a life of loving God our Father and doing what his father did.. healing and restoring...**

*John 5:17* *In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."*

- **Psalm 23 verses 29-35 gives an accurate description of this serious problem.**

*PR 23:29* *Who has woe? Who has sorrow?*

*Who has strife? Who has complaints?*

*Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?*

*PR 23:30* *Those who linger over wine, linger...(befriend it)*

*who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.*

*PR 23:31* *Do not gaze at wine when it is red,*

*when it sparkles in the cup,*

*when it goes down smoothly! (ever notice the commercials...always showing the*

*beer in the glass)*

*PR 23:32* *In the end it bites like a snake (does not deliver what it promises)*

*and poisons like a viper. (But instead poisons us...makes us toxic to ourselves and others) (Snake and viper...two types of Satan)*

*PR 23:33* *Your eyes will see strange sights (Do not see correctly...perspectives get skewed)*

*and your mind imagine confusing things. (Do not think straight...ability to discern is corrupted)*

*PR 23:34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, (effects sleep)*

*lying on top of the rigging. ( make your bed...resting place on the most unstable and dangerous part of the ship) Rigging...that which holds up the sails.*

*PR 23:35 "They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt!*

*They beat me, but I don't feel it! (Blame becomes your way of life...they did it to me)*

*When will I wake up*

*so I can find another drink?"*

### **Psalm 33:15**

he who forms the **hearts** of all, who considers everything they do.