

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

1. **REVIEW: THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGTEOUSNESS**

- A. **1 Peter 3:18** (NASB) For Christ also died for sins **once for all**, the just (RIGHTEOUS) for the unjust (UNRIGHTEOUS), **so that He might bring us to God** (JUSTIFICATION), having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit
- B. **Romans 6:8-10** (NASB) Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin **once for all**; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.
- C. **Hebrews 7:26-27** (NASB) For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did **once for all** when He offered up Himself.
- D. **Hebrews 6:4-6** (NASB) For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and *then* have fallen away, **it is impossible to renew them again to repentance**, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

2. **REMEMBER... SATAN CANNOT TAKE AWAY OUR SALVATION... OUR POSITION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT HE CAN RUIN OUR LIVES... OUR PRACTICE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- A. Once we are **SAVED (JUSTIFIED)** Satan can do **NOTHING TO CHANGE OUR RIGHTEOUS STANDING (JUSTIFICATION) BEFORE GOD.**
 - 1. Since Satan **CANNOT TAKE AWAY OUR STANDING BEFORE GOD... HE LOOKS FOR A WAY TO BREAK OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** by causing a **BREACH** between our **POSITION** of RIGHTEOUSNESS and our **PRACTICE** of RIGHTEOUSNESS = **SIN**.
 - a. **SOOO... HE ENCOURAGES US BACK TO OUR PAST SIN PATTERNS!**
 - 1) **HOW?... by trying to SHIFT our FOCUS OFF of the SPIRITUAL and ONTO THE PHYSICAL.**
 - i. **WHAT WE CAN SEE, TASTE, TOUCH, SMELL, OR HEAR.**
 - ii. **WHICH KEEPS US DEALING WITH THE FRUIT/EFFECT (PHYSICAL SIDE) OF OUR SIN, INSTEAD OF THE ROOT/CAUSE (SPIRITUAL SIDE) OF OUR SIN.**
 - 2. **THAT IS WHY, we MUST CONFESS the SIN IN OUR LIFE... WHEN WE DO, GOD IMMEDIATELY FORGIVES US AND RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIP.**

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

1 John 1:9 (NASB) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to **cleans**e us from all unrighteousness.

- a. **CONFESSION of our SINS and ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS are KEY ELEMENTS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE.**
- b. **UNCONFESED SIN (AND THEREFORE UNFORGIVEN SIN) SEPARATES US FROM GOD AND GIVES Satan **AUTHORITY** TO ATTACK US.**
- c. **CONFESSING OUR SIN TO GOD and RECEIVING HIS FORGIVENESS WILL RESTORE our PRACTICE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS back into ALIGNMENT with our POSITION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

B. **STATED ANOTHER WAY... AT SALVATION WE WERE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH BY GOD THROUGH CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS (HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SIN) WHICH IS A POSITION WE CAN NEVER LOOSE.**

1 Peter 3:18 (NASB) For Christ also died for sins **once for all**, the just (RIGHTEOUS) for the unjust (UNRIGHTEOUS), **so that He might bring us to God** (JUSTIFICATION), having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit

1. Satan **CANNOT CHANGE OUR POSITION (ETERNAL SALVATION) SO HE ATTACKS OUR PRACTICE (SANCTIFICATION... OUR TIME ON EARTH BETWEEN JUSTIFICATION AND GLORIFICATION).**

C. **REMEMBER: GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS WAS A GIFT GIVEN TO US AT SALVATION THROUGH FAITH.**

Ephesians 2:4-10 (NASB) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and **that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God**; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

1. **WE CANNOT LOOSE OUR SALVATION. HOWEVER... UNCONFESED SIN (AND THEREFORE UNFORGIVEN SIN) SEPARATES US FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

- a. **SEPARATION FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD GIVES Satan PERMISSION TO ATTACK US.**

- b. **CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS RESTORES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

- 1) **CONFESSION AND ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS CAN RESTORE OUR EARTHLY RELATIONSHIPS, TOO.**

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

i. HOWEVER, THAT FORGIVENESS MAY TAKE **LONGER**.

3. WE ARE MADE OF 3 DISTINCT PARTS:

A. **SPIRIT**

B. **BODY**

C. **SOUL**

1. **MIND**

2. **WILL**

3. **EMOTIONS**

D. **MANY OF US THINK THAT OUR SOUL WAS MADE NEW AT SALVATION.**

1. We say things like **"JESUS SAVED MY SOUL."**

2. **However**, the thing that was **immediately made new** when we became Christian was our **SPIRIT**.

a. **Our SOUL is in the PROCESS of BEING SANCTIFIED over time.**

b. **THAT'S WHY YOU CAN BE A CHRISTIAN AND STILL HAVE AN **addiction**, or be **angry** all of the time, or be **depressed**, or**

1) **Our SOUL (MIND, WILL, AND EMOTIONS) is still **distorted**, and it is **TELLING OUR BODY** what to do.**

2) **MOST OFTEN A CHRISTIAN'S SIN PROBLEM COMES FROM AN UNSANCTIFIED SOUL TELLING OUR BODY WHAT TO DO.**

E. The work of the **NEW SPIRIT** within you is to **pump life into the SOUL** so that eventually your new **SPIRIT** becomes the **DOMINANT INFLUENCER** in what you **FEEL, THINK, and DO**.

1. **RELIGION often tries to CHANGE A PERSON from the OUTSIDE.**

2. **RELIGION tells us we will be **VICTORIOUS IF...****

a. We go to church more

b. Be better people

c. Give more

d. Serve more

e. Worship more

f. Deny ourselves more

g. Sing louder

h. Try harder

F. Authentic **VICTORY** happens on the **INSIDE** when the **SPIRIT** within us pumps **GOD'S TRUTH** into our **SOUL**.

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

- G. Just as our **HEARTS PUMP BLOOD** to the different parts of our bodies, our **SPIRIT PUMPS THE TRUTH OF GOD** into our **SOUL**—our **MIND, WILL, AND EMOTIONS**.
1. Then our **SOUL** tells our **BODY** to **ADJUST** to **GOD'S STANDARD** instead of its own.
 2. **James 1:21 (NASB)** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility **receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls**.
 3. **NOTE: JAMES IS WRITING TO BELIEVERS!**
 - a. **James 1:19 (NASB)** This you know, **my beloved brethren**. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;
 - b. James is referring to the saving **PROCESS** called **SANCTIFICATION**.
 4. Yet in order for the **SOUL** TO BE **SANCTIFIED** in righteousness, it needs to **"receive the word implanted"**... from the **SPIRIT**.
 - a. **GOD'S WORD** is to the **SPIRIT** what **FOOD** is to the **BODY**.
 - b. As the **WORD OF GOD FEEDS YOUR SPIRIT** your **SPIRIT** begins to **INFLUENCE** your **SOUL**.
 - c. **Galatians 5:16 (NASB)** But I say, walk by the **Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the **flesh**.
- 4. CONCLUSION**
- A. OUR **BODY** IS INFLUENCED BY OUR **SOUL**
 - B. OUR **SOUL** IS INFLUENCED BY OUR **SPIRIT**
 - C. OUR **SPIRIT** IS INFLUENCED BY THE **WORD OF GOD**
 - D. **T H E F O R E...** WHEN **TRUTH (GOD'S WORD)** FLOWS FREELY FROM OUR **SPIRIT** BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN READ, RECEIVED, ACCEPTED, AND SUBMITTED TO, IT RELEASES **RIGHTEOUSNESS** INTO OUR **SOUL**, THEREBY **SANCTIFYING** IT. AS OUR **SOUL** RECEIVES RIGHTEOUSNESS, IT THEN TELLS OUR **BODY**...
"You have to **WALK DIFFERENTLY**. You have to **THINK DIFFERENTLY**. You have to **TALK DIFFERENTLY**. You have to **DRESS DIFFERENTLY**. You have to **CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS DIFFERENTLY**. You have to **SPEND YOUR MONEY DIFFERENTLY**. You have to **LIVE DIFFERENTLY... BECAUSE YOU ARE DIFFERENT!!**"
1. **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.