

Identity Wars Part IV

The Channel of Blessing

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Just as a way of introduction, in this presentation we want to take the next step. We've been talking a lot about the blessing that flows out of the Father through His Son and down into the human race. And now we want to focus on this aspect. When God's life reaches us, how does it flow, and what blessings can we receive in the human aspect of the way the blessings flow?

We did mentioned yesterday that when the water of God comes into a man's life, it says, "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of water," which is a blessing, and there is no better place for that river to flow than in the family environment, and we want to talk a little bit about that today. I just would like, once again, if we could just bow our heads briefly. I want to pray again. Thank you.

Father in heaven, Lord as I speak I pray that You would give me clearness of thought, clearness of mind, and that as I break the bread of life, that You would give that bread to me, that You, from Your throne, give to me the words to speak, that my brothers and sisters would be blessed, and that we would be encouraged. And we just thank You, in Jesus' name. Amen.

That is a picture of me when I was three weeks of age, and this is a very, very special picture because it symbolizes something very, very important to me. It's very, very important to me, because it's a picture of my father holding me in his arms, and he is looking down upon me with a sense, I believe, of admiration. There is something very, very powerful about this picture, and even when I was growing up and I would look through the photo album without even realizing it, this picture spoke very powerful words to me. And I know that there are many in this world who never get to have a picture like this taken for them, which is a tragedy, and I believe that through pictures like this given to me, I have been blessed in a way that has really helped me to get a better picture of my Father in heaven.

My mother told me a story, and this is actually a picture of the Sidney Sanitarium, where I was born, before 1970, I'd say around there, and my mom told the story that when I was born, because my Father worked at the hospital there, he was a chef at the hospital, that he went running through the corridors, singing at the top of his voice, "It's a boy! It's a boy! I got a boy!" And again, something about that story really warms my heart; it tells me that my father was excited about my arrival into this

world, that he was excited about me, and that is something very special to me and something that I treasure--that story.

And that's why this picture, even though it's just a picture of the San, it reminds me of my father running through the corridors and singing with joy and jumping up and down and making a clown of himself. But he didn't care. He didn't care what other people thought; his son had been born into the world. Who cares if other people think that he is a bit too exuberant or over the top. It doesn't matter, because his son has now come into the world, and that is something that I treasure. I have other pictures that I keep in my mind, and these pictures have built for me a treasure of family memories that enabled me to remember who I am, where I come from, and why life is special. It's these pictures that do this for me along with and in conjunction with, my understanding of God's Word. As I grew into an understanding of God's word, but in my earlier life, it was these pictures that helped me in my journey.

These are some other pictures, as you can imagine, I really enjoyed riding on my dad's back, on a holiday, this is down in Sidney, and this was actually in Euroa, not too far from here, with my parents, and again, my dad holding me, and he's looking at me, and again, I treasure these things. This is at Burleigh Heads, up in Queensland when on holidays up there, dad took me on a chair lift. My father was spending time with me. Because of my father working long hours he didn't get to spend as much time with me as I would've liked. The system of this world has set up a system to take fathers away from their children more than should be, but I'm still able to have these pictures, and I treasure these pictures; they're a real blessing.

I have another memory in my mind when we were living in Warburton, on just the other side of Melbourne, and I was about four or five years of age and I spied my neighbor, my father's neighbor, I guess we could say more accurately in my book, and he is chopping wood preparing for winter, and I went over to him, and I'm watching him chop wood, and I'm looking at the way he's chopping wood, as a four year old, standing there looking, observing, and suddenly I piped up and I said to him, "My dad can chop wood better than you can. My dad can do anything," and he said, "is that right? Well, good for you young man, that's excellent."

A son's belief in his father--when the relationship between father and son is not crowded in by many difficulties of life, I would say for a son and for a daughter, that a father is their hero. A father is a hero. Daddy is powerful; he's strong, he's big, he holds me in his arms, he provides for me, he looks after me, he helps me, and he corrects me when I go out of line, which I know I don't always appreciate at the time. Later on I can see that he has my best interest at heart, and so it's beautiful to have these pictures.

I have another memory. My dad used to run every morning, used to get up really early in the morning. My dad was very disciplined in his life, very regular, get up early in the morning and he would go running, and one morning--it was five o'clock in the morning. It's still early, still dark, and [I said], "Dad can I come with you..." I was still very young, "...and run around the oval?" and he is running around the oval, and he's got these really big legs, and I couldn't keep up with him. I'm trying to keep up. "Boy, my dad is fast; he is really, really fast!" But it's a memory that I have that I could spend time with him.

And if there is one thing I can say, particularly for those of us with children, and we are all children in some level, that take every opportunity to build memories with the children and with your parents. It doesn't matter what you do or where you go, as long as you're spending time together, whether you go for a bush walk or you go to the beach or you go to a family retreat like this and take pictures to remember, so you can go back and remember those family events because they are a treasure, and they are a blessing.

I have other memories of my father. As I think about my father and the influence that he's had on my life, and one thing that can characterize my father is that my father is an honest man. And growing up as a child I thought that's the way everybody was. That led me into a certain amount of gullibility that there are other people out there in the world who were dishonest, who would lie, look you in the eye and tell a lie, without any change in the expression of their face. That was something completely foreign to me that I didn't understand, because my father is an honest man.

I remember once when we were traveling between Sidney and Brisbane and we stopped in to have some lunch at Coffs Harbour, and we bought some food there and we got back into the car, and we get 10 kilometers up the road, and my father, suddenly, for whatever reason, he realized that the cashier had overpaid him \$2.00. We drove all the way back to Coffs Harbour, went into the shop, and my father said, "You overpaid me \$2.00." Now, my father could've said to me, "Son, it's important to be honest, you must be honest," but I can tell you, what my father did that day submitted in my mind, honesty. He demonstrated for me the principle of honesty. And what he did was so much more powerful than what he said. But what he said and what he did working together was a very, very powerful thing. I have never forgotten that, and I have always aspired to be like my father in that regard. To be honest, to speak the truth, and to do what is right, and I'm so grateful that my father has taught me these things.

Another characteristic that I learned from my father is the principle of determination--not to allow something to beat you. I remember many times my father would be working on doing house extensions, and my father was not a builder by trade, but he wanted to do things, and in one particular project he was putting a large veranda right around the side of our house, and at times it was very difficult for him, and he felt like giving up, but my father would not give up, and my

father has at home, he has on the wall, next to the phone a big poster that says, "*Never give up.*" And that sticks in my mind. My father has lived by the principle, "*Never give up.*" And that is something that has been a blessing for me in many respects, and I certainly appreciate that.

My father also has a very strong sense of justice, and whenever my father watches the news or current affairs programs or anything like that as he often does, and he sees injustice occur in the world it agitates him. Injustice, particularly when he sees people in positions of power manipulating and taking advantage of children or the weak, and he gets very agitated about that, and he does not like injustice. He hates injustice, and he doesn't like the principle of just being silent and allowing injustice to continue to occur. You must speak out when there is injustice. This is the way my father has lived and it has put him in many difficult situations, and I guess as I'm leading my life, I see that maybe some of that has washed over me. He's been put in interesting situations.

When my father left one particular job he was handed a very large spoon and on the top it was written "Chief Stirrer"--stirring people up. My father enjoyed stirring people. That's an attribute that I have sought the Lord to modify a little bit in my life, but that's something. If everyone is sitting there very pleasant, no, dad wanted animated conversation, vigorous discussion, he loved debate and discussion, it didn't matter as long as you were vigorous about what you did. It didn't matter, and he likes action--things to take place, and that's something that's another characteristic of my father.

My father made me laugh, he could be very comical, and I learnt from my father to laugh. He would teach me to say things, he could turn a situation into something very humorous, and that has been helpful at times. Life can get fairly stressful, and it's good to look at the funny side of things to release the pressure, and so I really appreciated that.

The greatest thing that I've appreciated, probably, realizing now, more than anything from my father, is that never once did I ever see my father in any way, show any level of unfaithfulness toward my mother, and that is something that I treasure. As a child growing up, I thought all families were like my family, and as I've grown up I see that I have been given a special privilege, and he never showed any indication that there was any difficulty in their relationship in terms of major difficulties. I mean, they had their arguments; they had their disagreements, unfortunately, like many couples do. But he was never unfaithful, and he never showed any indication toward a person who was engaged in immoral activity or desire toward immorality, and that is something that I treasure very greatly as his son.

As I think about all of those blessings that have come to me through my father, and you might think by my saying these things that I'm saying that my father is a perfect man. He is not. He is a man like everybody else, and he has his challenges, but as I

grow older and I think about the commandments to honor your parents it's a privilege for me in these audiences to honor my father--my earthly father, and tell you how much I appreciate him and how much of a blessing he's been to my life. And I believe that's in line with the commandment to do so. But there is more of a reason why I want to do this, and that's because of the influence that my father's had in my life, and there is a verse in the Bible that speaks directly to this issue, and that's in Proverbs 17, in verse 6. I want to spend a little bit of time looking at this particular verse, because it's very significant, and particularly in light of this flow of blessing that comes from our Father in heaven.

It says:

“Children’s children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.” Proverbs 17:6

The operative word there is, of course, the word “glory”--“...the glory of children...” Just before we move to that, notice how it says, **“Children’s children are the crown of old men.”** It is not a father’s child that reveals the success of his parenting, but it’s a father’s grandchild that reveals the success of a father’s parenting in terms of whether the principles are maintained to the next generation.

Are the principles that a father and a mother have taught their children--are they carried to the next generation? That is the crown of old men, when we became old. We can teach what we believe is right, but if it's not carried on as a family kingdom, if it's not carried on to the next generation, your family kingdom has just been annihilated and wiped out. The success of a family kingdom is children's children.

And now we move to the point about the glory. What does glory really mean? Let's have a look at another verse, I often refer to this in **Jeremiah 9:23**, how it uses the word glory here, and then we'll bring it back to Proverbs 17:6.

Jeremiah 9:23 “Thus says the Lord: ‘Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might...’”

And of course as this is speaking, think about what we've been talking about in terms of inherent powers, inherent life. The wisdom that we receive does not come from within ourselves. The mind that we receive does not come from within ourselves, and God says, don't glory in these things, because they didn't come from you. They came from me.

“...nor let the rich man glory in his riches, (24) but let him who glories, glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord...”

Being connected to the Father is what we should glory in. Exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. How does he do that? Through the river, through His Spirit.

“For in these I delight,” says the Lord.

**Glory = Beauty, Splendor,
Jewels, To Boast**

Glory = Find Value

So when we see the word glory here, we can substitute the words **find value**. Glory means beauty or splendor, the jewels, to boast. Or we can use the word in a modern setting, to **find value**, and if we reintroduce that into these texts it makes sense, where it says, let not the wise man **find value** in his wisdom. To feel good about himself because he has wisdom.

“Let not the mighty man **find value** in his mind, or in his strength, nor let the rich man **find value** in his riches, but let him who **finds value, find value** in this, that he understands and knows Me.” That verse alone reveals the kingdom of God. The difference between our performance, achievement-based, asset-based value system and a relational value system based on our connection with God is right there in those verses. Let him **find value** in that he knows Me.

So when we bring that back to **Proverbs 17:6**, “...the glory (value) of children is their father.” God has set up a system through which his love, his care, his blessings for us, come particularly to us through our father. There is a special role that our father has to play in our lives, and we’ll look as we continue, how that the enemy is seeking particularly to remove the father from the home to remove value from children, to take their value away, because the glory or the value of children is their father. I want you to think about the implications of this particular text.

It’s interesting to know that the word *father* in Hebrew is the word “Ab,” and in *Strong’s Concordance*, when you open the concordance, the very first word in the dictionary, or the concordance is father. Isn’t that interesting the way God has set that up? The very first word is father. It starts with father, and I think that’s very significant, don’t you? Even in *Strong’s Dictionary*, it’s number one. And I guess I smile, and... “That’s amazing Father, how you do that.” It’s not down [at] the end, it’s not in the middle, it’s Number One, and there is a message right there for us, I believe, as we look at that. All right.

So the point we want to draw from this is that if you break or diminish a child’s connection to their father, you break or diminish their value. The value of a child is directly connected to the role of a father. This is what the Bible is telling us.

Now, you’ll read in some translations of the Bible, and we are going to address this aspect more specifically later in this presentation, that the glory of children is their parents, but the Hebrew word is Ab, which is father, and there is a specific reason

why the Bible is saying that, so if your Bible says, the glory of children is their parents, you have a perverted version of the Bible. It's not what it says. It's very important that we get this issue correct. I just thought I'd mention that because you'd go, "Hey, it doesn't say that; it says this." But look at the Hebrew, it says father, and there is a very specific reason why it says father.

"Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12: 6, 7. (NKJV).

We mentioned yesterday about the value system of heaven, how that God's thought toward us in **Luke 12:6**, and **7**, about the sparrows, the very hairs of your head are numbered, do not fear. You are of more value than many sparrows, and what are God's thoughts toward us? [This and] **Psalms 40:5**. If you could just memorize these two verses and remember these for yourselves, that God is thinking about you all the time, it would save many, many trials. God's thoughts toward us are endless. He is always thinking about us. Always wishing to bless us.

"Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered." Psalm 40:5. (NKJV).

I want to read to you some notes about how this desire for a father is reflected. I picked this up off a website called imissmydad.com and it's a challenge to read, but it reveals something about the human heart and the desire for a father in the human heart. We are designed with a desire for a father, that's how we have been created, and the glory of children is their father. And as we will show, in the context of the channel of blessing, the earthly father is a channel and a representative of our Heavenly Father to act on His behalf on this earth because ultimately, we are all God's children, aren't we? To Him alone we belong, but God places authority figures in our lives to bless us, to represent Him, and a father is a primary figure to do that.

Notice what this says,

It says, "Dear Daddy, today I am 30..." That's sweet, she still calls him daddy at thirty years of age. I think that's nice. She's still using the word Abba! "...today I am 30, and you are not here – no hug, no kiss, no birthday wish this year. No smile, no eyebrow raised, no singing me a song. I can't believe the time has past (sic), I can't believe you are gone. I love you; always have; always will."

I don't know. When you hear something like that, as soon as I hear something like that, I start to get a little bit emotional. Why? Why do we get emotional? Can you feel

the longing of the heart for the father? It reaches out toward the father. We can feel it. The Spirit immediately touches us. It does for me, and I can see for many of you. It's very powerful. And not to over emphasize the emotional, but I think we need to acknowledge the power of these kinds of statements. I want to read a few more to you. This is Paul from the USA.

"Dad..." He is reasoning out - it's a milestone thing. I remember a distinctive point in my life. I was eight years of age, and I made an executive decision on behalf of myself, that I was no longer going to use the word "Daddy." It was now "Dad." I made that decision and I was eight years of age. Not that any of the others had to do that, but that was the executive decision with me, and I was able to do that.

"Dad, I miss you everyday and just wish we could talk again. Losing you has made me question who I am and where I'm going..." Can you see the connection between a child's sense of identity and being connected to his father. Who am I? Isn't this man going to be known by his accomplishments and his degrees and his ability and his own family? Now when he lost his father, it made him think about who he was. There is a direct connection between our sense of identity and our father, and God has set it up that way. He has set it up that way. Because that's what the Bible says, "...the glory of children is their father."

And then he goes on. "Can I be the dad you were? You were the best and just wish you could have lived longer to see my accomplishments..." See how that accomplishments mean nothing without the father's approval. "If you could only be here to see what I'm doing, Dad. I'm doing this, Dad, and I'm doing this, Dad..." and in the Spirit of the Heavenly Father, say, "Son, behold, it is good; it is good." Then it's worth doing. Otherwise, it's not worth doing. If the father is not going to put his hand of blessing upon you, it's not worth doing, because there is no satisfaction, except for maybe a brief moment.

"... and share in that joy. Even a year later I find myself wanting to pick up the phone to call you. I love you." Very powerful words spoken.

Another one,

"Dad, it was quiet on thanksgiving today not having you around us. I felt an emptiness in me..." and I'll stop with that.

That sense of loss, disconnection because of the father. We, as the Bible says, there is no one that lives to himself, we are all connected. We are connected in a way that we don't even fully understand, that within a husband and wife, we understand between a husband and wife, because they are one flesh and when they're torn

apart either by death or other tragic events such as divorce, there is the pain in the emotional realm that cannot even be expressed, because of that connection.

And can you imagine, and just think about this for a moment. Just think about this for a moment, because we are all connected to the father. When families fall apart, can you imagine the pain that the father feels? Can you imagine his pain? Because it goes right back to him, he feels it.

This is the last one, I won't torture you anymore, but it's important that we go through this process,

I can't even finish it. She calls herself Daddy's Princess; and it makes me emotional, because I guess I see many young ladies who don't believe they are a princess anymore, and who don't feel they're worth anything, and I just wish that they could feel that way, and that they could feel better. But this is what we miss when we don't have the father's love, when we are disconnected from the father, and I believe it was important that I point this out, because it is a very, very powerful thing. - a very, very powerful thing.

Why is it that these few verses here can be so powerful? Is this a part of our message? Is this a message that the world is hearing from us in relationship to the family? All right.

These notes reveal the yearning hearts desire of humanity for it's Heavenly Father. The desire for the earthly father is really a desire for our Heavenly Father. That's what that desire is really all about--to desire a Heavenly Father, to be loved, to know that we are his beloved child in whom He is well pleased. And we have been told this through Jesus, as I expressed to you last night. We have been told this, we have this promise through God's Word.

The father is a symbol of the vital relationship between ourselves and God, and so the role of the father is such a critical role in God's family kingdom, and because of that, isn't it obvious then that Satan would try and attack the role of a father and a husband and to turn it into something else, to keep him in the role of being a boy? So that when a woman marries a man, she is actually marrying a boy like Nimrod? A tyrant, someone who is emotional, and up and down, and not taking responsibility, not taking leadership in the home, wouldn't that be better for Satan? To cut off the ability for boys to become men, so they can't be examples of the Heavenly Father? It's a simple plan, isn't? And that's exactly what is taking place.

This is what the Father would say to us, and he designed to say this to us through our earthly father, but He's giving to us in the Scripture, so that we can receive it. As

children, and I want you to remember this, as small children, yes, we can read the Scriptures, but to gain the understanding it's much easier to have the Scriptures read to you being held in the arms of a strong, powerful male figure. To read the Scriptures, so that the father's work can come to you in a very practical way. Because as a child we're still learning to understand, to think abstractly about things and to understand spiritual things. We are not born spiritual, are we? We are born carnal, and so we need to be taught these things through an earthly channel, as a child. If we want to come to these things by ourselves, then we have to go through a very painful journey on our own, and we come to adulthood, and then we finally find it, but by that time, we've been so scarred and damaged by life, through all the lies of the serpent, and it's very hard.

This is what God would say to us:

Jeremiah 1:4, 5 "Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: (5) 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.'"

Isn't that a beautiful verse? I knew you before I formed you. I dreamed of the day that you would come, and you think about this, that when I was in my mother's womb, that my father dreamed the day that I would come. Our Father dreamed of the day that we would come, each one of us. Could we really be that valuable to God? Are we really that significant? Satan would say to you and to me, "You are not that significant. There are six billion people on the planet, it's such a huge place, it's a massive universe, nobody is significant." But the Bible says it, and again, this is where you must cling to the word of God. The Bible says, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." That's powerful! What a beautiful word.

Jeremiah 31:3 "The Lord has appeared of old to me, *saying*: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. (NKJV). "

This is one of my favorite verses; I don't know if it's the same for you. This is what the Father is saying to us through His Son. I want you to observe this particular verse, it's an important verse in how this channel system works. It's from **1 Corinthians 11:3**, and I just want to bring in this picture.

The Channel of Blessing.

We see the Father, the light going out of the Father through His Son, and the closeness of the relationship between the Father and the Son, They're very close to one another, and then that flows out in life and blessing, down toward the man and his wife and they are one flesh, and then that blessing flows out to the family, and it flows out to other people.

The Bible says, **“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”** Can you see a clear sequence of headship? Now it’s very important, because of the way all of us have been trained. When we read those words, are we reading them in God’s kingdom, or are we reading them in Satan’s kingdom?

When we think about headship in the world, what do we typically think of? I think of the boss. I think of the tyrant. I think of Nimrod. Now, is the Bible saying that a wife submit to Nimrod, submit to the tyrant, do whatever he says? Just give in and take it? Is that what the Bible is saying? No, that’s not what the Bible is saying. Headship, when you think about headship, you read Genesis, about the river in Genesis, the river that flowed out of Genesis splits into what? Split into four parts and it was called four river heads. Headship in God’s kingdom, is the point from which blessings flow. When you stand under the shower, it’s the shower rose or is the shower head? To receive the blessing of the shower, you have to stand under it, you have to submit to the shower to receive the blessing. So in God’s kingdom: But I would have you know that the Blessor of man is Christ, and the Blessor of the woman is the man, and the Blessor of Christ is God. Can you see it in that light? In God’s kingdom that is a statement of blessing. In Satan’s kingdom, that is a statement of domination and control.

How do we read the verse? Jesus said to the lawyer, “How do you read?” How do you read the Scripture? Do you read it in God’s kingdom, or do you read it in Satan’s kingdom? Do we read the Scripture correctly? This is a beautiful verse, and just in light of what we are talking about, the panel last night, we were talking about length of hair. This is the beginning of that chapter; go beyond the length of hair issue and think about what is talking about. It’s talking about the principle of covering. When a woman has long hair, it’s a symbol that she is covered by her husband, that he is her protector, that he is one that cares for her, and that when she cuts her hair short, she’s saying, “I am not protected. I’m uncovered.” When Ruth went to Boaz, what did she say to Boaz? “Spread your garment over me. Cover me. Be a covering for me.” Hair is a symbol of covering.

And when we talk about the issue of Christ and His hair, isn’t the Father Christ’s covering? And we talked about shoulder length hair, isn’t that a symbol of his covering in reference to the Father? Just think about those things. That was a slight diversion. It’s just something to think about; as Paul says, this is not a commandment. This is something to think about.

Now notice--notice the parallel. I spoke a little bit about this last night.

Ephesians 3:9 “And to make all *men* see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.”

Who created all things by whom? Jesus Christ. The Father created all things through his Son. The life passes from the Father through the Son and then all things are created. Do we see a parallel?

Genesis 4:1 “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, ‘I have gotten a man from the Lord.’”

And Adam knew his wife.... Do we see the parallel between the two, the husband and the wife reflecting the image of the Father and the Son?

Romans 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

Even his what? Eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. Now when you read the rest of Romans, chapter one from verse 20 onward, what does Paul go on to describe? Do we know the rest of that chapter? We better have a look. I want you to observe this--this is interesting. He is talking about the Godhead in Romans, chapter one, and the things that are made reflect God. They speak of God, and then, here is verse 21 of Romans,

(21) “Because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful...” Why did they not glorify Him as God? Because they embraced Nimrod’s lie. *You have life in yourself.* It’s a denial of who God really is, the Source of all life. **“...but became vain in their imaginations...”** --through the lie of the serpent--**“...and their foolish heart was darkened.”** They shut their will, and darkness came in. If the light of the eye is closed, then the whole body is full of darkness, didn’t Jesus say? **(22) “Professing themselves to be wise they became fools, (23) And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image of the corruptible man.”**

We can spend a lot of time in that verse. [They] changed the image of God into the lie of the serpent. And then notice how it goes, **“Wherefore also God gave them up to uncleanness through the lust of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between them and change the truth of God into a lie.”** And then **verse 26: “For this cause God gave them up to vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use of that which is against nature: (27) And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman. ...”** See how it starts in verse 20 talking about the image of God, and then it talks about the perversion of the male-female relationship. Can you see the connection? What is Paul trying to say here? I believe he is saying something very significant. That the perversion of the male-female relationship perverts the image of God, that we were created as man and woman. God made us for a special purpose, to reflect his image.

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image...’” Gen 1:26 and 27: “... according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,

over the birds of the air, and over the cattle...” God had dominion over the universe, Adam and Eve were given dominion over the earth. **“...and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (27) So God created man in His own image... ”**

Now I want you to know something, I don't know what your understanding is of a semicolon. What is a semicolon? What does it mean? It means that what is following is a further explanation of what's just being said. It's a continuation of what just has been said. And notice what it says,

God created man in his own image, semicolon, what comes next? In the image of God created He him, semicolon, further explanation, male and female created He them. Can you see it now with the semicolon? In the image of God created He him. He created Adam, but now out of Adam comes Eve in the image of God, and then further explanation, there is more to the story. Eve comes forth out of Adam, and this is in the image of God. The man and the woman--in the image of the Father and the Son. Can you see it in Scripture? And when we understand this, when we understand this reality about the Father and the Son, we then can understand how we should live as husband and wife. Could there be any more vital truth than this? Do you understand what I'm saying?

To know God is to know how to maintain the channel of blessing--the river of life to our families. To not know God, to have a wrong understanding of God is to destroy the blessing of God to your family. Can you see the power of this? I really pray that you can. It's really, really important--this particular issue. We must understand. **“This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent.”** Eternal life is to know God, to know Him aright, to understand Him, and in understanding Him, our families will reflect that understanding. If our families do not reflect that understanding, it doesn't matter what we profess, we still don't know God. If we know God, the blessing will begin to flow into our homes, because we are reflecting that image.

The Vital Process of Submission.

This is the next point; when we talk about a concept of submission, again, remember which kingdom that we are talking about. If God is the only source of life, then every other creature under that channel, must understand the principle of submission. Otherwise, you can't live. You must submit to the river; you must submit to the shower; you must submit to receive. If you don't submit, you die! There is nothing complicated about it. So, submission is a vital principle; learning how to submit to authority is a vital principle.

James 1:17 says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from...” Whom? “...the Father.” He is the One through which it comes. The Son--we see the Son in submission to the Father, and this is where the role of the Son is so, so vital. There is a relationship, a very close bond relationship between the Father and the Son. Jesus says, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” We see in the Son--if this whole blessing system is to work correctly, we need an example in the Universe of how to submit, because without submission there is no life. Jesus in his submission to the Father is our example in all things. He shows us how to connect to the Father, and that is the way; that is the truth, and that is how we receive life.

That’s why Christ is everything to us. His submission--you read all through the New Testament--you read Peter, you read James, Romans. Many of them are talking about submission, submission, submission, because in God’s kingdom, submission and authority are the keys. In Satan’s kingdom, independence and individuality are the keys. It is the central feature but not in God’s kingdom. In God’s kingdom it’s learning the principles of authority and submission to stay in line with this channel. There is a lot more that we can say about that and hopefully we can address more of that as we go.

We are showing this vital process; man comes first. What does it say in 1 Corinthians? That Christ is the head of man. He must be in submission to Christ. Christ is his example. He looks to Christ, he eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, figuratively as it says. He learns from Him, he receives from Him, so that he can be an effective husband and father for his wife and his children. He learns from Christ to submit and to lead, because Christ is a leader also.

The Bible refers to Christ as the everlasting Father, doesn’t it? In what context is that? Well, He is our Father in the context of submission, he shows us how to live; he is our example in all things. That’s why the Father has given Him a name above every name, because the Father says, “if you want to know how to live, look at my Son, listen to Him. He is the one that will show you how to connect to me.” The Father dwells in a light that no man can approach unto, but the Son is the One that is exalted, the key to the whole kingdom of God. That’s why He has a name above every name. He is the way, the truth and the life. Not only on this earth, but all through the Universe.

Proverbs 17:6 “Children’s children are the crown of old men, And the glory of children is their father.”

A woman comes into this channel of blessing. She comes in, and she recognizes that through her husband, there can flow a blessing to her through this channel, and we want to go into it a little bit later, because immediately the question comes. “Well, do all my blessings come through my husband?” Well, no, there are blessings that come from your mother and your father; there are blessings that come directly through the word of God, but in context to the community of faith and how we live

as families--because we live in families--there is the most powerful blessing that can come to us through this process of submission. And it comes from the father.

And in the Bible, those two are one flesh, and it says, **(Ephesians 5:24) "Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."** Now, again, when we read these verses, ask yourselves this question. Are we reading them in God's kingdom, or in Satan's kingdom? Do I say, and I've heard this many times, "I'm not going to submit. He is not worthy of submission; he is not worthy of respect because of the way he treats me." Is that the way the Bible teaches us? It doesn't. It's a challenging thing, but all of us are in this channel, all of us are in the process of submission.

All of us must learn to submit. There is no one that can escape the process of submission, except whom? The Father. He is the only one that does not submit to anyone, and of course, that's why he dwells in light which no one can approach unto. He doesn't set himself forth as an example of how to live, because he's not One who submits. He is the One who blesses; He is the Central One who blesses, and that's what is so wonderful about our Heavenly Father, that out of Him flows all this love and blessing, and He can give all of this to us, and He doesn't need anyone to put their arms around Him and tell Him He is okay. He has all of that within Himself, and that's a beautiful thing. I'm so thankful for the Father, that He can bless us like that and bless His Son, and bless husbands and wives. That's what's so wonderful about Him--that all this beautiful joy and love and peace comes out of the Father and it flows down to us.

John 5:19, 20. "Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. (20) For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.'"

"... for whatever He does, the Son also does..." (it flows through the channel). We see the process of this submission of the Son. He waits for His Father's word. He trusts that His Father can lead. He has implicit trust in His Father's ability to lead. He doesn't go, "Father, look, I really think that you got it wrong in this particular case. I think we should really do it this way." Does the Son ever do this? Never, never do we see in His process of submission, a point where He counter argues the Father, and second guesses His decision. He never does it. That's an important lesson for us, isn't it?

1 Peter 3:1-6 "Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, (2) when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear. (3) Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel—(4) rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle

and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. (5) For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, (6) as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”

1 Peter 3:4 “Rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.” Precious! That means something of high value, doesn't it?

(5) “For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God...” Notice how it says the women who trusted that God was doing the right thing in regards to those who are women. **“...also adorned themselves being submissive to their own husbands...”** And then Peter goes on, **“...as Sarah obeyed Abraham...”**

When we think of our modern culture, when we think of a concept of a wife being obedient to her husband, does that ring true? There is something in my upbringing, my culture, that says that's not right. Women shouldn't obey their husbands, they're equal That's what my natural inclination says, but the Bible is saying something different. The Bible speaks about obedience to the leadership of the husband. There is something about me that gets a bit nervous about it, that says, “I'm not sure about this,” but it goes on and it says, “Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord...” What's the word Lord in Greek? It's *κύριος* (kurios) which means master, or sir.

Should a wife call her husband master or sir? We are getting some smiles. And in respecting their husbands in this way, what are they doing? They're insuring that the blessing to the best of their ability will flow. They are mimicking Christ's submission to the Father, and they are insuring to the best of their ability. Now, we need to speak obviously about, and we're going to get more into this, how the husband needs to foster his wife's respect for him, to make it easy for her to respect him. Many men make it very hard, and because of the culture that we are in, many men today are not trying to be men. They're still boys in men's bodies, and it's very, very hard for a woman to respect and submit to a man that's a boy. You don't have to say anything, ladies. I counsel with enough people to know about how hard that can be and how--talk about the patience of the saints. It's not easy.

But that does not negate, that doesn't mean, “Well, because my husband is a boy, I can ignore this text,” does it? We have to wrestle with the text and say, “Well, Lord, in this situation, how do I deal with this text? Is it right for me to assume the mantle of leadership in the home and to make up for the lack of my husband?” Well, that's not what the Bible is telling us. This process of submission, and I might just add and say this, at least from my perspective, knowing that my wife is making every effort on her behalf to trust in my leadership, I have found over the years that I have become more and more sensitive to go to God to ensure that the decisions I make do not adversely affect her. Do you see what I'm saying?

Because she is trusting in me, and if I get it wrong, it's going to make it hard for her. You see? And I don't want to do that. I don't want to do that to my wife, because we are one flesh. If I hurt her, I hurt myself. I cause pain for myself. And you could say from a selfish point of view, I don't want to cause pain for myself. But I don't want to cause pain for my wife, either, so I'm going to cry saying, "Is this the right thing, Lord? Is this the best thing for my wife? In doing this am I blessing her, or am I hurting her? Tell me. Give me wisdom; give me understanding on this point. I want to do the right thing." A man, whose wife submits to him, I believe, becomes a more prayerful man, if he is open to the Spirit of God, that he makes the right decisions. And it's my wife that gives me the confidence to act in a role of leadership. In many respects, it's a wife's submission to her husband that releases her husband into manhood. You understand what I'm saying?

A woman who is a mother, can, in many situations, not allow her husband to act as a husband, but because he's still a boy she can actually, without realizing it, keep her husband as a boy while mothering him, telling him what to do, and guiding him, and then the husband in many cases lets the wife lead the home. But a home like that can never prosper, because it's not in God's order. It's not the way God designed things, and it will cause pain, and the man will never become a man, he will stay a boy. And you see, particularly the Australian culture, where you see the typical Australian male, he is someone who drinks a lot of alcohol, plays sports, he is a bit of a larrikin, mucks around, and the wife takes care of the family, pays all the bills, and looks after everything.

Is that a fairly, typical of the Australian male? That's a Nimrod/Semiramis equation. That's where the mother is taking care of the son, and it's great for the son. He has no responsibilities, he can do whatever he likes, and the wife has to clean up the mess, and he doesn't care. And then suddenly ten years later he finds himself divorced and she's left and gone off with someone who shows her love and appreciation. Satan has got it all sown up, because you can't live without appreciation, year after year after year. The heart becomes so depressed and dejected, that the woman becomes vulnerable to Satan's temptations to find love somewhere else. And we see this played out everywhere, and we can say, "Oh yeah, you know, she was terrible for leaving and doing all those things," but we all cry out for love. We need to be loved, and we become exposed to temptations, that otherwise would not come if we were in God's order. I better move along.

The Role of the Husband and Father

So the role of the husband, just very briefly, is to lead. I won't read through all the verses. You can read this and pick it up in the video later on. **1 Timothy 3:1-4**, about commanding his children. In **Genesis 18:19**, God says, "**I know Abraham, that he**

will command his children after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and righteousness, that I may bring to Abraham all that I promise.” That verse in Genesis 18:19 is so powerful. God promised a blessing upon Abraham, but in Genesis 18:19, it was conditional upon the right structuring of the family, that Abraham would command, as in lead, with a steady and a firm hand, lead his family after him, that they keep the way of the Lord.

And this is just on a side note, if you read in 1 Timothy 3:1-4, one of the qualifications of an elder is based on this text. It says an elder must rule his house, so if in God’s order, if the understanding of God is correct, that the Father is the head, and that the husband represents that particular role, what happens when we come, in the church, we come to a woman and ask her to be an elder. What are we saying? You must rule your home, and if we are saying that the woman must rule the home, what have we just done to the channel of blessing? We just cut it! Just killed it!

I fear for women who are being placed in a position of eldership. They have cut the blessing to their home, because they’ve been placed in a position of leadership that they were never asked to fulfill according to Scripture. And many do it unknowingly, and maybe at times it’s ignorance God winks at, but it doesn’t prevent the cursing from still coming, does it? Where families are pulled apart and torn apart because of these issues.

To bless, the role of a husband, Genesis 12, speaks of the blessing. You read all about the patriarchs, how that they would call their children and they would bless them. Genesis 49 goes right through Jacob’s blessing his children. It says at the end, and he would bless his children. And I want you to just think about this concept, and it’s an act that every time a child that’s born into the world, the husband has the seed, and he gives that seed to his wife, and she nurtures that seed into a child, That process doesn’t end when a child is born. The words that a father speaks are seed, and he speaks those words to his children, and he puts it in the soil of the mind of his children, and then the mother takes that seed and she nurtures that seed, and the child grows in stature and wisdom, and in favor with God and man.

That’s the way it was designed; the male continues to seed. It says in Proverbs that life and death are in the power of the tongue. Life comes from the tongue; the seed comes from the tongue. I mean, God’s word here is referred to as a seed, isn’t it? And when we think about it carefully, when we are filled with the Spirit of Christ, and we are filled with the desire to bless our children and the words that we speak as they come out of our mouths, whose words are they? The Father’s word. It comes out of our mouths, when we bless, and it’s the seed, and it goes into the hearts of the children. Now, when the child has a sense of his security in the father’s love the mother’s job is made so much easier, to nurture and raise that child to fear the Lord. Do you see what I’m saying?

This is a really, really important principle as husbands and wives work together to seed with thought of blessing, and this is what we want to do this afternoon in our blessing ceremony--to put a word of blessing upon a young person, and say to them, you are special; you are important. That seed lodges in the mind of a young person, and when Satan comes and says, "You are not special; you are worthless," that seed is there and it says, "No, I am special." He at least has an opportunity now to fight Satan. "No, I've been told that I'm special, and I remember. I have memories. I even have the pictures to prove that there are people who believe that I'm special, so Satan, no. I don't want your drugs, I don't want your immoralities, I don't want your movies and your games. I don't want any of that stuff! I want Jesus, because I know I'm special." This is the way it was designed to be.

To provide, it says in 1 Timothy that if a man does not provide for his family is worse than an infidel. And the most important thing that a man needs to provide is spiritual food, to bless--to bless his home.

The last thing is to protect--protection. I have learned in my experience, because of this channel concept, that when I engage, because I am the husband of the home, I am the house band, I am the protector of my home, that when I engage in activity that is contrary to the word of God, I open the door for Satan to come in and attack my family. Now, you think about this for a moment, where, say that I'm engaged in some little compromise with the devil, it's only a little sin; it's only a little thing, I open the door, and because I now am in a spirit of rebellion to God, aren't I? That spirit then suddenly washes over my son, doesn't it? And suddenly he starts to act in rebellion towards me.

And then Satan comes to me and says, "Your son is disobeying your authority, put him back in his place," and so you come down hard on him because you are disconnected now from the channel of blessing. You are not acting as Christ would act. You're acting as a tyrant. You are acting as Satan would act, and you come down hard and bang on your child! But whose fault was it? It's my fault, not his fault. We talk so much about bad children, but where does the badness come from? If we are in a channel of blessing concept, where does the badness come from? See, this is the stupidity of Satan's lie. We look at our children and often say how evil and how bad they are, but that's an inherent life source concept. That evil and that badness come from us and from the community that we live in! Let's not blame the children for this. Let's put responsibility where it belongs--on us--not our children!

Now, we can't always insure that our children will be righteous and follow us, and yes, they come to a point, later on in life, where they can make decisions against us, and step outside of that channel, but particularly in the early years, in the younger years, when they are more open to us and they've less understanding of their own free choice, we have an opportunity to lay a ground work to insure that we stay friends with them for the rest of their lives, and to protect them.

Same principle when a husband says, "I think we should do this," and the wife says, "No, I think we should do this." The wife then places an example on her children, "Ah," the child goes, "that's how you treat the father." And so the child, when the mother goes, "Can you do this for me?" and the child goes, "No," the mother goes, "Where did you learn to do that?" Where did he learn to do that? From the mother.

Or if the father says no to God, or if the father says no to established authority in the community or God, Himself, and then the child acts in a disobedient way, we start to discipline them. But where did they learn to do it? They learned in the channel--in the channel of blessing. We talk about all things we do to keep our children faithful. The best way to keep your children faithful, is to be faithful, and then it will just flow onto them.

Yes, there are challenges. Yes, there are things that we have to work and pray through, but it'll be a lot easier because no negative influence is coming upon them. I had one particular situation, and I'm happy to mention this, where we had a computer game come into the home, that seemed fairly innocent. I didn't vet it carefully, because I was busy preparing sermon material--lesson for us, and I saw my son playing this game and he seemed to be reasonably okay with it, and then something impressed me, *Go and have a look at this game. Go and check it out*, and then I say, "What's going on Son? Okay, we'll play it together," and we are playing this game together, and it seemed fairly innocent to begin with, but then all of a sudden, this image came up that I knew was not from God, and it was part of the game.

All of a sudden, because now I was engaged in the game myself, even though I was checking it out, a door opened, and suddenly my other son started screaming. The mood in the home became very intense. I knew immediately that it had opened the door, and I said, "Son, we've stepped out of the channel of blessing. This game has affected our home." I grabbed it, took it out, put it in the box, and went straight to the shop and handed it back--got it out of the house instantly. That was bad news. And things that can be so innocent, and you think you just have a simple little row at home, there are reasons why the family has erupted. Satan's being given entrance into the home. He is getting access through rebellion and disobedience to God. Its not just part of life, its part of death. That's why there's a battle.

We must protect ourselves, and this is why we've been told to have morning and evening worship. It's the covering that protects us--to pray every morning. You know, one person said a number of years ago, "I would not want to live or stay in a house where they didn't have morning and evening worship, because evil influences could come into that home." Now, I understand the content of what she's talking about there. The point is, we need protection. And the role of the husband/father is to protect. What did Job do for his children? He prayed for them, "peradventure they might have sinned."

That's not a nicety. That's mandatory, for fathers to pray for their children, and you think about the thoughts that you think toward your children coming from your Father in heaven, and as you think those thoughts, and I often pray. I pray, "Lord, he is my son, wherever he goes and wherever he is with his friends, fill his mind with good thoughts, bless him, keep him from the evil one, protect him." That's my role. Don't go, "I bet my boy, I bet he is with those boys, and he is doing this and he is doing that." What are you doing? You're putting doubt onto your children. Pray blessing onto your children. Don't put doubt upon them and feel like, "Well, they're going to do the wrong thing, and I mistrust them." We often send mistrust words at children because we don't understand the blessing concept that our children are desperately affected by how we think and how we live. All right, I better move on.

The Role of the Wife and Mother

The role of the wife, submission: the process of submission (is) to teach our children how to submit. The nurturing concept: to take the seed of the husband both physically and spiritually and to nurture it, and to make it into something beautiful. To provide gifts of hospitality, to provide for her home, to look after... That's a nurturing concept, and again to protect as a hen gathers her chickens, and we know this, that in the Spirit of Christ, there is a beautiful sense of protection of a mother for her children, and how that a mother is even willing to lay down her life for her children.

And of course you know the story of the hen, that when a fire came through, she gathered all of her chickens, and they're under her. The fire came over and she was killed, and when someone came along and they saw a turf on the ground and when they kicked the turf there were little chickens running around. A mother gave her life for her children. It's a symbol of Christ, isn't it? It's a beautiful symbol. Protection. It's her role to protect her children, to ensure that her children are being cared for, to pray for her children, to pray a blessing over the children. That's the role of the wife.

We need to deal with this issue of equality, just briefly as we finish.

If a wife must submit to a husband, how then can she be equal? Because equality is a big question today in our world, isn't it? To be equal. Because when you submit to someone in a worldly concept, that means you are inferior, doesn't it? If you are the top you are superior, and when you speak to your superiors, is that a biblical term? Interesting, isn't it?

Let's think about equality, just briefly. Does submission mean inferiority? Most people believe it does, even if they don't say it. They believe that it does. It means

inferiority. That's why many churches ordain women as elders and pastors, to deal with this issue, because submission means inferiority. That's not the way you get equality. You come back to the Bible, and you see what the Bible says about equality. What makes men and women equal? This is the question we need to deal with, what makes them equal? I thought you might find this picture interesting.

Is it strength? Intellect? Talent? Is that what makes men and women equal? Sorry, it's stupid to even make the comparison, and yet we do. You know, we often have the stuff coming on the news where it says that [among] children in grade 12, the girls on average are getting 20% higher grades than boys. What are we saying when we say that? We are saying that girls are better. Thank you, Mr. Rockefeller, for putting out this propaganda for us. What's the point in all of this? Intellect. When we pit one another against each other in terms of strength, can we say that in some respects women are stronger than men? How many men here had a baby?

There is one in the planet. Oh, you felt the pain. I saw my wife endured pain that I could never endure. She had strength beyond what I could ever endure. I wouldn't have survived. So women have strength, don't they? Men have strength--brawn. We could go on and on about these things, you know. We have these little quips, that say, you know, that the husband is the head, but the woman is the neck and she turns it wherever she wants. Have you heard that before? You haven't? Sorry, I'm exposing you to things that you shouldn't hear. I think that's called manipulation, actually.

But in Satan's kingdom, this is how men and women are equal. We call it "affirmative action." You know, making sure that men and women have jobs in higher positions. It's a constant thing that's going on--making sure that men and women have the same positions, the same power. Now when it comes to the issue of pay, I don't see any reason why women shouldn't be paid the same as a man to do the same job, of course. I think it's unjust not to do that. That's a completely separate issue.

But when we pit one another against each other, this is, we can see it in their eyes, (mentioning the picture above) I can see the spirit of Satan. Can you? Maybe they're only pretending, but in many homes, this is how husbands and wives--this is the actual picture of the relationship of the husband and the wife. They're pitted against each other. It's all submerged, but it's there. If we come back to what the Bible teaches, you go back to Genesis, and how it conditions equality.

Genesis 2:20 "So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper..." What? "...comparable to him."

So we understand that God made Adam, and He gave him a garden and he [Adam] named all the animals. He was there, he was made first. God breathed into his

nostrils. Adam named all the animals, he had a home, he had everything, didn't he, that this world could offer? But what was he missing? A companion. Could you imagine Adam going down to the zebra and unburdening his soul? There's just something not right about it, is there? It's just not right. The zebra can't understand. What is it that makes a woman equal with a man in terms of the issue of equality from the Bible?

In God's kingdom value comes through the father's blessing, and equality is *relational*--the ability of the woman to understand the man, to understand his feelings, to understand his emotions, his joys, his sorrows--[to be] his companion. The equality is in the relational realm, but as for the roles that they occupy, in terms of headship and submission and leadership, they have different roles, but the equality is in their relationship. Do you see what I'm saying?

In Satan's kingdom, value is through inherent displays of power, the equality of inherent power, ability, skill, intellect, and talent. Can you see how Satan has completely messed up our families through the lie of the serpent? So we don't have a channel system anymore, we have a balanced system? It's called give and take. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays you can lead, and on the other days I'll lead, or however you work it out.

Equality is equality of relationships, not equality of power. When you take this concept on board, we can be released from all of this garbage that has been foisted onto us, and notice in this system that the channel of blessing has been broken. The channel of blessing has been cut off. All Satan has to do to cut off the father's blessing to the children is to cause a belief system to come in that men and women are equal based on power, to destroy the concept of authority and submission, and then he's got it. Our children immediately become part of his kingdom. He has got us without any difficulty whatsoever.

Why is the gate narrow, and why is the way so hard? Because Satan destroys our families. If our families were after God's order, he would find it much harder to pull us apart.

The lie of the serpent destroys the channel of blessing. This is the point. That statement, "You shall not surely die," is what rips our families apart. It causes us to become confused about where life and blessings come from, it causes us to despise authority; it causes us to reject the system that God has set up--that God has set up an order so that we can be blessed. And I want you to remember again those comments we read before [where the children were] speaking about their fathers. That sense of emotion, that sense of joy! That's what we want coming through to our children, isn't it? It can only come through the correct roles of the husband and

the wife reflecting the image of the Father and the Son. That's how the blessing comes to us.

And now that Jesus has reconnected us, He is coming to the desert; the root has grown out of a dry ground; He's reconnected us. Our families now can receive, and so we, like Abraham, as fathers we can command our families after us that God may fulfill in us the blessing. As it says, "all the families of the earth will be blessed through the "way you do" family. That's what it says. The way you do family, Abraham, all the families of the earth will be blessed. And that's what Elijah is calling us to--back to Abraham's family system. That's what we need in these last days, so that we can face the tyrants that are building their empire ready to take control of the whole world. Only those who have a true understanding of who they are, a true understanding of who God is, and has his family system will go through the last great conflict, because they know who they are. Jesus got through the temptations in the wilderness, because He knew who He was, and He knew how to hang on to the blessing.

Let's pray.

Father in heaven, we just thank You so much that You've given us families. We thank You for all the fathers and the mothers that are present here. Lord, let us look deeper into these things, give us wisdom. Many of us have been hurt by bad family relationships; we carry scars which make it hard for us to be the mothers and the fathers that we need to be. But You can heal us Father; we see in You the perfect example of what a family is meant to be, and Lord we pray that You will open that fountain to us. And Lord, I pray for the children that are present here. Lord, bless them. Let them know that they are loved--greatly loved by You, that You formed them in the womb, that You think about them all the time, that they are precious. May they know this. And I pray that as we continue to look at these subjects, that we will move further and further away from Satan's kingdom till we become as is promised--that fortress, impregnable, where Satan cannot break through and destroy. And we thank You, in Jesus' name. Amen.