

The Staff and The Sword Ministry

Relationship Reports

RELATIONSHIP REPORTS February 1984 to January 1985

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RELATIONSHIP



PART 12 BALANCE

CARNAL MIND-SPIRITUAL MIND TRANSITION

As we pursue a deeper living relationship with Jesus Christ, we are ever moving from the carnal-minded state into the spiritual-minded state. Like the pendulum of a clock, we tend to swing from the carnal-mindedness to spiritual-mindedness with regularity.

But, the more we seek to enter into Jesus' Love and to abide, the more we become spiritual-minded and the less we are carnal-minded. This has been my experience.

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In this TRANSITIONAL STATE, we tend to experience extremes in the carnal state and spiritual state and might even come to regard the carnal mind as the enemy.

The Apostle Paul wrote about this in the book of Romans: ***“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace . . . but if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, HE that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by HIS Spirit that dwelleth in you. . . . For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God [emphasis added].” (Romans 8:6, 10, 14).***

PARALLEL TERMS

It is recognized by revelation that our soul is also THE WOMAN often referred to in the Bible. And, our Spirit in Christ is also THE MAN often referred to in the Bible. So, here we find another set of parallel terms: the CARNAL MIND is THE WOMAN is the soul, and the SPIRITUAL MIND is THE MAN is the Spirit in Christ.

Just as long as we are ruled by OUR WOMAN, we are carnal minded and this is death. But, it is the rule of the carnal mind that leads to death, and the carnal mind is not itself death. As we look back to the Garden of Eden, we see Adam’s WOMAN (soul) ruling and, thus, determining that he should eat of the fruit of knowledge of good evil. As a result, so came death.

As long as the carnal mind rules in us, it will always lead us to death but it is not of itself death but only subject to the traps of death.

A BALANCE VIEW

So, in a BALANCE VIEW is the carnal mind to be hated? Is it to be considered the enemy? Is it to be destroyed? Some think so, but it is not true in any respect.

How then are we to regard our carnal minds? If you have entered into Jesus’ Love and abide, He will teach you and you will know. But, if you are seeking to enter, then let this be a teaching to understand the need of balance in all views.

Paul often, if speaking to the carnal-minded babes in Christ, used natural things to open the awareness of God’s carnal minded babes to spiritual truths, and the marriage relationship was one he used strongly. Indeed, a husband and wife are not unlike the relationship between the Spiritual man in Christ and the carnal mind. More, this speaks also of the mystery of Christ and His Body.

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The question is how do we possess our souls, which are also the carnal mind we have? Do we subjugate our carnal mind with force or fear? This is contrary to the Law of Jesus' Love! Do we oppress our carnal minds with Laws, and rules, and regulations? This is carnal mindedness and not pleasing to God!

But, ask yourself: in a good marriage how does the husband establish himself as head over his wife? Those who do not possess their wives are ruled by them and those that subjugate them with force and fear rule them with carnal minds. Yet, those that LOVE their wives possess them in Love, and while such Love appears to have no rules or boundaries or limits, the wife that loved, loves her lover and there is harmony and proper order.

TRANSFORMATION

Indeed Jesus' Love would quicken the mortal body, and the mortal body includes the soul, which is "the woman", which is the "carnal mind", and His Love would transform.

In the process of transformation, we are yielded to God's Will for us, and the Spirit of God tailors to each, according to the need, that way He would lead us, that we be set free in Christ of the handicaps of the carnal mindedness we have.

THE WAYS OF GOD ARE NOT OUR WAYS—this is another problem area.

Just as Jesus first loved us in the sinful state we were in, even dead to God, so we in His example need love our very souls, though carnal minded, otherwise we cannot love others around us subject to the same carnal nature. Loving the sinner but hating the sin is done only with Jesus' Love perfectly, but carnal minded brethren, or those who live by law, would strongly dispute such a Love, seeing in it weakness and disaster. Yet these same would as easily quote the Scripture "Love the sinner, hate the sin," seeing the truth in part, but be unable to live it for want of Jesus' Love leading them.

In each of us, out of a lifetime of undisciplined image making, we have programmed ourselves to be inclined to sin: this we have also restrained with the power of our souls; but nonetheless, we are subject to it. Remove the restraints, and let there be opportunity, and we easily fall to temptations and so sin. We hate that sin, but are condemned by ourselves because of it, and this produces an ever-greater fear and that becomes terrible torment, for we know the right but do what's wrong.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are purified by the fire of Jesus' Love of these inner inclinations, but God moves in many ways to free us, and in ways that men will not approve of in their carnal mindedness.

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This is why each of us need the more enter into a living relationship with Jesus and abide the more in His Love, for in our humanness and weaknesses we will surely waver at times when men condemn us or when we condemn ourselves.

THE ANSWER: JESUS' LOVE

But, the answer is in all Love, and knowing Jesus' Love, seeing the need that Paul saw to state:

“There is, therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1).

As we walk after the Spirit, which is Jesus' Love, we yield ourselves, Trust Him and let go bit by bit, the restraints we have long maintained over the flesh. It is in itself the very act of dying to self, for we recognize the more that we have never conquered sin but only contained it, that we have never overcome sin but are overcome by it whether it be restrained or pursued openly. We recognize that we are absolutely helpless against it, but now we see the blessed Hope of deliverance from this law of sin and death is in Jesus' Love and being the more yielded to Him.

As our hearts are wholly set on Him and His Will, this sin nature may be loosed but now as we enter the more in Jesus' Love, Love will overcome it when we could not, fear will be cast out and the power of the carnal mindedness we have fades and dies—its power is broken in us, and the more we enter into the perfecting power of Jesus' Love and are set free.

And, while we so focus ourselves on Jesus and His great Love, whatsoever is apparent in us to men is under God's Grace and there is no condemnation but all leads now to freedom in Christ.

Were the Church today a place of abiding Love of Jesus, abiding in Jesus' Love, filled with Grace and Peace, Joy and Compassion, men would be set free in that environ of love without terrible trials but the Church is not so, yet even so, if we be led by the Spirit of God, we will be set free and see His Love Power overcome in us what we could never accomplish.

GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT MAN'S WAYS

So, while we seek Jesus with all our hearts and move into the transition from CARNAL MINDS to SPIRITUAL MINDS in Christ, we need also be aware to have balance in our views of all JESUS does in us. We need be mindful to ever yield to JESUS and trust JESUS, to stand knowingly in His Grace (suffering no condemnations and accepting none), until Love (Jesus' Love) perfects us and frees us according to His Will and Plan.

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That's A LOT TO GRASP ALL AT ONCE! But, it is easy IN JESUS. Indeed God's Ways are not man's ways!

God Bless,

Chuck-JOHNEL