

VVM- Cyclical Lesson 14

Cultivate Good Relationships! “Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don’t see things the way you do. And don’t jump all over them every time they do or say something you don’t agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.” (Rom 14.1 MSG)

1. New Creation – (Eph 2:12-15)

- a. (KJV) that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace
- b. (TPT) you were without the covenants and prophetic promises of the Messiah, the promised hope, and without God. *Yet look at you now! Everything is new!* Although you were once distant and far away from God, now you have been brought delightfully close to him through the sacred blood of Jesus—you have actually been united to Christ! Our reconciling “Peace” is Jesus! He has made Jew and non-Jew one *in Christ*. *By dying as our sacrifice, he has broken down every wall of prejudice that separated us and has now made us equal through our union with Christ*. Ethnic hatred has been dissolved by the crucifixion of his precious body on the cross. The legal code that stood condemning every one of us has now been repealed *by his command*. His triune essence has made peace between us by starting over—*forming one new race of humanity*, Jews and non-Jews fused together in himself!
- c. (AMPC) [Remember] that you were at that time separated (living apart) from Christ [excluded from all part in Him], utterly estranged *and* outlawed from the rights of Israel as a nation, and strangers with no share in the sacred compacts of the [Messianic] promise [with no knowledge of or right in God's agreements, His covenants]. And you had no hope (no promise); you were in the world without God. But *now in Christ Jesus, you who once were [so] far away, through (by, in) the blood of Christ have been brought near*. For He is [Himself] our peace (our *bond of unity and harmony*). *He has made us both [Jew and Gentile] one [body]*, and has broken down (destroyed, abolished) the hostile dividing wall between us, By abolishing in His [own crucified] flesh the enmity [caused by] the Law with its decrees and ordinances [which He annulled]; that He from the two might create in Himself one new man [one new quality of humanity out of the two], so making peace.
- d. (MSG) But don’t take any of this for granted. It was only yesterday that you outsiders to God’s ways had no idea of any of this, didn’t know the first thing about the way God works, hadn’t the faintest idea of Christ. You knew nothing of that rich history of God’s covenants and promises in Israel, hadn’t a clue

Commented [BC1]: Outside of Jesus there is NO PROMISE of a good expected end

Commented [BC2]: There is no longer Jew & Gentile because of Jesus. All are ONE in Him & nothing outside Him

Commented [BC3]: Racism is foolishness. ONE race in Adam, ONE race in Jesus. He is the only way for Peace !

Commented [BC4]: A NEW RACE of humanity on the planet. No race, creed or sex divides Kingdom Citizens

Commented [BC5]: Only the BLOOD of Jesus brings a person close to God, and into Unity/Harmony with mankind

about what God was doing in the world at large. Now because of Christ—dying that death, shedding that blood—you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything. The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody.

Commented [BC6]: Christians are a breath of fresh air for humanity. The last race of mankind that brings hope!

2. Soul Renewal /Discipline the Flesh– (Eph 4:17-18)

- a. (KJV) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
- b. (TPT) So with the wisdom given to me from the Lord I say: You should not live like the unbelievers around you who walk in their empty delusions. Their corrupted logic has been clouded because their hearts are so far from God—their blinded understanding and deep-seated moral darkness keeps them from the true knowledge of God.
- c. (AMPC) you must no longer live as the heathen (the Gentiles) do in their perverseness [in the folly, vanity, and emptiness of their souls and the futility] of their minds. Their moral understanding is darkened *and* their reasoning is beclouded. [They are] alienated (estranged, self-banished) from the life of God [with no share in it; this is] because of the ignorance (the want of knowledge and perception, the willful blindness) that is deep-seated in them, due to their hardness of heart [to the insensitiveness of their moral nature].
- d. (MSG) And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore.

Commented [BC7]: Why do you strive with unrenewed thinkers? Everything they say is from a visionless view

Commented [BC8]: Translated: "delusional opinions". Why give ear to their emptiness? Just Love them!

Commented [BC9]: They have CHOSEN to be blind. They have banished themselves from God. Pray for them!

Commented [BC10]: The longer you spend time with God, the more TRUTH & REALITY you will walk in!

Commented [BC11]: Stop listening to the talking heads. Stop the frustration. The world doesn't think correctly

3. Love Character – (Jude 1:20)

- a. (KJV) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
- b. (TPT) But you, *my* delightfully loved friends, constantly and progressively build yourselves up on the foundation of your most holy faith by praying every moment in the Spirit. Fasten your hearts to the love of God and receive the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gives us eternal life.
- c. (AMPC) But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit; Guard *and* keep yourselves in the love of God; expect *and* patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)–[which will bring you] unto life eternal.
- d. (MSG) But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God's love, keeping your arms open and outstretched, ready for the mercy of our Master, Jesus Christ. This is the unending life, the *real* life!

Commented [BC12]: The best way to build & keep yourself in LOVE is to pray in the heavenly language!

Commented [BC13]: Your devotional prayer language in tongues allows The Holy Spirit to lead you into the power realm. DO IT NON-STOP!

Commented [BC14]: By living in REPENTANCE and THANKGIVING for His mercy you can have a good expectation

Commented [BC15]: Allowing the Holy Spirit to pray perfect prayers through you, is a guarantee you remain in LOVE

Kingdom Stewardship

(2 Cor 9:12-13)

- a. (KJV) For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for *your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men*
- b. (TPT) The priestly ministry you are providing through your offering not only supplies what is lacking for God's people, it inspires an outpouring of praises and thanksgiving to God himself. For as your extremely generous offering meets the approval *of those in Jerusalem*, it will cause them to give glory to God—all because of *your loyal support and allegiance to the gospel of Christ*, as well as your generous-hearted partnership with them toward those in need
- c. (MSG) Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. *It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God.* This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ

Commented [BC16]: When we GIVE FINANCES to the work of the Gospel we are meeting the needs of believers!

Commented [BC17]: Can you say that you are EXTREMELY GENEROUS in your giving unto the body of Christ?

Commented [BC18]: Did you know that God sees GIVING as a priestly ministry? Kings who are priests

Commented [BC19]: God is looking for someone to partner with Him in FUNDING THE WORD of God into the earth

Commented [BC20]: Have you taken the opportunity to be the reason why Christians give God thanks, because of the MONEY THAT YOU GAVE THEM ?