

VVM- Cyclical Lesson 15

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 2:19-22)

- a. (KJV) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.
- b. (TPT) So, you are not foreigners or guests, but rather you are the children of the city of the holy ones, with all the rights as family members of the household of God. *You are rising like the perfectly fitted stones of the temple*; and your lives have been built up together upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, and best of all, you are connected to the Head Cornerstone of the building, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ himself! This entire building is under construction and is continually growing under his supervision until it rises up completed as the holy temple of the Lord himself. *This means that God is transforming each one of you into the Holy of Holies, his dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you!*
- c. (AMPC) Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints (God's own people, consecrated and set apart for Himself); and you belong to God's [own] household. *You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself the chief Cornerstone. In Him the whole structure is joined (bound, welded) together harmoniously, and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, consecrated, and sacred to the presence of the Lord]. In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you yourselves also are being built up [into this structure] with the rest, to form a fixed abode (dwelling place) of God in (by, through) the Spirit.*
- d. (MSG) That’s plain enough, isn’t it? You’re no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. *You’re no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone.* God is building a home. He’s using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he’s using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Commented [BC1]: Do you view yourself as a citizen of heaven? And in the ROYAL FAMILY of God with the angels?

Commented [BC2]: God never intended on living in a building. He always wanted to dwell in His creation

Commented [BC3]: Jude 20: rise like an edifice higher, praying in the Holy Spirit. Tongues expands you to fit in!

Commented [BC4]: Do you see yourself as the HOLIEST PLACE for God to dwell? Purer than any temple?

Commented [BC5]: See your leg of the JOURNEY as important. They began building, last days church will cap it off !

Commented [BC6]: The NEW MAN has gained heaven's access, and all the covenants/promises that are included

2. Soul Renewal /Discipline the Flesh– (James 4:1)

- a. (KJV) From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?
- b. (TPT) What is the cause of your conflicts and quarrels with each other? Doesn't the battle begin inside of you as you fight to have your own way and fulfill your own desires?
- c. (AMPC) WHAT LEADS to strife (discord and feuds) *and* how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are *ever warring in your bodily members?*
- d. (MSG) Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because *you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves*

Commented [BC7]: Do you see selfishness popping up in your life? That is the FLESH taking a DOMINANT POSITION over your spirit

Commented [BC8]: You must first recognize the personal battle you are in. Then you must kill the part of you that has DECLARED WAR with you. Peace is not possible!

Commented [BC9]: The war with CARNALITY. Crucify the imposter who is trying to edge out the New Man.

Commented [BC10]: When you are SELFISH you need to recognize the need for a CALL TO WAR. Fasting does wonders to shut down any flesh that arises

3. Love Character – (Rom 13:8,10)

- a. (KJV) Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.
- b. (TPT) Don't owe anything to anyone, except your outstanding debt to continually love one another, for the one who learns to love has fulfilled every requirement of the law. Love makes it impossible to harm another, so love fulfills all that the law requires.
- c. (AMPC) Keep out of debt *and* owe no man anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor [who practices loving others] has fulfilled the Law [relating to one's fellowmen, meeting all its requirements]. Love does no wrong to one's neighbor [it never hurts anybody]. Therefore love meets all the requirements *and* is the fulfilling of the Law.
- d. (MSG) Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is *love*.

Commented [BC11]: Here are two COMMANDS: Stay out of debt & Love each other! Interesting combination

Commented [BC12]: The ONLY debt God wants you to have is the indebtedness of Love! GET OUT of financial debt

Commented [BC13]: If you read any Old testament law concerning humanity, it can be fulfilled by "Loving them"

Commented [BC14]: The Old testament has two LAWS OF LOVE: love towards God & love towards humanity

Kingdom Stewardship

(2 Cor 9:9-11)

- a. (KJV) He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: His righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.
- b. (TPT) Because he has sown extravagantly and given to the poor, his kindness and generous deeds will never be forgotten. This generous God who supplies abundant seed for the farmer, *which becomes* bread for our meals, is even more extravagant toward you. First he supplies every need, plus more. Then he multiplies the seed *as you sow it*, so that the harvest of your generosity will grow. You will be abundantly enriched in every way *as you give generously on every occasion*, for when we take your gifts to those in need, it causes many to give thanks to God.
- c. (MSG) He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out. This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

Commented [BC15]: Can you say that your GIVING has been dispersed abroad...or has it been sporadic "hit and miss" ?

Commented [BC16]: Do you recognize when God has given you MONEY to give, and when the MONEY is for you to spend/pay? THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

Commented [BC17]: Stingy Christians do not see the abundant supply He provides. Fear towards MONEY prevents generosity

Commented [BC18]: It is biblical TO GIVE WITH AN EXPECTATION OF REWARD. He wants to multiply your seed gifts!

Commented [BC19]: Can you say that you are on par with biblical giving? Are you GENEROUS ON EVERY OCCASION?

Commented [BC20]: Does this statement of a cheerful giver apply to you? Are you RECKLESSLY ABANDONED to give? Don't expect abundance until you qualify for it.

