

The Government of Heaven is Family

Then God said, "Let **Us** make man in Our **image**, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**" (Genesis 1:26-28)

The Trinity is the original relationship. Relationship is the highest priority of God, and all of scripture **must** be understood from this perspective. We had to be made in His image so we could relate to Him. It was not good for Adam to be alone. This relational government of love (aka family) was always meant to expand and fully cover the earth.

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God." (Revelation 19:7-9)

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, **coming down out of heaven from God**, (Revelation 21:9-10)

At the end of time our relationship with the Father through Jesus will be sealed and celebrated for all eternity. This relational government is pictured as a city coming down out of heaven.

Process questions:

1. How do you define "relationship?" What types of relationships do you have or have had in the past? Write a list of these types.
2. Describe the level of importance that relationships have for you.
3. How do you demonstrate (or not demonstrate) that level of importance by your choices and actions?
4. What needs to change, if anything, with regard to how you value relationships and how you demonstrate that value?

What does this kind of government look like?

And He said, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his

stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, '**Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet;** and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' And he said to him, '**Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.** 'But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'"

The primacy of relationship is clearly illustrated.

Robe, ring and sandals prophetically signify a recovery of our true identity.

Robe = sonship.

Ring = authority.

Sandals = purpose.

The younger lost it and was restored. The older never knew what he had all along.

Process questions:

1. What challenges you most about the way the father in this story responded to his sons?
2. Who do you identify most closely with in this story, the younger or older son, and why?
3. How have you dealt with the negative issues relating to that identity, and how will you deal with any that remain?
4. What changes do you want to make in how you deal with the people in your life that fail, disappoint, offend or hurt you?

What are the responsibilities and purposes of this heavenly government?

- Protection (safe place)
- Provision (needs met)
- Empowerment (destiny fulfilled)

Process questions:

1. Write down the names of people you believe God wants you to serve now, and also the names of people He wants **you** to connect with so you can receive His blessings through them.
2. How can you become more of a “safe place” for the people you serve, and what will that look like?
3. What are the top 3 ways you know God has equipped you to help meet people’s needs? How are you engaging in those things, and what can you do to increase your effectiveness in those areas?
4. For each of the people you’re called to serve (that you wrote down for question 1), list some specific ways you can encourage and empower them to pursue God’s best for their lives.

We are part of an Apostolic movement whose responsibility is to bring heaven to earth. We are not waiting for the new Jerusalem.

Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Ambassador: a diplomatic official of the highest rank, sent by one sovereign or state to another as its resident representative. Where an ambassador lives (i.e. an embassy), is foreign soil.

What is our role? To fulfill the Genesis mandate and release the relational love government of heaven into all the earth.

God blessed them; and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**" (Genesis 1:28)

Why must we subdue and rule? Because there are still many places not in relationship with the Father, where it's not a safe place, needs not met, people not empowered.

How? By administrating the justice of God.

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. (Acts 10:38)

The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8b)

Apostles were originally tasked with going into an area recently conquered by the Roman Empire to establish the culture and government of Rome. The purpose was so that Emperor could come there and feel as comfortable as if he was still in Rome. Our task is to bring the culture of heaven to earth.

Prayer to Release Me Into My God Given Influence

by Dr. Paul L. Cox

The Wheel of Influence

Several years ago during a ministry session the Lord revealed that there was a spiritual wheel around each person. The text He gave me was from a passage that speaks of what happens at death.

Ecclesiastes 12:6 reads as follows: "Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well."

What is this wheel?

After I had discerned wheels around numerous persons, the idea came to our minds that the wheel was a sphere of influence that the Lord had assigned each person. It was amazing that several times I would ask those present what they saw in the spirit and without knowing of what I had heard before, they would describe a wooden wheel with wooden spokes rotating parallel to the ground around the person. Recently many have seen another wheel, a wheel within a wheel, rotating vertically to the ground.

It would appear that the Lord assigns us to have a certain degree of influence around us. We have noticed that when a husband and wife stand next to each other then their influence is much greater than if they stand alone. Further, if several Christians stand together in unity, and then the influence (i.e. the wheel) is even greater, sometimes covering hundreds of miles.

Webster's dictionary clarifies the word "influence." Influence is "an emanation of spiritual or moral force or the act or power of producing an affect without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command." There is an influence that the Lord wants us to have. Unfortunately, because of generational issues, or lifetime restrictions placed on us, we do not operate in our God given area of influence. In other words, we have been restrained by others in fulfilling our destiny.

Recently at our Advanced Discernment School in Trenton, Ontario, Canada, the Lord began speaking to us about His desire that we be released into the fullness of the spiritual influence that He had designed us for. The result of our time was the following prayer.

May the Lord use this prayer to release you into the fullest of the calling that is on your life.

Prayer To Release Me Into My God Given Influence

I choose to forgive those that have come against my spiritual authority and influence. I forgive those that declared that I was not operating in the Spirit because they want to restrict me to a dimension of their understanding in the natural realm. I forgive them for coming against the influence that You chose for me to have.

I choose to forgive those who have suppressed women and children and limited their potential for growth. I forgive those who have silenced women and children and placed over women and children barriers that have hindered them from coming into their destiny. Lord, forgive me and my ancestors for suppressing, limiting, silencing, and hindering women and children from their destiny.

I repent for myself and for those in my generational line who have limited authority to those who express themselves logically and have shut out those who express themselves emotionally, intuitively, and through their spiritual giftings.

I ask now, Jesus, that You bring my wheel of influence into proper balance, put the spokes back into place, repair the rim, and repair all the dings and damage. Lord would You remove all influence of ungodly elders.

Lord please put the hub in the right place and center it in Jesus Christ. I am choosing to be in the center of Jesus' will and only have the influence that Jesus wants me to have. And Lord would You remove any evil attack against the wheel, and align the wheel to Your kingdom purposes. Lord would You place the anointing that You want me to have, on the hub. Lord would You destroy any birds, especially ravens that would seek to attack this wheel and the influence you want me to have. Lord would You bring the speed of the wheel back into balance. Lord would You bring the wheel back into right alignment within the dimensions and within time. I demand that Kronos get off my wheel. Lord, would You release Your power on this wheel. Lord may the wheel only operate under Your power, not mine or the enemy's. I draw strength only from You. I choose to have my influence to be totally guided by You and affected by You. If, Lord, in any way, the wheel is out of control or other people are trying to control my wheel. Lord would You break that off. I declare again that my Godly influence will only be affected by You. I demand all man-fearing spirits to leave, all co-dependency to leave, manipulation to leave and control to leave.

I ask all this in the name of Jesus, amen.

Process questions:

1. Your sphere of influence at this time in your life consists of many arenas including yourself, your family, your workplace, your neighborhood, city, nation or nations, etc. What type of people are you called to serve now and where are they located?
2. How will you begin to release the culture of heaven and the family values of the Kingdom in your spheres of influence?
3. What does it look like for you to transform your sphere of influence so the King is comfortable there?
4. What doesn't line up with His will and His Kingdom in your sphere of influence?
5. In what ways does the Kingdom need to come *now* and His will be done *here* as it is in heaven?
6. How will you go forth to enforce God's justice and correct these problems?

Declarations I will make going forward:

- God's promises are true for me and for my sphere of influence.
- God will abundantly supply all my needs in every way.
- I have dynamic relationships with spiritual fathers/mothers and sons/daughters.
- Add your own below:

My Personal Goals

In order for goals to be effective, they must be **S.M.A.R.T.**

S.M.A.R.T. goals are **Specific**, **Measurable**, **Attainable**, **Relevant**, and **Time-specific**. Use the definitions below as a guide for expressing your goals:

Specific: A goal is specific when you can describe it concretely to others.

Example: “I want to be wealthy” is not a specific goal—how much money is that? “I want to be a millionaire by the time I’m 40,” or “I want to be able to retire at my current income when I’m 60” is specific.

Measurable: You need to be able to tell when you’ve accomplished it.

Example: “I want to be a better pastor” is not a measurable goal—how do I know when I am “better”? “I want to improve my pastoral skills by completing a coaching certification this year” is a measurable goal.

Attainable: It can’t be a pipe dream or something unrealizable.

Example: “I want to take a second honeymoon on our anniversary this year” is probably unattainable if you are seven months into a pregnancy and your anniversary is in two months.

Relevant: A goal is relevant when it’s important to you—when it references your values.

Example: “I want to be making all our payments on time by December” is a relevant goal for someone who is in financial difficulty and is tired of it.

Time-specific: Goals are not open-ended—they have dates attached.

Example: “I want to start a home for unwed mothers” is not time-specific; while “I want to get the training I need and start a home for unwed mothers in the next five years” is.

Based on the revelation I received in this teaching, I hereby commit to making the following changes to accomplish these goals (write the specific change, the goal, and date to accomplish by):

Additional reading: The Connecting Church 2.0: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community, by

Randy Frazee

Available here: <http://amzn.to/2BUBE5G>

Questions and/or topics to discuss on my coaching call with Russ: