

# Demolishing Strongholds Video Series

God's Way to Spiritual Freedom

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Chapter 1. Creation: God Created Us  
With Seven Needs (Part 5 of 5)

*"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"*



Freedom In Jesus Series

*(Part 2)*

## Chapter 1. Creation: God Created Us With Seven Needs (Part 5)

### Intimate Love and Companionship

Now we get into the last and most heart-warming of all the needs God has placed in us, our need to experience intimate love and companionship.

“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him’” (Genesis 2:18). “For Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called “woman”, for she was taken out of man.’ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame” (Genesis 2:20-25).

“Intimate love and companionship” implies our need to be loved, understood, and accepted. Loving companionship ISN’T confined to marriage alone; it’s a need that everyone has. Each of us deeply desires to be loved, understood, and accepted.

(Explore: Lifebyte 6. “Feeling Left Out”)

Biblical love is an ACTION that emanates from a heart that trusts Jesus. And because the Bible emphasizes love, whether toward God or toward one another, Satan has made it a particular target.

The enemy works hard to keep our Father’s children from experiencing loving and intimate relationships in ways that please God.

### Marriage

The Hebraic marriages of our earliest forefathers in the faith found love increasing as a couple grew in maturity and life experiences together. But today many Christian marriages fail to deepen in love as years pass.

Mirroring the self-centeredness of our society, couples become LESS loving as the years go by. Each partner keeps looking for self-fulfillment rather than loving service to their spouse.

Instead of a growing relationship of loving intimacy, many husbands and wives find their lives are like parallel railroad tracks. They’re going in the same general direction, with their kids and a few common concerns acting like railroad ties to connect them. But without intimate love, they have little overlap or sense of companionship.

This is the situation in which Mike and I found ourselves before our research in Israel on the earliest church.

So many couples are overwhelmed and exhausted by busyness and responsibilities that their sexual relationship is almost nil. Also, the pornography displayed on television and movies raises false expectations about what marital intimacy should be like. So unfulfilled fantasy displaces the loving beauty that Adam and Eve experienced.

Within the Christian community the divorce rate is HIGHER than among unbelievers. It's 50% higher in the "Bible Belt", with clergy among the leading groups in the nation in broken marriage covenants. It's as though a faucet of lawlessness and self-gratification has flooded the church, led by its hierarchy.

Something's gone horribly wrong among Christians when we surpass the unbelieving population of this country in divorce.

### Friendships

Intimate love and companionship with one another are the hallmark of those who are devoted to God. The greater your devotion to God, the greater your relational intimacy with others who love Him.

Followers of Jesus who live in wholehearted obedience to Him, experience dynamic intimacy with those of like spirit. When you discover others with that same devotion to Jesus, your relationship becomes the deepest and dearest form of fellowship!

If you've seen our **Jesus In Your Home** video, or read our article, *The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation*, then you know that covenant is the most intimate of all forms of relationship.

Covenant means "to live in union with." This is what our Father offers us in the New Covenant made possible through Jesus — to live in union with Him. Isn't that the highest type of intimate love and companionship?

Covenant also implies a oneness that can be experienced both in marriage and friendship.

Think about the covenant relationship David shared with Jonathan: "Jonathan made a covenant with David because he *loved him as himself*" (1 Samuel 18:3).

After Jonathan was killed, David lamented the loss of his much-loved friend with anguish.

"I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women" (2 Samuel 1:26).

The Bible displays the depth of the love Jesus had for Lazarus and his family in the simple words, "Jesus wept." Our Father has instilled in each one of us a need for that depth of loving companionship. To the degree that we DON'T experience that love, we'll be vulnerable to strongholds of rejection and fear and insecurity, as well as others. The spirits in these strongholds will keep us from both extending love and receiving it from others. Even God's love will seem like a theory rather than reality.

Yet we've seen over the years that as strongholds are demolished in the Name of Jesus, love triumphs! The Apostle John's encouragement takes on a whole new dimension:

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him" (1 John 4:16-17).

As we'll discuss in the next chapter, *The Demonic Forces In Strongholds*, demons are relationship destroyers! Satan's goal is to make you emotionally calloused, so that

you'll abide in a prison of deception, believing that you'll never love or be loved.

I'm sure you know many people who are looking for love "in all the wrong places." Maybe that describes you somewhere along the way. Satan's demons deceive people into rationalizing that they have a RIGHT to loving companionship, even if it's outside God's will and violates His Word.

But each failed relationship further diminishes your ability to EVER experience intimate love and companionship. After several relationships have failed, you become guarded and cynical. Your heart gets calloused by hopelessness. Your capacity to love is scabbed over with fear and rejection. You grow isolated because you just can't stand the thought of going through that kind of pain again.

If this describes you or someone dear to you, rekindle your hope! The truths we'll be sharing will show you how to experience the intimate love our Lord desires for you.

### **When Your Strongholds Are Demolished, Return to the Seven Needs**

Later, you'll have the opportunity to rid yourself of every demonic influence that may be hindering your life and your relationships.

**(Explore:** Newsletter: 1995-09 "*Meeting Our Seven Needs*")

But we want to emphasize now a crucial point. AFTER the demonic influences are gone, make sure that you have each of your seven needs met in the manner our Lord has prescribed in His Word. This is

where others close to you can help you fill in the OLD ruts of sinful attitudes and actions with responses that are biblical and Christ-like.

After the strongholds of deceit and rejection were demolished, I realized I had a strong need for dignity, security, and intimate love and companionship. With Sue's help and the loving input of those in our home fellowship, I experienced the joy of having these needs met.

I was 47 years old at the time, and I can't tell you how wonderful it's been to experience the dignity my Father always wanted for me! Now that I'm walking in this dignity, my relationship with our Lord, with Sue and with others is entirely different. With the strongholds gone, I'm not only experiencing my own dignity, but I'm able to lovingly uphold the dignity of others as well.

At this point we want to stress how important the relational priorities of the earliest Church are to help you meet your seven needs. You won't have these needs met sitting in a pew or Sunday school class; it will take people who truly care for you as extended spiritual family.

We encourage you to explore the Hebraic foundations that enabled the earliest followers of Jesus to be so relationally intimate. The three inner relational priorities are critical in order for you to experience dignity and the loving intimacy you long for.

Your family and your extended spiritual family that meets in each other's homes are God's means of meeting your needs. These are the people with whom you walk together in the 54 "one-anothering" verses found in the Newer Testament — love one another

er, forgive one another, correct one another. This interconnectedness is crucial as well as scriptural! (See our website **Restorationministries.org** for more on living out the relational priorities of the earliest Church.)

Let me caution you: Once you're free from the influence of strongholds, you'll be susceptible to their redeveloping if you don't have your seven needs met in the way God ordained for you. Fill that void as the Holy Spirit directs you! We'll show you how when we come to Chapter 5.

Our life as followers of Jesus is a pilgrimage to salvation—a journey in which changing circumstances force us to apply His Word. The degree of desire you have to become more Christ-like in the power of the Holy Spirit will determine the level of joy and peace you find in your relationship with our Father and with His children.

As the seven needs God has created in you are met in the manner He prescribes, your spirit will bear witness to His wonderful grace to you!

And just think! Your victory will be complete at the Judgment Throne when you hear your name proclaimed to the hosts of heaven. That's reason enough to be free from the strongholds that hinder you!