

## The Lawless Christian Slogan: "We don't hold each other accountable!"

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In our previous Teaching Email we encouraged you that *if* you belong to our Lord Jesus, then publicly identify yourself with Him. But *if* you are reluctant to publicly identify with Jesus by name, we urged you to ask the Holy Spirit if your fear and apprehension constitute you denying our Lord. We warned you against this snare: that *if* you allow yourself to be influenced by the inner voices of your sin nature and/or undemolished strongholds which sound just like the voice in your head, then you'll always give way to **plausible deniability**. This means that you deceive yourself that you're in good spiritual standing with our Lord Jesus even if you resist making Him known to others. Denying a relationship with Jesus by your silence prevails among many of the religiously-mired because their leaders refuse to stand firm on the biblical requirement for righteous living: out of love for your Lord and for others you **stay repentant, confess any sin and keep free from demonic influence** so that you're hearing and obeying only the voice of your Lord. These ongoing processes ensure your ready availability for the Holy Spirit to use you as our Father wills.

**"There is no moral difference between Christians and unbelievers in this nation."**

—reported by Christian pollster George Barna

Our Lord tells His own, *"If you love Me, keep My commands"* (John 14:15, see also 14:21; 15:10; 1John 5:2,3). Christianity at large in this nation is now a lawless system preaching a lawless gospel by eliminating the righteous standards of our heavenly Father for His children. The 1,050 commands in the Newer Testament flesh out for followers of Jesus the 613 commands in the Older Testament. Jesus didn't do away with the good and righteous commands of His Father! Our Father designed them all for your well-being because He loves you! He has graced you with His Spirit to empower you to fulfill them for His purposes and for His glory. But if you aren't being instructed in His commands and spurred on to practice them in your own life, then you're being deceived into plausible deniability. Be very careful! No matter what scribally-fabricated gospel or traditions you adhere to, take seriously our Lord's warning to those who claim to be His but try to rationalize their disregard for His commands:

*"Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* (Matthew 7:20-23).

What is lawlessness? Simply put, it's violating God's commands, which from His perspective are the practical expression of loving Him and loving one another. Remember, ignorance of God's righteous standards doesn't excuse you in our Father's sight. And all the Bible teaching in the world is meaningless if it doesn't point you toward applying His commands to your way of life. Read 1John 3:1-11 for yourself, especially noting our Lord's view of sin: *"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness"* (1John 3:4). If you are truly in Christ, you won't go on sinning. As John warns, if you continue to sin, you haven't known God or been born of His Spirit! (vv.6,9).

Many in Christianity have been duped by so-called "gospels" that don't require repentance as the first step to being genuinely born again. The easy-believism approach especially in getting young people "saved"

promises them the wonderful things our Lord will do for them even if they don't turn from their sins and turn to Jesus as Lord of their lives. They think they can go on with their own plans and ways no matter what God's Word commands. But without repentance, they live a lifestyle of self-serving spiritual compromise. Sadly, easy-to-swallow, man-pleasing "gospels" are the beginning of a **religiously-mired lawless life** which never requires them to forsake sin and walk in Jesus' steps of self-denial to do Father's will.

Numerous studies show that this deceptive "gospel-added-on-to-my-own-will" is why ministries to youth are only 3% effective in creating lasting fruit. All too often parents have moaned to us with plausible deniability that their child was "saved" as a teenager but as an adult has lived a life of denying Christ, some even embracing another religion that's devoid of Him. But the plausibly-denying parents tell us, "**At least he (or she) is saved!**" They should ask our Lord Jesus what He thinks! The Gospel of the *genuinely* born again begins by grace with a trust in Jesus that propels a person to forsake sin and stay repentant. He or she pursues a way of life of gratefully practicing our Father's gracious commands more and more through His indwelling Spirit and finds their character being transformed increasingly into that of Jesus.

It breaks our heart to see what the **anti-Semitism of scribal theology** has done to diminish the unchanging truths of God's entire Word as our Lord's first followers understood it and put it into practice. Paul warns that *"the secret power of lawlessness is already at work"* (2Thessalonians 2:7). Everywhere you look in this land, even within Christianity, lawlessness reigns. The mantras of "Live and let live" or "I'm okay, you're okay" provide the plausible deniability that covers over sin as not really being evil. Many clergy, desperate to attract and retain people, cater to whatever draws them in and keeps them coming as satisfied worldly spectators. That's no surprise, since Paul prophesied that, *"Even from among your own number, men will arise and **teach perversions of the truth**, in order to drag away the disciples after themselves"* (Acts 20:30).

Here's an example. To accommodate the lawless who worship among the religiously-mired, Matthew 18:15-17 has been perverted in The Message Bible Translation to provide them with plausible deniability: *"If a fellow believer hurts you, [literally, it is sins] go and tell him [but literally, reprove him, show him his fault] — work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend. If he won't listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won't listen, tell the church. If he won't listen to the church, you'll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God's forgiving love [none of this is in the biblical text]" The offender has already shown his stubborn refusal to change. It's time to turn him over to Satan to make his sin utterly abhorrent to him, as Paul did in 1Corinthians 5:1-7, so that he will humble himself and cry out to God in repentance.*

Notice that the above translation is more concerned with catering to people's desire to hold onto their sin than in upholding the righteous standards of God so that His holiness is preserved in their midst. The Bible commands us, *"And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the called-out ones. But if he refuses even to hear the called-out ones, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector"* (Matthew 18:17). In other words, don't allow the unrepentant to keep "fellowshipping" with you when they choose to keep sinning! Please don't let the spiritual scumminess of lawlessness influence your life or the lives of those you care about. You never want to hear our Lord Jesus say to you, *"Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*

**We who live Lordship-committed by His grace must not only live repentantly as we apply His commands to our way of life. We must also practice accountability in our family and faith family.**

## To Intervene Is To Do For Another What You Would Have Them Do For You

*"Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets"* (Matthew 7:12).

Loving another person as our Lord Jesus would love them doesn't permit you to keep your mouth shut and let that person continue in sin or go on being influenced or controlled by demonic strongholds. Let's look at areas in which you need to stand firmly with our Lord Jesus: intervening in the lives of your family and faith family ✦ whenever sin goes unconfessed, ✦ when demonic strongholds continue to influence someone's attitudes and actions, or ✦ when toxic motives within a person's mind haven't been transformed into Christ-like ones.

*We want to forewarn you:* Satan will try to keep you from intervening in a situation by creating an aversion in you to obeying the Spirit. The first satanic deterrence is what we call the "**sweaty body scenario**." For thirty years Mike played a lot of pickup basketball. When he realized that the much younger men he played against hated to get sweat on themselves, he'd intentionally come up and slide against them. Sure enough, they'd back off from closely guarding him. He could then make shots more easily because the young guys hated sweat! The devil will lean on you and use his "**sweaty body scenario**" against you to keep you from intervening the way our Lord wants you to.

If the first strategy doesn't work, the enemy will use a "**feinting maneuver**." He'll mislead you about the person you should confront, and give you the false impression that things are getting better with that individual and they don't need your intervention. But heed this. *If* you feel emotionally relieved that you don't have to intervene, then know that nothing has really changed in that person. His or her agitation may have calmed down temporarily, but the unaddressed, unconflicted root cause can trigger the tension to later flare up even worse!

The antidote? David Wilkerson recommends this: "**Keep yourself in the presence of the Lord. When you are full of Jesus, the smoke clears out; and when the fire of His holiness is in you, everything of Satan melts and perishes.**"

### Christ-like intervention is reinforced by Intimate Friendship & Fellowship

Intervention when the need arises isn't optional for a follower of our Lord Jesus. It's absolutely necessary especially within your family and fellowship family. In order to intervene in another person's life as our Lord would have you, you must do for them what you would want them to do for you in the same situation. Here's a relational practice that helps you more effectively serve as our Lord's intervener – **Intimate Friendship & Fellowship**.

**Intimate Friendship & Fellowship** is the deepest kind of relationship that followers of Jesus can have with each other. It's based on mutual commitment to each other's Christ-like character development. At this level of relationship you have the freedom and mutual responsibility to lovingly correct each other and help each other to keep pressing on in our Father's will for each of your lives. Several essential factors undergird you in experiencing Intimate Friendship & Fellowship with at least one other person. Through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, there must be within each of you:

1. Complete repentance resulting in a clear conscience and full availability to the indwelling Holy Spirit to use you however our Father wills. (Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Acts 2:38)
2. A distinct reduction of fear and apprehension in your life, along with a humble and vulnerable openness to input and correction from others. (1 John 4:18,19; Matthew 10:28; James 4:6; Ephesians 4:1,2)

3. A trusting obedience to your Father's will; a strong responsive desire to bear fruit to our Father's glory out of grateful love for Him and for our Lord Jesus; a noticeable wholeheartedness about living Lordship-committed by His grace. (Matthew 3:8; 7:16; John 15:1,2; Mark 12:30; Matthew 7:21-27)

**If you're to participate in Intimate Friendship & Fellowship, you must willingly submit to accountability. You first render account to our Lord Jesus out of grateful love. The Bible clearly reveals what He holds you accountable for, and authentic fellowship supports each of you in your collective accountability to our Lord and to each other.**

Most Bible studies today find their root in scribal theology, where participants are always learning more about the Bible but aren't held accountable to put any of its commands into practice. By contrast, the Hebraic method of mutual accountability insists on your **relational deference** to each other. This means that when necessary, you are mutually resolved to accept correction, admonition and rebuke flowing from your love for our Lord Jesus and for each other. But recognize this: If you entertain even a smattering of rebellion or think too much of yourself, our Father will withhold accountable fellowship from you because you'll just dishearten others by your self-will and hard-heartedness.

Examine yourself. **If there's no one in your life who's willing to admonish, correct or rebuke you, then you're vulnerable to going astray and living only for yourself. Perhaps you're even a Hardened or Mocking Fool who the Bible warns followers of our Lord to avoid.** (For more about the kinds of fools who need to be excluded from fellowship, read [page 51 of Restoring The Early Church](#))

In our earlier years of following our Lord Jesus we attended numerous Bible studies. While participants were usually able to voice what they'd learned about the passages they were studying, we realized how useless that format was in producing ever-maturing, testimony-filled slave/servants of our Lord Jesus. If anything, Bible studies without the accountability that includes admonishment, correction and/or rebuke when they're needed greatly hinder discipleship that's patterned after the instructional style of our Lord Jesus and the Bible (see Acts 20:31; Romans 15:14; 1Corinthians 4:14; 1Thessalonians 5:12; 2Thessalonians 3:13-15; 2Timothy 3:16,17; 4:1,2). Instead, much of today's Christianity is a **totally intellectually-based system** that's been fabricated by scribal theology. This system relies on teachers or facilitators of Bible instruction who have no personal experience in sacrificing themselves in loving service to our Lord Jesus. Nor can they testify of any experience in the power of His Spirit which our Lord promises His own.

You can't miss that throughout the entire Bible the Holy Spirit uses people to reveal **a living God of power and might**. While scribal theology makes Bible knowledge the foremost concern, our Lord makes His reality preeminent through the might of His Spirit in the *genuinely* born again. If you've been duped by **totally intellectually-based Bible instruction**, consider this wondrous biblical reality: The *genuinely* born again have the Holy Spirit indwelling them! It's through His divine power that you can experience His work in and through you as Jesus promised: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who trusts in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father**" (John 14:12).

Through the 13 Sagas in our *Kingdom Living Today Addenda* the Holy Spirit encouraged us to share with you the reality of Him at work in and through and around us according to our Father's will and purposes. This is a reality that's devoid of scribal theology. As we always urge you to do, ask the Holy Spirit to verify what we share with you. Then do in obedient trust what He specifically reveals to you in service to our Lord Jesus.

## Righteous and assertive intervention comes from having a clear conscience.

Intervention by a follower of our Lord Jesus can take on many dimensions. Whether it's upholding righteousness by confronting sin or immediately praying for someone when you hear a need, your willingness to intervene says a lot about your relationship with our Lord Jesus and the fellowship you keep. Because our Lord commands it, you do for others what you would want someone to do for you. We thought you'd be encouraged by some real-life examples of people who served as our Lord's interveners.

👍 "Bill", a dear brother in our Lord, chose to honor his father by standing with him in a difficult decision. When Bill flew home to spend time with his relatives, he discovered that his Dad refused to have his unmarried daughter enter his home until she stopped living with her boyfriend. Then Bill's sister called Bill and asked if he'd meet with her and her boyfriend. Bill told her he would stand with his father in his decision — and he refused to see her until she stopped fornicating. Several weeks later she asked her father for forgiveness and moved back home. She later married her boyfriend, and he and Bill's father became fishing buddies!

👍 Similarly, the father of a teenage girl faced a difficult choice. After repeatedly warning her to stop fornicating, he kicked her out of his home until she ceased her immoral behavior. Even though the pastor and elders of his congregation didn't agree with this man's decision, Mike stood by him to encourage him. After a few months the girl came home and asked her Dad for forgiveness. She also went to Mike and thanked him for supporting her father in the step he took which led to her repentance.

👍 Sue is often given the opportunity to exercise another kind of intervention. Whenever she hears someone expressing a need that only our heavenly Father can meet, she asks the person if she can pray with them right on the spot. It doesn't matter whether it's a cashier at Walmart who doesn't have another customer waiting, or the nurse at her doctor's office, or someone who's in a hospital waiting room with her, or a neighbor: *"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

👍 Mike happened to overhear members of a congregation bad-mouthing a man in their faith community whom we knew very well. Behind his back they were falsely accusing "Rex" of being a homosexual. Mike asked for a meeting with the congregation leadership and asked if they were aware of this gossip. Each elder acknowledged he'd heard the gossip, but had done nothing about it. Mike told them, "Because you're allowing something to go on that you wouldn't want for yourselves, may our Lord judge against you and your families for allowing the reputation of a man in your care to be discredited." Fear came over the elders and they investigated the gossip, which proved to be groundless. A husband and wife who despised Rex had started the lie. Refusing to repent, they were excommunicated from the congregation.

👍 Mutually encouraging each other is also a key part of preventative intervention: *"But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness"* (Hebrews 3:13). One night as we were preparing for bed, the Holy Spirit told Mike to go next door to our neighbor's house. He got dressed, and upon arriving at the front door was relieved to see the lights still on. Our neighbor, "John", was delighted that Mike came over. John was in quality control at the company he worked for and that day he had been ordered by his supervisor to pass defective military equipment or lose his job. After praying with John, Mike encouraged him to go to the head of personnel and tell him what was happening. John followed Mike's advice. By the end of the next day the supervisor was escorted out of the company—and because of his integrity John was promoted to his position!

👍 “Paul” found himself facing a hard choice on the job as well. He’d been hired through the efforts of good friend. Then he found out that his friend had been receiving kickbacks from vendors. He even urged Paul to become part of the kickback scheme! Paul told him he wasn’t interested, and that his friend should come clean with his boss. The man laughed in his face and told him he better keep quiet or he’d see to it that Paul lost his job. Paul was torn between turning in his friend or remaining silent about it, so he asked Mike for counsel. Mike told him that their supervisors probably already knew about the guy’s activities and were just waiting to see what path Paul was going to take. So Paul asked for a meeting with personnel and spilled the whole thing. They immediately replied that they’d suspected for some time that this guy had been taking kickbacks and were just waiting to see what Paul would do. His friend was fired, and Paul was given his job.

These are everyday examples that you may face too. Are you willing to intervene as our Lord’s representative for righteousness? For a broader understanding of serving our Lord and your faith family as an intervener, see: [\*Teaching Email 61. Are You Our Lord’s Intervener in the Life of Others?\*](#)

**FYI:** We want to personalize what we’ve been presenting here. We are both interveners for our Lord Jesus as He brings about the need. And we’re so grateful to our Lord for keeping us together these almost-53 years as the core relationship of our Intimate Friendship & Fellowship. We are the primary persons who encourage each other daily in our Lord Jesus and who 📌 confront sin in each other, 📌 assist each other in remaining free of demonic strongholds, 📌 and confront any toxic motivations so they can be transformed into Christ-like ones.

Our mutual commitment to each other has enabled us to practice the righteous assertiveness of praying before we go into a store, doctor’s office, or even before we take a walk. That’s because we want to always be alert for opportunities to represent our Lord Jesus and to point others to His faithfulness. In Jesus’ Name we use His authority to evict demons so they don’t interfere with what our Father wants us to do on these occasions. How often our Lord Jesus provides situations and encounters for us to intervene through sharing testimonies, words of encouragement, and/or prayer!

Finally, do you have at least one person in your life who can confront you when you sin but don’t repent, or when you hold onto strongholds or toxic motivations, or who is encouraging you to keep pressing on in loving and obedient trust in the Lord Who never fails? Ask our Father for such companions. And, be to them in accepting input as you want them to be for you. That way you’re likelier to stay away from “practicing lawlessness”, and more likely to hear, *“Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your master’s happiness!”* To belong to our Lord Jesus in this world is evidenced by the fruits of your life to which others can attest (Matthew 7:20). Your willingness to exercise righteous assertive intervention in loving obedience to our Lord Jesus says a lot about Whose you are!

**Mike & Sue**

Psalms 139:23,24