

# Pure Relationships

## “Growing Within YAHUAH [God]’s Relational Structure”

### I. SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in EL-YAHUAH [the LORD] with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths”. Proverbs 3:5-6

### II. WE ARE BEING PURITY TESTED

According to Wikipedia, a “purity test” is a self-graded survey that assesses the participants' supposed degree of innocence in worldly matters – participation in sex, drug use, deceit, and other activities assumed to be vices – generally on a percentage scale with 0% being the least pure and 100% being the most pure.

In YAHUAH [God]’s Word, we have His many examples about His purity, and about how we are to be pure as He is pure. First, we are told that...

1. “The words of YAHUAH [the LORD] are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace on the earth refined seven times” (Psalm 12:6).

The number seven is represented in the bible as meaning the completion and perfection of things that are both physical and spiritual. The basis for this meaning comes from the time it took ELOHIYM [God] to create all things. Another way of interpreting this text would be that “the words of YAHUAH [the LORD] are pure words, as silver completely and perfectly refined”.

Then, we are given some more examples of YAHUAH [God]’s description of our purification process ...

2. “That the trial of [our] faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of YAHUSHA HA’MASHIACH [of Jesus Christ]” (1 Peter 1:7).
3. “I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.” (Revelation 3:18)

### III. WE GAIN YAHUAH'S PURITY IN A RELATIONAL, HIERARCHICAL WALK

We begin the steps into our Complete and Perfect Purity in YAHUAH [God], through this relational, hierarchical walk; we:

#### 1. LOVE YAHUAH [GOD] WITH ALL OUR HEART

According to our scripture today, our faith in YAHUAH [God] begins with a "heart" relationship with Him. That is, we come to trust in Him "with all our heart", not leaning on our "own understanding", but that we come to a complete (100%) acknowledging of Him in *all* (100%) [our] ways, so that we can know (100%) that He will direct [our] path" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

#### 2. SUBMIT TO YAHUAH [God] VIA THE RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit]

From what YAHUAH [Jesus] told Nicodemus during his night visit, we know that we must be born again of the RUACH [Spirit], or we cannot enter into YAHUAH [God]'s Kingdom (John 3:5). We also learned recently in our mid-week study, that once we *submit* and *commit* ourselves to a *refining*, a *purification* process that starts by our "repentance" AND by our "faith" in Him (Hebrews 6:1)... that once we have come to partake of the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit]... if we fall away, then it will be impossible to be renewed again unto repentance (Hebrews 6:4-6). We...

#### 3. SUBMIT TO YAHUAH [God]'s WORD

For "all Scripture *is* given by the RUACH YAHUAH [Spirit of God], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man [and woman] of YAH [God] may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

#### 4. SUBMIT TO OTHERS

"Therefore, thus says YAHUAH TSEVA'OTH [the LORD of hosts], 'Behold, I will refine them and assay them; For what else can I do, because of the daughter of My people? Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceit; with his mouth one speaks peace to his neighbor, but inwardly he sets an ambush for him. Shall I not punish them for these things?' declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:7-9a)

You and I also have YAHUSHA [Jesus]'s own words that tell us that we should "love YAHUAH ELOHAYKA [the LORD your God] with all your heart,

**with all your soul, and with all your mind". That "this is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself". (Matthew 22:37b-39)**

**YAHUSHA [Jesus]'s words clearly indicate to me that YAHUAH [God]'s first commandment, and our first obligation in following Him, is to first love Him with all (100%) our heart, with all (100%) of our soul, and with all (100%) of our mind. And then, and only then, can we meet our second obligation to love our neighbor as our self. And because this is not a natural man (or woman) thing to do.**

#### **IV. YAHUAH [God]'s PERFECT RELATIONAL HIERARCHY**

**Men, for it to be possible for us to get our heavenly relationship right with YAHUAH [God], we must get our earthly relationships right with our wives! We must "...love [our] wives, just as MASHIACH [Christ] also loved the church and gave Himself for her..." (Ephesians 5:25) and we "...ought to love [our] own wives as [our] own bodies"; [for] he who loves his wife loves himself (Ephesians 5:28).**

**Moms and dads, grandmas and granddads, for it to be possible for us to get our heavenly relationship right with YAHUAH [God], we must get our earthly relationships right with our children. We must "not provoke [our] children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of YAHUAH [the Lord]" (Ephesians 6:4)**

**Children, for it to be possible for you to get our heavenly relationship right with YAHUAH [God], you must get our earthly relationships right with your moms and dads, your grandmas and granddads. You must obey your parents in YAHUAH [the Lord], for this is right. The command to "Honor your father and mother" is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)**

**Employees, for it to be possible for you to get your heavenly relationship right with YAHUAH [God], you must get your earthly relationships right with your employers. You must "be obedient to them... according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto MASHIACH [Christ], not with eyeservice (winning favor only when they can see you), as people pleasers; but as the servants of MASHIACH [Christ], doing the will of YAHUAH [God] from the heart; with good will doing service, as to YAHUAH**

**[God], and not to people. Knowing that whatsoever good thing a person does, the same shall they receive of YAHUAH [God], whether he is bond or free". (Ephesians 6:5-8)**

**V. WIVES, SUBMIT TO YOUR HUSBANDS (Ephesians 5:22). SERIOUSLY?**

**According to Forbes magazine, this week (January 13, 2020), it was determined that women now hold more jobs than men in the U.S., occupying more than 50% of all positions. (According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are now 109,000 more women working than men.) It is believed by experts that this trend will continue and gain more momentum as the number of working women increases, while the amount of men in the workforce declines. And with the increase in women in the workplace, will also be an increase the level of stress in the lives of women.**

**According to an article written by a woman in the New York Times just last November (2019), she appropriately quotes Dr Amir Levine, a psychiatrist and a neuroscientist and the author. He says that "social connections are the most powerful way for us to regulate our emotional distress." So, "if you are in distress, being in proximity to someone you are securely attached to is the most effective way to calm yourself." I couldn't agree with this statement more. When I expect, or I have had a stressful day, first of all I will get into the presence of God, and pray to Him for peace. After a stressful day in the office, I love to go home and get in proximity with my wife, my children, and even our dog. When I come to church or talk with a friend Sabbath, I will feel and say "Shabbat Shalom", or "Sabbath Peace". I feel this way in the close proximity to you as my brothers and sisters in MESSIAH [Christ], and I hope you feel that same way. But then as I read this article further, I started to see some subtle, but very dangerous advice. This woman author writes...**

**"When you're overworked and overwhelmed, the motivation to have dinner with a friend versus turning on Netflix and eating pizza with your spouse can be hard to summon." Say what? So, "when you're overworked and overwhelmed, the motivation" is "to have dinner with a friend versus..." being at home with your husband watching "Netflix and eating pizza with [him]"?**

**To justify this position, she next quotes a female social psychologist and professor of psychology who says that "when we are intimate with another person, we can experience positive mental and physical reactions in our body,**

mind and heart". I hope I misunderstood this. If we leave hubby at home, with whom are we getting intimate so that we can experience this "positive mental and physical reaction in our body, mind and heart"?

This reminds me of another story where the wife left her husband's side...

- A wife who found that the tree was better to look at than Netflix...
- A wife who found that the fruit was better for food than pizza, and...
- A wife who found a place away from home and husband, that was desirous for gaining wisdom.

As you hear we talking about wives submitting to their husbands, I guess that many women here today, and probably some men will think, "Seriously? How can Rich even think of giving such a message? Is he living in the Dinosaur age?"

But if you believe, as we quoted YAHUAH [God]'s work just a few minutes ago, that "all Scripture *is* given by the RUACH YAHUAH [Spirit of God], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man [and woman] of YAH [God] may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works", than YAHUAH [God] is very straightforward when He says to us today: "as His body is subject to MASHIACH [Christ], so wives are to be subject to their husbands in everything".

But, because of our modern culture, the command grates on many who profess faith in MASHIACH [Christ].

*First*, as with all of YAHUAH [God]'s commandments, the command in our text is *for our good* from an all-wise, loving God (Deuteronomy 6:24). He designed marriage and so He can tell us how we must live in it if we want His blessing. God is not a cosmic male chauvinist, who is punishing women and rewarding men by commanding these respective roles in marriage! Rather, they reflect His wise and loving care for us as we obey. Although most of us dislike the word "submit," *all* Christians must submit to proper authority: government (Roman 13:1); employers (Titus 2:9); church leaders (Hebrews 13:17); and, family (Ephesians 5:22; 6:1). To live in rebellion to authority is to live in defiance of YAHUAH [God] Himself, who ordains all authority.

*Second*, note that the church is in no way degraded by submitting to YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Jesus Christ]. On the contrary, it is to the church's glory to submit to MESSIAH [Christ]. Even so, it is not degrading for a wife to submit to

her husband. Rather, it results in (Ephesians 5:27), “her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless”. So, submission results in her ultimate good.

*Third*, a wife’s submission to her husband is not a cross that she glumly must bear. It is rather the path of joy. The context here is the joy and thankfulness of being filled with the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit] (Ephesians 5:18-20). Thus, just as submission to YAHUAH [God] is the way to true and lasting joy, so a wife’s submission to her husband as to YAHUAH [the Lord] is the way to true and lasting joy.

*Fourth*, Christian marriage is to be a countercultural witness to a selfish world where everyone is fighting for his or her rights. The world should look at Christian marriages and instantly see the difference. They should see a Christian husband tenderly and selflessly loving his wife as HAMASHIACH [Christ] loved the church. They should see a Christian wife joyfully submitting to and respecting her husband, always seeking his good. The world should see Christian children obeying their parents and the parents lovingly and patiently training their children in the ways of YAHUAH [the Lord]. The difference between this picture and the garbage on TV and social media should cause the world to marvel.

In both the Old and New Testaments, the Bible uses the marriage relationship to picture the relationship between God and His people. Paul shows here that Christian marriage is an earthly picture of Christ and the church (Ephesian 5:32): “This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to HAMASHIACH [Christ] and the church”. ELOHIYM [God] created man as male and female to reflect His image (Genesis 1:27). In the Godhead, all three Persons are God; but to carry out the divine plan, the Son submits to the Father and the RUACH [Spirit] submits to the Father and the Son. There is perfect love and harmony among the members of the One Godhead. There is no rivalry or competition. Even so in marriage, the husband and wife are equal as persons before YAHUAH [God], sharing in the grace of salvation (Galatians 3:28; 1 Peter 3:7). There is an order of authority and submission to reflect the divine image!

Husbands! Remember that if you put your his wife down or are abusive toward her, you are proclaiming a heresy that HAMASHIACH [Christ] puts down and

**abuses His bride. If you are a self-centered dictator over your wife, you tell the world that the gentle, loving MESSIAH [Christ] is a cruel, self-centered tyrant.**

**When a man abdicates his headship and lets his wife lead, he preaches that MASHIACH [Christ] does not lovingly shepherd His church and that the church is free to live out from under submission to Him. Again, these are heretical lies.**

**If a husband or wife is unfaithful to their spouse, or neglects them by being married to their career or hobbies, then they preaches that MASHIACH [Christ] is unfaithful or indifferent to His church, a falsehood!**

**So today, as married Christians, our witness to a watching world is very much entwined with how we relate as husbands and wives.**

**I will end this message today, as Paul ended this discourse in Ephesians. Let's read this together now.**

## **VI. CONCLUSION: EPHESIANS 6:10-20 (Congregational Reading)**

**(Bold: Read by the Congregation; Non-Bold Read by The Speaker)**

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.**

Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

**Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...**

and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Now, may our Father YAHUAH [God] richly bless each of you, as you profess your faith in HA'MASHIACH YAHUSHA [Christ Jesus], and renew your walk today in the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit], Who leads you into paths of righteousness for His name sake, and not your own.

Amen.

**Credits:**

- 1 "Purity Test", Wikipedia; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purity\\_test](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purity_test)
- 2 "What Does the Number 'seven' Mean in The Bible?" <https://www.reference.com/world-view/number-seven-mean-bible-3793b75703b1ec23>
- 3 "Women Now Hold More Jobs Than Men in the U.S. Workforce", Jack Kelly, Forbes Magazine, January 13, 2020; <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackkelly/2020/01/13/women-now-hold-more-jobs-than-men/#271f14818f8a>
- 4 "How To Have Closer Friendships (and Why You Need Them)", Emma Pattee, New York Times, November 20, 2019 (Updated November 24, 2019); [https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/20/smarter-living/how-to-have-closer-friendships.html?mc=aud\\_dev&ad\\_name={{ad.name}}&adset\\_name={{adset.name}}&campaign\\_id={{campaign.id}}&ad-keywords=auddevgate&subid1=TAFI&fbclid=IwAR1s5DsSKYAscN8stDE85TbCEALppl2RmJpD9CotHTm8dc9b-241WIKx9w0&dclid=CMuwnZPLjecCFUarfgodB84JZQ](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/20/smarter-living/how-to-have-closer-friendships.html?mc=aud_dev&ad_name={{ad.name}}&adset_name={{adset.name}}&campaign_id={{campaign.id}}&ad-keywords=auddevgate&subid1=TAFI&fbclid=IwAR1s5DsSKYAscN8stDE85TbCEALppl2RmJpD9CotHTm8dc9b-241WIKx9w0&dclid=CMuwnZPLjecCFUarfgodB84JZQ)