

Can Two Walk Together?

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Father, this morning, I just come to You, Lord. As a church we surrender, Lord, and I pray Father, give us open ears, a mind that understands Your Word. I am just a channel, I am just a vessel, You are the Speaker; my words may have effect of exciting or irritating people, but Your Word is the Word of life. The flesh profits nothing for You said Your Word is life and Spirit – it is eternal life. Help us to receive it, help us to hear the still small voice of the Holy Spirit behind the voice of man and receive it meekly with all humility, help us to bow before Your Word, to bend our knees before Your Word. We spoke about Your Name, but now we speak about Your Word – for Your Word says, “I have magnified My Word above all My name.” Help us to magnify it even now, Lord. Your Word brings healing, Your Word brings peace, Your Word brings restoration; above all, Your Word brings everlasting life. Speak to us, Lord. For in Jesus’ name we pray, Amen!

Two Sundays back, I spoke to everyone, who was twelve and above. I hope you have settled things in your life by the time you reach twelve. The only one who is excused is Abigail, because she is only ten, she has two more years to go. The rest of you all is twelve and above—I am talking to those who have grown in the ambience of a Christian believing home and in the ambience of receiving the Word—by the time you are twelve, you should know your Father, and you should be at your Father’s business wherever you are, and that was Jesus’ answer: “*I am at My Father’s business,*” and He was twelve years old.

So, we come back because it doesn’t matter whether you are a young person, you are single, married, or widowed, divorced, it doesn’t matter; everyone has to be at his Father’s business.

Go to *Ephesians 5:31-32*. Remember we are looking in terms of relationship—marriage. Primarily, God is a family man. Bible says God is a Father. The entire family in Heaven and on earth takes its name from Him. God primarily presents Himself to us a Father. Everything begins in the book of Genesis with Adam and Eve – the first man and the first woman God created. Man was created first, woman out of man and marriage is instituted. That’s how the family begins. And this was the first law of marriage, this was not for Adam and Eve, it was for all mankind:

Ephesians 5:31-32

³¹ ***“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”***

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife...” why? Because he is starting a new family, a new home, so he has to leave his old home and start a new home—not that you are cutting away all ties, but there is a spiritual separation, there has to be a separation, otherwise you will never build your own home.

“...and the two shall become one flesh.” So, the three fundamentals of a marriage: man shall leave; he shall cleave; and then they shall become one. Paul goes into a mystery and says why marriage was instituted. Because in eternity, there is going to be another marriage of Jesus and His Church; it will be spiritual. Here it is physical, there it will be spiritual. What does he say?

³² ***This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***

So, the Bible says, “He who is united with the Lord is one spirit.” One day the Church will be one spirit with God. That’s what God is doing primarily on earth. We have nations, we have governments, we have all kinds of things happening, but God is interested only in one thing: what is happening in His Church? When I say ‘Church,’ I do not mean building; within those buildings, there are sets of people—not many, few—who are actually born of God, they know God as their Father and they are preparing for the second coming of Jesus Christ. Therefore, they see the world events completely different and they are not depressed, they are not discouraged, they are excited because everything is falling into place exactly as He said. He said this is how it will be before I come, and we look around, it is exactly happening. It is disaster for the world; it is excitement for the Church, because He said, *“When these things happen, this is like labor pains before the baby comes. Lift up your heads for your redemption draws near.”*

So the preparing church, the bride of Christ is not depressed, it is excited, it’s spread all around the world, many churches are underground because of the hostility in different nations—Muslim nations, it’s all underground; nobody sees them, but God sees them; they are still gathering and many of them are listening now. So, remember there is excitement in the air! We are not excited because Hyderabad Sunday is fun day; we are not excited about

any of these things, we are only excited about one thing – our redemption is drawing nearer and nearer. Every second that passes, His coming gets closer and closer. If you are not prepared, you will be scared. It's like an exam, if you are prepared, you are excited; if you are not prepared, you are scared. So keep this in mind. What is it? We are talking about relationship: relationship with God and relationship with one another. The whole thing was broken down when Adam – the first man – sinned against God, mankind fell because we were all in Adam, Adam fell; man fell and then God had to come as Jesus, bring restoration and restoration was possible only through one way – the way of the Cross. That's why He, the Son of God, pure, holy, had to die for us. That's why His death is different! You don't hear about any gods dying, you only hear about one god dying; you hear all gods destroying sinners, you hear only one God dying for sinners. Absolutely different! So, Christianity is not a religion and that's why the Cross has two parts: One, He restores when you come to Christ; receive His work and His work alone, we have relationship with God. He restores us now back with God, then, we are able to truly fellowship with one another in Christ. It is Christ who makes it possible; without Christ, not possible.

So, the title of today's message is: *Can two walk together?* It's a question.

So, primarily we are looking at the basics – man walking with God and man walking with his spouse. Because we are looking at relationships, any relationship, the highest form of relationship on earth is between a man and his wife. Everything else comes subsequently. That is why the covenant that is made when a marriage vow takes place is unto death, you don't tell that to your children, children will get married and go. So the only thing is husband and wife - that is on top of all the relationship. If you understand the top, you will understand every other relationship. So there is restoration between man and God, and there is restoration in the homes. That's how God works. A nation is only as strong as the homes. Why are nations weak today? There is no peace, no joy, because the homes have been struck. It's not the government in Delhi or government in Washington; they are not how God looks, God looks at the homes, God is a homemaker. The homes are strong, the nation is strong; the homes are weak, the nation is weak. And God doesn't go out, He begins with the individual, He begins with the home. So understand the fundamental principle.

When God started it all in Genesis chapter 2:18, Eve is not there, only Adam is there, this is the first statement God makes after everything: "...good, good, very good," and then "Not good," comes. God said, "It is not good that man should be alone, I will make him a helper comparable to him." Trinity is not alone: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit – They are not alone, from everlasting to everlasting They have been together. So, understand the first fundamental principle of marriage is fellowship, it is not children. A couple may not have children, maybe they are barren, but they can have wonderful fellowship and still be content. Please never ever think that if we do not have children, our marriage has failed. No! Not necessarily. You can be absolutely content if your fellowship is good without children. Children are a blessing, it's an inheritance from God but marriage is not around children, marriage is between two individuals, children come later, they may come, they may not come. So if you are a couple listening who do not have children, don't get upset, your marriage still can be complete and full. He didn't say, "It is not good that man doesn't have children," He didn't say that. That's a blessing: "Multiply, be fruitful."

Get these pictures because only the truth will set you free. If you do not know what is truth—what is truth? Truth is not science, truth is what God says and once you receive what God says and believe it, you are free because God said it. He is the only one who is true, He is the only one who knows it all, so He said, I receive it and you will suddenly see that you are free and freedom is always inside, it is not outside. So the first and primary purpose is fellowship – two people walking together in life. Now, fellowship differs. Fellowship is primarily determined by that part in you called soul. We are a tri-part being. We have a body, we have a soul and if you are born again, you have a spirit. If your soul is closely attached to your body, you have a fellowship which is called carnal; you have carnal fellowship, you enjoy the carnal, worldly things and these people have wonderful fellowship. But that's not the fellowship God is talking about, that fellowship is over certain subjects: sports, music, movies. Then you can go to the higher level which is to the soul which is intellectual. You do not know even in this city you have reading class where papers are presented, poems are read, only few people gather but they enjoy it; you go there, you get bored, but people who go there will miss IPL match to be there because they enjoy this because they are able to talk at a different level.

When you have this musical recital, how many of you will go? You are not interested, but there are people who will pay through their nose and go. Tickets are sometimes 5000, 10,000 and more, they will pay it and go because the person who is coming is an accomplished singer. Or let us say there is painting exhibition, who will go? But there are people who will go. Are you getting the picture? So there are different levels of fellowship, whichever way you are inclined. And then there is another fellowship which God is talking about which is spiritual. Your spirit has been born

again from God. Now, God defines your fellowship with one another – God and with man. And there it can change, it can suddenly change. If you look at Jesus, He had twelve disciples, but three disciples were closer to Him than others – Peter, John and James. Though it was Andrew who brought Peter to Jesus, Peter grew closer to Jesus than Andrew and certain places where Jesus goes -- like raising a girl from the dead, or the Mount of transfiguration – He doesn't take the others, He only takes these three. And you have the autonomy to choose that. It's not that I want everybody wherever I go; I don't want most people where I go because you become a stumbling block because you are not spiritually inclined and instead of being help, you bring unbelief and your casualness into spiritual battle and it blocks.

So, Jesus was very careful, cast everybody out, He only took these three and Jairus and his wife. When you are doing certain things, you want people who think alike like you, whose heart is in the same direction. So fellowship is determined by your attitudes, by your inclinations. If you are spiritually minded, you will also be ultimately choosing spiritual fellowship, but you should be able to do everything. Jesus could fellowship with children; He could fellowship with intellectuals like Nicodemus; and He could fellowship with His disciples, but ultimately you will see as He walked further and further, the crowds are thinning out and they are thinning out only because of one thing – the doctrine. It is because the doctrine determines fellowship. The doctrine is thinning out the crowds. So I don't look for the church to simply grow, I want the church to grow only based on doctrine, otherwise it's a false church. If you bring the doctrine down, cut this message to 30 minutes and tell you from scriptures about things which make everybody happy, I will tell you, in one year we will have to have five services, crowds will come. On top of that, if I put Telegu translation, crowds will come. But we need to be very sure what are we building, who are we building it for.

We have to be very careful – how is my fellowship? Who am I walking with? It is because the entire purpose of salvation – why did God come as His Son? Why did He go through that life from birth to death – pure, holy, fighting sin in every form, tempted at all points, not sinning and then have to go through that gruesome death on the Cross when God the Father's wrath against sin was put on Him and He was judged for our sake. Why did He go through it all?! So that He could have a set of people with whom He could fellowship. The purpose of salvation is fellowship. Look at **1 John 1:1-4**, look at how John is talking, the apostles are talking.

1 John 1:1-4

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life... who is the word of life? Jesus. They have first-hand experience of being with Jesus.

² the life was manifested, and we have seen, When they walked with Him, they saw His life. Only when you walk with people, you understand their life; only when you live with people you understand their life. You have to live, interact, walk, understand each other, **and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us...**

We saw the eternal life of God, the Father in the Son; the Son manifested it to us? It is because that is the only what we could have known that God is the Spirit and we would have never known God because we are physical being. So what did God do? He sent His Son in the human flesh so that we could understand what God is like. I remember Billy Graham using this old illustration: he says, "A line of ants are going..." You know ants will always follow the one ahead. "But they are all going to destruction. So if you take two ants off, the rest will continue to follow." He was saying how can you stop these ants from destroying themselves? He says, "Only one way –you have to become an ant, then go among them and tell them 'that is the wrong way, follow me.' That's what God did." 'You are all going to destruction, there is only one way – I will become one of them, first, I will take the punishment for their sake, then if you believe Me, follow Me, I am taking you away from the path of destruction to eternal life.' That's what He did! That's why He is called 'The way.' Jesus says, "I am the way, I am the truth and I am the life. No one comes to the Father, other than through Me. There is no other way. The Gospel is the best news you will ever hear. You know what, God has shown us the way where we don't have to destroy ourselves; believe in Him and follow Him. And that's what they are talking about.

— **³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us;**

Why are we telling you all these things? So that you may have fellowship with us. Why? Because He declared all these things to us and we had fellowship with Him. In the same way, we are declaring all that He taught us to you so that you may have fellowship with us, **and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

Are you getting the picture? That's why the Church begins with apostle's doctrine. The purpose of the apostle's doctrine is, if you learn it, you can learn to fellowship with God the way the apostles fellowshiped with God. That's what it means. Now we all want to know: I want to know how Peter walked with God; I want to know how Paul walked with God; I want to know how John walked with God... that's what we are teaching you. How did we walk with Him? Based on this doctrine. We didn't randomly go on evening walks with Christ; our walk and relationship was based on doctrine. Doctrine is important! Sidhant – as we say in Hindi; Talim – as we say in Nepali. Doctrine is important. It's a doctrine of Christ – how can man walk with God again? How can man fellowship with God again? And how can we genuinely partake, fellowship with one another which is eternal? Every other fellowship on earth will be cut short by conflict or death but we are partaking of a fellowship with one another which we can carry into eternity forever and ever. That's what God is leading us to.

⁴And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

Joy doesn't come from things; joy comes from fellowship. The world has sold us a lie: more things you have; more joy. No! it is more misery. Joy comes from fellowship. That's why you have to read especially the book of Philippians – there is a man lying in prison, in chains, and he says, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I tell you rejoice in the Lord. Let your meekness, your gentleness be known to everybody because the Lord is at hand." He says, 'I am really tickled, I am really happy because I have fellowship with God; God is here with me in prison, He didn't leave me alone.' Where does your joy come from? Your joy comes from fellowship. You know why you are not consistently joyful? It is because it has got to do with fellowship. Your fellowship with God is broken. Look at Galatians chapter 1, another man who has come after the apostles.

Galatians 1:11-12

¹¹But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹²For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

He says, you know what, you are wondering how come this man who came after Jesus died and rose again and went to heaven, how come he is writing all these? He says, 'I also had fellowship with Jesus, I also walked with Jesus, and I heard from Jesus, and what I am writing you is what He gave me.' Doctrine leads to fellowship; fellowship leads to more doctrine, the revelation of a life because the doctrine is basically the revelation of how God lives. And that's what we need to know – how do we live on earth? How did Jesus live on earth? How did He face everything? And how did He overcome? How did He overcome the sin, the first thing? How did He overcome the desires of the flesh? How did He overcome the devil? Lord I want to overcome, I want to have that kind of fellowship with You.

So, what they are writing here, their experience, is a type of the fellowship that always existed between the Father and the Son through the Spirit all of eternity. What they are writing, he says, "Experience a little, taste a little what fellowship is always between God the Father and God the Son through Spirit." Get the picture. Therefore, the first and the greatest commandment is: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your strength, and all your soul and love your neighbor as yourself." And therefore, it translates into – learn to walk with God, and learn to walk with one another. But first commandment is the first commandment – learn first to walk with God, then only you can learn to walk with your neighbor. Do not compromise on one for the sake of two, because most people do, most people compromise one for two and God says that you will ultimately end up empty. Think about your best friend, he or she, is he/she with you always? Can they meet all your needs? When you are depressed, can they raise your spirits? When you are discouraged, can they make you laugh? No, they can't. They can give you comfort, they can give you rest, can they give you peace? No. So, that's two. There is something we derive from fellowship with one another but that is not one that is two, one is God. Look at what Jesus says in Matthew 28 in last two verses before He ascended to heaven.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

This is the key – "I am with you always, even to the end, I am with you always." "Till the very end I will be with you," He says, "I will never leave you; I will never forsake you; I will be with you always." Look at Philippians chapter 1 verse 7 and 8, the one I told earlier.

Philippians 1:7-8

⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

He is lying in prison, but he says, 'I don't forget, you are in my heart, I cannot fellowship'—there is no mobile, no SMS, no calling, nothing; those days, this is two thousand years ago. You write a letter, you don't know when it will reach, first you have to get the letter out of prison—'but you are in my heart, ***For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.***'

His fellowship is absolutely spiritual. He says, "I long for you, I long for fellowship but I cannot have it," but chapter 4, verse 5...

⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand."

He says, 'Still I am not depressed. Many of you who are getting my letters are depressed because I am not there with you, I am not depressed though you are not with me. I miss you but I am not depressed. Why? It is because God is with me.'

And look when he is arrested and taken to prison, look at 2nd Timothy.

2 Timothy 4:16-17

¹⁶ At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

He says, 'Everybody forsook me, no fellowship, but may it not be charged against them, Lord forgive them my church abandon me, all my colleagues abandon me, I am all alone in the court, but the Lord stood with me and strengthened me.' He says, 'You know what, I am never cut away from the fellowship of Jesus Christ, in the spirit He is always with me, and therefore, I feel His strength.' Now you understand what God is talking about? Why one is more important than two? Our fellowship is primarily first with God and that should define our other fellowships. I am not saying you should not have worldly friends and all, but our fellowship is first with God and then with others through God. So, we need to walk with God so that we learn to walk with one another. The question is – how does one walk with God? How does man walk with God? It's very strange, it is through a very minor prophet in the Bible called Micah, God showed us how you can walk with God. You want to walk with God, this is how you walk with God:

Micah 6:8

⁸He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

You want to walk with God? Three things, three aspects actually of the character of God, this is the character of God. Unless we learn to walk with God, we really do not know how to walk with one another, it's just worldly, it is carnal, it's just selfish, it's just fleshly, it never lasts. That's why the joy of fellowship for more people never last because it is carnal. First thing: act justly; second: love mercy; third: walk humbly. God says, 'If you very consciously choose each day these three aspects of My character, you can walk with Me. We know a startling testimony about a man in the book of Genesis whose record is there in the book of Hebrews, just one line, Hebrews 11 and verse 5:

Hebrews 11:5

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Only one line about a man –365 years he lived according to the record in Genesis. One line, one testimony. What is that? He pleased God. Why did he please God? How did he please God? Genesis 5 gives us the record.

Genesis 5:22-24

²² After he begot or sired in other words, you don't say 'gave birth,' that's what the woman does; he begot or sired is what man does, Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.

And verse 24 gives one line...

²⁴ And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

He walked with God and God said, 'You know what, you don't have to die, I am taking you alive.' Everybody who is hoping Jesus is coming to take His Bride, Enoch is a case study – one man who was taken alive. Why? It is because he learned to walk with God. A church that learns to walk with God is rapture-ready; a church that learns to walk with God is the only church that will be taken. There are two pictures over there: seventh generation from Adam – Enoch, taken alive; and tenth from Adam came through the judgement. So, two pictures of the Church will be there: one will be taken alive; the other will have to come through tribulation and judgement. Protect it, but you will have to come through. If you have doubts, go read Revelation chapter 12 and what happened to the other children of the woman, the Church. They had to go through the reign of anti-Christ. One was taken, the other was not. Two pictures.

So, other than fellowship, it is so important we learn to walk with God so that we are rapture-ready. Because he is the first man God just took him, God said, 'You don't have to die.' Verse 22, it's interesting because that gives us the clue. How did Enoch learned to walk with God? For 65 years he was not actually walking with God, he was probably like all of us; came to Sunday, excited and Monday was fun day and we did our own things, Sunday, came back again, try to stir up some emotion and zeal but we were not really walking with God, Enoch was that kind of man. Then at the age of 65 something happened, he got Methuselah and nobody will give a name like that unless he has heard from God. So when this child is born, God tells him, you shall name your child Methuselah. The name means, when he dies, judgement will come. That's why he is the longest living human being on earth which is a symbol of God's mercy. 969 years, when he dies, judgement will come.

Suddenly when Enoch heard about judgment, he realized, 'I need to walk with God because judgement is coming.' It is when the teacher announces: do you know the final exam is only three weeks away, everybody is looking for notebooks: will you give me, I will photocopy, people are running to buy textbooks and copy somebody else's notes. Why? Judgement is coming, just like Methuselah. 65 years had an easy life on earth and then he heard about judgement. We know there is a day of judgment, what does judgement mean? Judgement means it is the day of justice when all wrongs of the past 6000 years of human history will be put right, every wrong will be judged. That's why it is called the day of judgement. We will know what justice is on that day. We don't know what justice is, you have courts, you have departments of justice, they are more like department of injustice, there is no justice—even in Aryan's case, that was not justice, that's the perversion of the law.

A young boy of 22 years old, nothing found in his possession and they put him in prison for 22 days, while there are goons walking around with sacks full of this thing and they are not caught, they are not put behind bars. That is not justice. You have to look at the level of the crime and the quantum of punishment. I am not justifying what the boy did, but you also have to look at that, first time offender, nothing in his possession, he was invited as a star guest to get the crowds, he was not even as a passenger booked in that. That was not justice, what was done to him, it was not right. Of course, he should be caught, counselled, may be father should give him two slaps, but what happened was not justice. So you need to realize what does the day of judgement mean; the day of judgement means it's the day of justice. Evil will be punished, righteousness will be rewarded and righteousness will reign from that day. From that day when the day of judgement begins, you will know what righteousness is, why it is so, because this is the nature of the Kingdom of God, Jesus' Kingdom:

Hebrews 1:8

⁸ But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom."

Every king has a scepter and different scepter or we will call as the national seal—we have the Ashoka Chakra, "Satyameva Jayate," it's a huge, wonderful slogan but truth doesn't triumph here, ultimately it will triumph and that day Indians will regret we picked this slogan. He says, 'I will judge you by your own slogan, individually I will judge you, you said you are an Indian, right? Stand here. What is your national motto? "Ashok chakra." What does it say? "Satyameva Jayate." Okay, stand here, I will judge you by truth. Were you true to your God? Were you true to your wife? Were you true to your church? Were you true in your workplace? Were you true in your financial dealings? Were you true in your conversations? Were you true? "Aiyoo, Lord, I didn't know that is what it meant." He says, stand there now. That is the day of judgement, that is why nobody wants to stand before that throne, they will fall on their knees, plead for mercy from Jesus; "Jesus, I want to come through You, You died for my sins, You took my punishment, I don't want to come through any other way; no religion, no works, I just want to plead for mercy and come through You. Will You stand bail for me?" that's the Cross.

How He will judge, this is Jesus.

Isaiah 11:3-5

³His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; that is witness. First witness stand: I will say nothing but the truth and only the truth. And then, what did you see? Another one, “but I heard.”

But He says, “I don’t need any witnesses that day, no witnesses required, I know you inside out, My Spirit is the one who will give testimony about you, My Spirit that covers the entire earth has recorded every nano second of your life. I don’t need to call witnesses, you can’t call witnesses.”

⁴But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

You are worried about death, there is another judgement coming. Bible talks about the second death; you don’t worry about death, Christ has overcome it; if you are in Him, you are safe; worry about the second death when you will be thrown away from God’s presence forever and ever. That’s what we need to be worried about! That is called the day of judgement. So, if the Bible says that Enoch walked with God and was translated, it means, in the light of *Micah 6:8*, Enoch learned to act justly, he loved mercy and he walked humbly before God.

Micah 6:8

⁸He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

The question you always need to ask is: is it just? Don’t ask whether it is legal, legality has got to do with the laws and man keeps on changing the laws. How do you know something is just? If something is just, it produces the righteousness of God. That is how you know it is just. Don’t say whether it is legal or not. In many states in America, up till the 24 weeks or even more, now some states are up to the ninth month even after birth abortion is legal, the safest place on earth has become the most dangerous place – the womb. And that’s what the Bible talks about, in the last days the nature of love, if a mother can kill her own baby; what hope does this world have?! You expect the mother to protect her baby, you know the hens on the other side, they have better sense than many women out there; they will give their lives to protect their chicks, and here we kill our own. So, it is legal, is it just?

Homosexuality is legal in America, but is it just? Can two homosexuals produce a child? What does a fundamental principle? “You shall multiply.” No homosexual couples can produce a baby, you will always need a third person. The transport secretary, the guy, who is married to another guy, and they adopted two babies and they are celebrating the arrival of the babies; where did they get the babies from? Did they produce one? No, they didn’t, they adopted. So to have a baby it needed a man and a woman. So it is legal, it is not just, it does not produce the righteousness of God. So don’t ask whether it is legal, many things are legal in this world and the Bible says in the book of Daniel, “In the last days the anti-Christ will change the laws and change the times.” So don’t ask the question: is it legal? Ask the question: is it just? Does it produce the righteousness of God? Every time that is the question you need to ask; not whether it is legal or not, because many things are legal but they are not righteous.

So, first thing God is asking: you want to walk with Me, understand justice because the scepter of My Kingdom is righteousness. And the problem is—how many of you listened to yesterday’s Q&A? Show me your hands, I want to see your hands, all those who listened to Q&A. What were you doing rest of you? You were so busy Saturday night? Why were you not listening? You have to hear the questions that were coming from around the world, from US, Australia, Middle East, North India, interesting questions asked from North India asked by young people like you: “I am a student, I have done my SAT, I want to go to college, but how do I choose because before I believed, this was my aim but now I believe, I want to know what is the specific will of God?” Go listen; you will understand how you discover what the specific will of God is. These are young people just like you from North India, online listeners, asking serious questions. What are you doing?! So you are already crossed 12 and you haven’t settled issues in your life and the day of the Lord is getting nearer and nearer, not further and further away! Q&A is one of our most watched programs because it answers the question of so many people asking. I had judges asking me questions yesterday, I had politicians asking me questions yesterday, I had young girl who was saved from prostitution from the streets of New York asking me question. Why are you so comfortable?!

That’s what the prophet says: ***“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! And the day of the Lord is near.”*** You have nothing to do on a Saturday night, absolutely nothing. That’s what I am saying, ask yourselves: whatever

you did yesterday was legal, was it righteous when you knew this was the time to be set apart? You could do anything holding your phone and do your kitchen work or whatever work, but listening because the questions are being asked by people who have entered into the Kingdom; they have come through the fire, now they want to learn how to walk with God. You have to be very, very careful about certain things in the Bible! The scariest verse in Romans chapter 1 is, **"God gave them over."** You know, you should pray this every day: "Lord, I may sin, I may fight You, I may be complacent; Lord, one thing You never give me over. Lord, never give me over!" Once God has given you over, you are done. About Ephraim, God says, "Leave Ephraim alone because he has joined to idols" You want God to say to His angels and to His Spirit and to His Son, the Father saying, "Leave that one alone!" You are done! You are finished!

This is a serious book (Bible) because it cost God the life of His own Son to redeem us, take it seriously. The first thing God asks is: "Are you just?" The problem is, I and you cannot be just, I cannot be just, it's not possible for us to be just, why? Because the Psalmist says, **"I was born in sin, shaped in iniquity."** It is not possible because of Adam's sin; when Adam sinned—that was an interesting question that came in from Australia, "Why is the virgin birth so important?" Isaiah prophesized 600 years before Jesus came: **"The virgin shall give birth."** Why is it so important? It is so important because God says life is in the blood. Your bloodline is not counted from your mother; your bloodline is always counted from your father. That's why even every religion does not allow you to marry on your father's side, but will allow you to marry on your mother's side because the bloodline is different and the Bible says iniquity is passed down from father to children and not from mother to children. Therefore, when Adam sinned, all sinned and if Jesus is born of human being, He is born in sin, how does He become the atonement for sin? He cannot become the atonement for sin and so when angel Gabriel appears to Mary, he says, **"You shall bear a child."** Her question is: "How shall it be? I am a virgin." He says, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and the Holy One of God you bear." He is holy by birth, by conception He is holy because His bloodline is not from His earthly father, His bloodline is from His heavenly Father who is holy God. That's why the virgin birth is so important and not the immaculate false conception taught by the catholic church because they didn't understand it so they made Mary holy; if Mary is holy then her parents have to be holy; if her parents have to be holy, their parents have to be holy, you have to go all the way up to Adam; if everybody is holy, then why do we have to die? Then man will not die. Man dies because of sin and the very fact sin is ruling over the earth is every man dies. If man is holy, man will not die; man sinned, therefore man dies.

And the only way back is somebody had to take the punishment of sin and Jesus did and only a holy Person; a man who has never sinned could become atonement. That's why not only He was born without sin, He lived without sin. The Bible says He was tempted at all point, and He did not sin. Understand atonement. These are questions people are asking and you need to listen, this is not a joke, these are young people like you, young people getting saved left, right, center. There is a question from Afghanistan too and you think Taliban is ruling! No, God is ruling. Taliban is ruling the earth in Afghanistan; God is ruling His people, they are getting saved. Don't be complacent about the things of God; you want to walk with God, you have to be serious about God. You cannot have carnal fellowship with God, it is spiritual. And the first thing God says is that I can never act righteous because I am unrighteous. Eternal life is not first.

There was a question from somebody yesterday and I was very happy it came from North India saying, "Pastor, in one of your messages you said..." and I said, "O thank you; I never got that question from my church because they didn't listen. You listened; I am happy for the question." You know what that question was? "... you said many people are forgiven in the church but they are not saved." That's true. What does the Gospel say? **"Repentance towards God and faith towards Jesus."** Repentance alone doesn't save you, did you put your trust only in the work of Jesus Christ? Have you been given the gift of righteousness? The gift of righteousness comes first and then eternal life. If you are not righteous, you are not going to live eternally. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation because in it is revealed a righteousness of God from faith to faith. Why will you live eternally? Because you repented, you turned to Jesus' work and God said: "I give you My righteousness, you can't die now; even if you die, you live, because only the sinners die, the righteous don't die second time."

So, I cannot act justly until I am made just! That's why I tell – you may be baptized, you may have made your confessions, but I still believe there are many people sitting in this church who are not saved because you do not seek after righteousness, your hunger for justice is not there—"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these things shall be added unto you"—do you know why you do not have? Because you are not born from above and I have to tell you, not condemning you, make sure you are saved because on that day that's the only thing that will matter. When that day comes, the only thing that will matter is: "Do you have My Son? If you

don't have My Son, you don't have life." That's what John says, ***"He who has the Son has life; He who does not have Son, does not have life."*** Not that whether you confessed, not that you were baptized, neither that you went to church; all these have meaning only if you have the Son. Do you have the Son?! If we don't have the Son, you and I will be condemned but if we have the Son, we have gone through because the Son is not condemned because He took my punishment for me. Therefore, I will not be condemned. I will be judged for my works for my rewards but I will not be judged for my sins. Make sure you have the Son!

Therefore, I cannot be just unless I am made just first and there is only one way that I can be made just. Like I said, physical life has signs, likewise spiritual life also has signs – ask every parent because that's our experience; when their babies are small, one week/two week, you know parents are very scared because when they sleep, they look as if they are not breathing. The panic, you know what, you will shake them up and wake them to know that they are alive. What is the sign of life? It's breath. What is the sign of spiritual life? The Holy Spirit, His breath, ruah. Do you have His Spirit in you? That's the sign of life. What does the nurse do after the baby is born and cleaned? She gives to the mother and says, 'Feed.' Now let me ask you this question – nine months in the mother's womb, did the child ever use its lips? Does it know how to suck milk? No, it doesn't, but the first thing it does is, it sucks the milk. The Bible says when you are born again, you will crave for the spiritual milk of the Word of God – sign of life. Do you have that craving? If you don't have, you have religion, you don't have Christ.

"Learn," God says, "Go to the ant, learn; go to the grasshopper, learn," look at your own babies and learn – do I have life? Then you progress from milk to meat. That's what the Word of God says: "Grow from the milk of the Word to the meat of the Word of God." That is the proof that not only are you born again, you are growing. It's not enough to be born, you need to grow. Ask our LHL, our special needs home – how are they fed? They are fed mixed in a mixer, putting the feeding tube in the stomach, why? They cannot handle it. So, what do we have? Pity for them. You want to go to a Church after being a Christian for 14 years where everything is put in a mixer and fed through the stomach? That's how messages are preached in the Church. You know why? It is because the people have not grown.

Growth is important because these are signs of life! When the baby grows, the baby recognizes the voice of the father, the voice of the mother, the voice of the brother, the voice of the sister, they recognize, you know what she/he is learning? Fellowship. Do you fellowship? I am not talking about the worldly fellowship, do you fellowship knowing the members of God's family? Signs! Because if you are not born again, you cannot act just, it's not possible for you because the righteousness of God is not on your top, what is top is – is it legal or illegal? If it is illegal, I will still do it because nobody sees me, but if you are seeking the righteousness of God, even if you do it in dark, you will cry out to God for mercy because the Spirit of God says: "You did it!" The law doesn't see you—many of you drove and came to the church today, did the law search all your papers? Some of you may not have your pollution certificate, some of you may have your driving license expired, some of you may not have insurance – did the law tell you? No, the law will only know when it checks you, but the Spirit knows and you know because you are born of the Spirit and the Spirit speaks to you. How do you know? Because the Spirit knows. And how do you know? Because the Spirit tells you.

That is justice, act justly. First thing is justice because it brings forth the righteousness of God and not of man. So the final question is not what the government says; it is what God says. That's why the apostles said to the Sanhedrin, "Should we obey you or God? You are government, but we should obey God." If what you are saying contradicts what God has said, we will obey God. In the process you put us in prison, it is well with my soul. You can only imprison my body, you cannot imprison my soul, only God can. And God has said, "Do not fear him who can kill your body, fear Him who can put both your body and soul into hell fire. Don't fear those men who can only harm your body, fear Him that deals with your soul." And the soul is concerned about justice, the righteousness of God, the born again spirit speaks to the soul about the righteousness of God, the righteousness of God, the righteousness of God. So Micah tells us the first thing, what is it?

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

James chapter 2 verse 13 – why love mercy?

James 2:13

¹³"For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgement."

I will tell you why it is so important to love mercy.

Lamentations 3:22

²² Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not."

You know why we are alive today? It is because of the mercies of God. Who is there who can stand saying—forget last week, today—I have walked in absolute holiness; haven't sinned against God in my thoughts, in my words, in my deeds; my heart was full of thanks giving and my lips were only uttering praise and I have only glorified God? Is there anybody? No. The Word of God says: ***"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God,"*** and do you know what is the answer? The answer is consumption, you would be consumed, but do you know why we are not consumed? It is because of the mercies of God. God says therefore, "Love mercy. When you deal with one another, show mercy because you are a recipient of My mercy every moment of your day." Don't be so quick to judge, love mercy; don't judge where you have no authority. Everybody is judging but they have no authority, God has given authority, areas. You go to Nampalli, you will see the civil court judge doesn't sit in the Nampalli criminal court, the criminal court judge doesn't go and sit in the high court, everybody has been given the territory where to judge. You judge only where you have authority; you don't have authority, shut your mouth and love mercy.

Look at Isaiah chapter 6 verses 1-3.

Isaiah 6:1-3

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Let me tell you, it's just a vision. For a minute, when unrighteousness died, represented by king Uzziah, who was a leper, he was struck with leprosy because he rebelled against God, so the symbolic picture is there – when sin died, the eyes of the prophet opened, he had the vision of Heaven. How does he see heaven?

"I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

He has six wings; the flying represents serving; four wings are to cover his feet and his face from God; only two wings to serve this holy God. And what's the cry going on over there? Verse 3...

³ And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"

And what is the response of the prophet? This prophet who is a godly man, a holy man, look at his response when he has a tiny little vision of heaven, he says, ***"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips,"*** Let me ask you this question, worship team that was worshipping here, if you worship, open the portals of heaven for a microsecond, if it wasn't for the mercy of God, you would be consumed because no man can stand the holiness of God, not even Moses – God said, "I will hide you in the cleft of the rock and My front you won't see, My back you will see otherwise you will be destroyed." Do you understand mercy?! If it wasn't for the mercy of God, I would be consumed while I am preaching the Word because no man is worthy to preach the Word of God except His Son. That's why He is called the Word, this is an honor, to come here is an honor, to do anything for God is honor and we live and serve Him because of His mercy, otherwise we would be consumed and Jeremiah is able to understand: ***"By His mercies we are not consumed!"***

Do we understand mercy? Do we understand justice? And then God says: ***"Walk holy, humbly before God."*** The call of salvation is to walk with God and then, walk with one another. What is salvation? Adam and Eve used to walk with God everyday only in the evening. There is transient presence of God everywhere and there is manifested presence of God that only happened in the evening. There was a particular time in the evening when God walked with Adam and Eve every day. So when they sinned, the Bible says: ***"When Adam heard the footsteps of God, he ran and hid from God and God asked, 'Where are you?'"*** God kept His appointment, this is the time we walk, let's walk. Why are you hiding?

There has to be time set in your lives, in your day when you walk with God; He waits, He comes, and if you are not there awake and waiting, He will ask you, "Peter, where are you? Pastor Vijay where are you? Avinash where are you? Why are you hiding?" Will you say like Adam? "No, my wife cooked such a heavy meal, I over ate and I fell asleep." That's the modern translation of what Adam said: "The woman You gave." What's our answer? Can we walk with God? First step after you are saved, you have put away everything, put your trust in God alone, after you are saved, the first step to walk with God again is taught to us through a minor prophet. So don't miss the minor prophets – I will only major on major prophets – no, go to the minor ones. Most of the things of Jesus was told to us through the minor ones and they were always saying, "I am just a goatherd, I am just a shepherd, why are You

sending me to speak to this people?" and God spoke to us through them. So, Amos tells us how you walk with God together.

Amos 3:3

³"Can two walk together unless they are agreed?"

Do you know why carnal fellowship succeeds well? Because they agree on music, sports, entertainment, movies, shopping, clothes. Birds of the same feather flock together.

Can two walk together unless they are agreed? It is a rhetorical question. The answer is 'NO'; if you cannot agree you cannot walk together.

There are many people around the world including this church who have sat in the church for years till they have become the part of the furniture but they still haven't taken the first step – they don't agree with God. They don't agree with God, therefore they can't walk with God. Do you agree with God? Married but not walking together, married for years but roommates in a hostel have more fellowship than more couples. You know why? It is because they are not able to agree. We had worship today, different instruments, when they all agreed, do you know what we got? It's called harmony. That's what God is talking about. When two people agree, you have harmony in their lives; out of harmony comes music, a symphony, otherwise what you have is cacophony. Are you getting the picture? First thing, are you able to agree? Out of agreement comes unity. God says, 'Learn everything from Me.' That's what Jesus came to show; the agreement between the Father, the Son and through the Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4

⁴"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"

They are three but one, absolute unity.

Mark 12:29

²⁹ Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'

He says, you know what, the other two has no meaning if you don't become one. The purpose is that you have harmony in your lives. Man learns to walk with God and man learns to walk with man; that is the purpose of the commandment. What is the intention of the commandments? "Love God with all your heart; love your neighbor as yourself." What is the purpose? So that out of that you can harmony. Think about the harmony in the Godhead; they are three, yet they are one. If you want to look at it as a picture, as a type, as a picture—don't turn my words around and run, I am just saying a type—God as the Father; the Holy Spirit as the type of the mother, the Holy Spirit is not a female, He is called He, He is a Person and He is not female but as a type of the mother; and Jesus as the Son. Though they are all three God, these are only to help us understand because God told Adam: "I shall make a helper for him," that is the same name of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. They are equal, the wife is not inferior, she is equal but her role is completely different.

The Father, the Holy Spirit and the Son -- have you notice, the fellowship in the trinity is held together by the Spirit? The Spirit searches the heart of the Father and reveals, and the Son does everything unto the Father through the Spirit – do you understand women, you hold the family together! Mother goes; the house goes, the house falls apart, that's your divine role to hold the father and the children together. So, the first thing is understanding, there has to be unity, there has to be harmony, and it is always possible only when there is agreement – the Father agrees with the Son; the Son agrees with the Spirit; the Spirit agrees with the Father. There is no division among them at all, that's why it says: **"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"** You go through the Bible from Genesis 1 onwards, what do they say? "Let us make man in our image; let us... let us..." and God made man in His image. "Let us go and see what man is doing," it is 'us, us, us...' it's one, it's unity.

It's not the false kind of unity some people on earth want, you will see many couples like that: you know what, wherever you go I will follow you like a network; you think the Father is following the Son wherever He goes and the Son is following the Holy Spirit wherever He goes? That is not unity; that is bondage. You all have your works to do. Imagine you take your wife everyday to your office, they will chuck you out. Unity is in the heart, in the spirit of essence. "No, wherever I go, my wife and my five children only go together," – try that in your office tomorrow. But you are one, yet the work is different. Father works differently, Son does another work, Spirit works differently but there is no division among them. You read chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians, it talks about the gifts of the Holy Spirit – God, Lord, Spirit; three are working together in the salvation of man but the works are not the same: the redemption

is by the Son; judgement is by the Father; reconciliation, conviction, everything is being done by the Spirit, yet they are unified in their work. So, we are talking about unity, not uniformity; not bondage, but liberty.

Otherwise, your relationship with God will become bondage and your relationship with one another become bondage. So the first question is the question of unity: are you united with God? Do you agree with God? I didn't say, do you understand God, you don't have to understand God, first you have to agree with God then you will understand. That's what happened when you joined a company, you signed a bond, "I agree," did you understand your process? They will say first you understand and we will teach you. No, when it comes to God, I need to understand first. God says, "Go take a break." Where? In hell. In heaven there is agreement, there is no disagreement in heaven. When He taught us to pray, this is how He taught us to pray: "Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is heaven." In heaven there is only His will, there is absolute agreement, everybody who disagreed is sitting and cooling their heels in hell including one third of the angels; no disagreement in heaven, because it is righteousness, holiness, purity and all that. There is no disunity. First thing you have to say is, you know what, I agree, I don't understand, but I agree. Second thing, about walking together, one question has to be decided, *1 Corinthians 11:3*.

1 Corinthians 11:3

³ But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Headship has to be decided. You know why there is perfect unity in the Trinity though They are equal? Headship is established forever. Where you do not have headship, you do not have fellowship, it's impossible to have fellowship, even if you have a team of similar salary, you have a team leader, meaning, he is your head, listen to him. And many of you do not have fellowship with anybody, primarily with God because you have no head, you are headless wanderers, no head. Head is a head whether visible or invisible, that's what Paul says, "Even when we are absent, obey." When you know you have a head, the head doesn't have to be present, you know you are under headship. Headship has to be established. The head of the Christ is the God, He says, "My head is My Father." Are you God? Yes, equal to God. Who is Your head? "My Father. His Word is My law." *"Behold in the volumes of the book is written about Me, I have come to do Your will, O God. I have come not to do My will but My Father's will."*

This has to be established in your life, in your home. The statutory warning because home is involved – the head of woman is man, and the head of man is Christ. You know what it means? There is only one sovereign head that is God; man is not the sovereign head of his wife, he has only delegated authority and not sovereign authority. Sovereign authority is for God and God alone, and some man acts as if he is sovereign, you are not sovereign, there is only one who is sovereign, it's God. So read that Scripture very carefully, men and women, because these are fundamentals to walking with God and walking with one another. God is sovereign, man is not. Even the king in Israel did not have sovereignty, he had to have the book of Law beside him, meditate upon the Law all his life and do only what it was written because it was only delegated authority and not sovereign authority. That was the law for the kings of Israel, and when they disobeyed it, God broke and destroyed the kingdom; He didn't destroy other kingdoms, only Israel was judged because He says: "Israel I have chosen you as My people. So, you disobey I will spank the daylights out of you," they are still getting spanked because God chose them as His people and the Church is getting spanked because God chose the Church through His Son. No other nations are being disciplined, there are two nations that are being disciplined; one is called the Israel, the other is called the Church, which is called a holy nation – two nations God will discipline. The others He lets them go their own way and they will go into destruction unless they come through Christ into His fold.

Headship has to be decided, so we need to learn to walk with God. Amos 3:3 issue, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" Can I walk with God unless I agree with Him? But there is problem walking with God. I will tell you the problem of man, even the problem of born-again man to walk with God, the prophet Isaiah 600 years before Christ explains it beautifully. This is the problem of my walking with God:

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord.

When two people walk together, you will see whether they are crooks or good, their thoughts and the ways are the same. The problem is, I want you to walk with Me and you want to walk with Me, but the problem is, My thoughts are not your thoughts and My ways are not your ways. "Lord, kitna gap haimere thought aur aapke thought k bich

me; aapkeraste me aur mere raste me? Little gap?” God says “No. ⁹ ***For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.***”

Now, scientifically knowledgeable people know the difference, the closest satellite to earth is moon, how far is moon? Forget moon, this is talking about the heavens and He lives in the third heaven which cannot be even visible by any telescope. “Do you want to know the distance between My thoughts are your thoughts? My ways and your ways? You want to walk with Me, this is the distance.” Not only that, another major issue:

Malachi 3:6

“For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”

Do you know why God doesn’t change? Because He is perfect! If God changes, He can only change for the worst, not for the better. When you take an object (there are no objects like that in God’s sight) which are perfect; if you change it, it becomes imperfect. That’s what God means. He’s got no ego trip, He knows who He is, He knows He is holy, perfectly holy, perfectly righteous, perfectly pure. He says, ‘You know what, I cannot change, I do not change; if I change, it would become your destruction because I would become worse.’ So not only is the gap so much, He also doesn’t change. Moses learned it the hard way:

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

³ For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God. ⁴ He is the Rock, what does it mean? doesn’t change, the rock, doesn’t change. His work is perfect; He cannot improve in His work, For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

Moses learned it towards the end: “You cannot enter into the Promise Land.” “Yes, Sir, You are right, I am wrong.” Everybody has this question, how could God do that to Moses? It is because He is right, because He is perfect. Somebody asked this question: “Why did Moses had to wait for forty years for God to speak to him?” because God couldn’t do it in 39 years. Even your waiting period is perfect. Solomon learned it the hard way, the smartest fool in the world; he wrote all the proverbs, kept none.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.

Buddu, ye pehlerakhnatha; wasted your life, destroyed your kingdom, at the end with one foot on the banana peel, the other foot in the grave, he is telling us.

¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Did you get it? At the end of his life he realized perfect.

So put these two together: His ways and His thoughts are as high as the heavens is, and He does not change. So, if I have to walk with God, I have to change. Revert to the home or the church, two homes on earth; your home and church as a spiritual home.

1 Corinthians 11:3

³ But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Who is the head of your home? Christ! Christ and not man. How does Christ walk? Walks justly, loves mercy and humbly. Are you that man? “I don’t think so,” well learn. Christ is the head of the house, not man; man is delegated head, real head is Christ. Understand when these commandments which are given, which women despise though they don’t show it because we are very holy outwardly.

Ephesians 5:21-22

²¹submitting to one another in the fear of God. Why? Because Christ is the head, you cannot see Him but He is there in your house, He is the head of the house.

Next verse,

²²wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Why? Because the head of your house is Christ.

Verse 25,

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, full stop... husbands would be so happy – “I love my wife.” No! ***“...Just as Christ also love the church and gave Himself to her,”***

Why did Paul have to write this extra words, he is very generous with his word? Why give us all this trouble when he writes to wives to submit to her husband in all things, why did he put 'all' over there, 'some' would have been good. And then he comes and tells to the husbands, **"Just as Christ also love the church..."** and he doesn't stop there, he also tells how He gave Himself for her, **"... and gave Himself to her."** Simple question God says: do you give yourself for your wife? Primarily two ways, if you look at it in Jesus' practical life with His disciples, He asked them two questions: one, "When I send you out, did you lack anything?" they said, "no." The first priority of the husband is to provide for his wife. Then, when they came to arrest Him, He said "Who do you seek?" Me (Jesus). Leave them alone. To protect your family. Everything that you do for your wife, be very sure you are not indulging in flesh, you are doing it because you are protecting her because Christ protects the church. Keep those things in your mind because this is what Christ does, this is how you learn to walk with God, you have to protect your home, you have to protect your wife, you have to provide and protect.

You are listening to the Word which will matter in eternity forever and ever! Wives and husbands, when they learn to walk with one another and you learn to walk with God, what is happening? So don't ask these questions at home, don't have a legalistic framework, is it just? If I ask my husband this, is it just? If I ask my wife to do this, is it just? I used to tell my students in the youth meeting in other countries where I go, I used to ask them, "Come here, you see the smart phone over there, how much this phone cost?" "Sir, 15,000." "How did you get it?" "My Daddy got it for me." "How long did you pester him for this? What is Daddy's salary?" "30,000" "Do you know what this is? This is half your father's life of a month; this is your fifteen days of your father's life. When you asked for a smart phone, was it just?" It's not whether it is right or wrong, we have crossed that line long back when we came to Christ, we are not asking about good and evil, we have to ask, when I make a request, when I demand something, is it just? Does it bring forth the righteousness of God? What does your father do? What does your mother do? And you are asking this! Think about whatever you demand, is it just? Because relationships are based on need, need-based relationships, you ask this, you ask that... that's not the question, the simple question is, is it just?! Think!

Think before you go and ask people, family, anybody, you ask for something, always ask: what I am asking is, is it just? I am not asking whether it is legit—that's what our father taught us, five children, he taught us, he said, "With all that I had, I have given you the best education I could afford you," and he said one thing, "One thing I promise you, I will never come with you, bend my head before a principal for admission! That you get yourself; if you don't have the marks, don't apply." And we never did, he never had to come with us and bend his head anywhere. So, when you ask for things, ask this question: is it just?! As children ask yourself – is it just? The first question as a believer – is it just? Does it bring about the righteousness of God? These things we need to ask. That's what the Bible says, Jesus upbraided the cities where He had done His miraculous works: **"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If these things were done in Sodom and Gomorrah, it would be till here today."**

He says, you think Sodom and Gomorrah have been judged? It's not yet judged; judgement is set on another day, He says on that Day of Judgment it would be better for Sodom and Gomorrah than for you. Ask yourself this question, for those who have sat on the church for years and years; your response to the Word of God; your prayer life; your worship life; is it just?! Does it bring about the righteousness of God? Ask these questions first. Because that's the simple question everybody ask: "Is it fair? Is it fair?..." You ask yourself: the things that I do, my zeal, my effort, my money I put into it, the energy I put – is it just? Above all considering the fact that He saved me and gave the life of His own Son, is it just? In your home, is it just? And when you deal with others, mercy, because mercy triumph over judgement; we are not consumed because of His mercy. So, walk humbly because God is humble. So what is the solution? Solution lies with God—the same portion in Isaiah chapter 55 verse 6:

Isaiah 55:6

⁶Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

What does it mean? There will be a time in your life when you seek Him, you don't find Him; when you look for Him, He is too far away. So seek Him when He may be found, call upon Him when He is near. It's a warning. There will come a time when He may not be found. If you have doubts, look at this portion:

Hebrews 12:16-17

¹⁶lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

"Lest there be any person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright." What is your birthright? To reign in righteousness is my birthright; I have been born by the Spirit of God, declared righteous by God; now God says, through grace reign in righteousness. That's my birthright. You are throwing it away for a morsel of food, you are an Esau. What happened? ***17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.***

He cried, he wept, he howled, but the Lord was not near. To Isaiah He says: ***"Call upon Him while He is near."*** Yesterday, we looked at another question from Hebrews chapter 2 verse 3;

Hebrews 2:3

3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him..."

It's also a rhetorical question: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Answer: you will not. One, because of the price paid; second, because of the Person who paid the price; third, because of the scope of the salvation. You and I can be saved to the uttermost is what the writer of the Hebrews says. So he says, "If you neglect, you can reject, you can neglect, but you cannot escape." And we said yesterday, relationship with God is neglected, your prayer closet is empty, Word is hardly read, messages are never listened to; your relationship with your spouse is neglected, marriages die because of neglect – simple! All you have to do for your marriage to die is to do nothing; all you have to go to hell is what? To do nothing. You don't have to do one thing to go to hell, you are automatically going because you neglect. And the Bible says: ***"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"***

Answer: you will not escape! Because God is impartial, He is just. Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 (for all the young ones sitting over here)

1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":

Right now, difficult days haven't come, all the unmarried ones sitting, no difficult days have come, that will come later; before that comes "Seek the Lord!" then you will be able to stand, then the day of testing will come where there is nobody beside you, no pastor beside you, no prayer team beside you, you are alone like Joseph in Potiphar's palace and the test comes, but because you sought the Creator, like Joseph, in the days of your youth, you stood, while others fell. There is a time to seek the Lord when you are young.

You know when people have old age amnesia, they start forgetting things, the saddest part is, they forget people, they don't forget habits. Why? It is because they did not seek the Lord in the days of their youth and control themselves. They will just have finished their breakfast five minutes before; they will start shouting: "You did not feed me breakfast! What are you trying to do? Starve me to death?!" but your stomach is full, your mind doesn't resist you. I have seen people coming out of the ICU, lying in a coma and their hand moving (smoking habit). Why? Because you did not serve your Creator in the days of your youth and you were an addict; now you are lying in coma, involuntarily hand is moving. Sad state of man! I heard about a child telling, her father was released from the ICU at the age of 85, came home and he is sitting before the TV and watching porn because he cannot help it. Because he did not seek the Lord in the days of his youth, when the age came, he finds no pleasure in anything, he is just a slave of his habit!

God says, "Seek Me!" That's not what is told about Moses; Moses was 120 years old, his eyes were the same, his strength was the same, and his last walk to death was with God and not with man. How do you want to end your life? Check your life now, you will know how you will end. All you have to look at a road is where the end of the road is, check your life now, you will know where you will end; if you are not walking with God, you will know where you will end; if you are complacent about God, you will know how your end will be; if you are complacent about your family, you will know where you will end. The road reveals the destination. Be serious because we are seeing before our eyes the greatest nation ever on earth – United Nation of America, called a city on the hill, whose forefathers made a living covenant with God – falling apart, every principle of God being legalized out; you are seeing a nation fall. You know why? Because people in that nation took their walk with God lightly, they neglected. Can they escape? Answer: no nation has escaped! Not even Israel has escaped, no individual will escape. So be very serious. So what do we do? Go back to Isaiah, he has the answer because he is the one who prophesized the Jesus coming 600 years before.

Isaiah 55:6-7

⁶ Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near, ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

It is coming back to the same thing: thoughts and ways – “My thoughts are higher than your thoughts, My ways are higher...” you please forsake your thought. Even the most righteous man who ever walked on earth—we are leaving Jesus aside—even the most righteous man you think about it, his thoughts are unrighteous before God’s thoughts, his ways are wicked before God’s eyes. Forsake! Forsake! It’s a decision you make, all is done at the heart first—“Daniel purposes in his heart...” These are decisions you have to make, once you have made the decision, God will help you to put it away. First is a decision. That’s why Jesus said: “If you will to know My doctrine, you will know My doctrine.” Everybody has a will, that’s why you are here, you used your will to move your legs. Forsake, forsake our own ways, forsake our own thoughts. What will God be? Still the same: mercy and abundant pardon. You know what this word is called in the Bible? It’s called repentance. Forsaking your own thoughts, forsaking your own ways, is called repentance. I still love the Hindi translation of the word repentance – ‘monfirawo,’ change your mind, don’t think those thoughts, don’t go that way, change your ways. John the Baptist’s entire ministry was built on that one word – repent! For the Kingdom of God is near. That message hasn’t changed.

Luke 1:17

¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

What was his job? To prepare a people ready for Jesus to come. What’s the job of the pastors? To prepare a church for Jesus to take and the only way is through repentance, if you don’t repent, He will leave you behind; He will take those who are ready – whether you are ready or not, here I come! That’s what repentance mean. What was John’s ministry? To prepare a people for God. Look at the next verse, Zacharias’ prophecy after he started speaking:

Luke 1:76-77

⁷⁶ “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;

For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, repentance prepares the way for God to come into your life; no repentance, no God, you cannot walk with God.

⁷⁷ To give knowledge of salvation to His people

By the remission of their sins, if there is no repentance, there is no remission of sins. Are you getting the picture?

The same thing is mentioned in *Malachi 4:5-6*, before Jesus comes a second time.

Malachi 4:5-6

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

We know that is the day of the judgement – “dreadful day of the Lord.” He will send the same spirit that was on Elijah, meaning: if I am a true servant of God, I have to start preaching repentance again, otherwise I am a false prophet because the day of the Lord is near. I cannot mollycoddle you; I have to get you ready.

And what are they saying?

⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers...

Did you see it goes back to the home? The problem is in the home, it goes back to the home.

When John preached, God says, “I will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers,” because the problem is in the home. And what are the mothers doing? They have understood their position in the home. What is that? To bring reconciliation in the home, their entire life is spent on prayer to bring reconciliation in the home and not to cause discord in the home. They understand their position. What does the Holy Spirit do? He brings reconciliation. That’s the work of the Holy Spirit; that’s the work of the mother. What is the curse of these last days? Absentee fathers and missing fathers, you have more single parent homes with mothers running their homes as fathers walked away, or absentee fathers, present but absent. That’s a curse. And what did it lead to? It led to feminism, the reigning spirit of this world. You know what happens when a woman takes over the house? Quietly, subtly, comes a spirit which is called the Jezebel’s spirit. Women, learn to submit, if you do not submit to the spirit of Christ, you will submit to another spirit which is called the Jezebel’s spirit. Do you know what you will do? You will marry a weak man whom you can manipulate, a man called Ahab and control because you cannot handle tough man. This is how it works. Be careful, understand God’s order, because we see this playing out; everything that was prophesized is falling into place.

Men, be the rightful head, provide, protect, preserve, lead; women, follow, bring reconciliation, don't cause discord. That's why the women are missing in both the statements, in the beginning and in the end, same spirit. The more you get educated, become more submissive because knowledge puffs up, wisdom makes you humble; be wise, don't be knowledgeable. To be knowledgeable you don't need anything, like I said, all you need is google, it's so easy—my wife asked me, "What does this word mean?" I just searched it, google is there. We don't even have to send children to college now, just teach them how to read and write and give them an app, they will find any answer. Even I, if I have a symptom in my body, before I call Dr. Richard, before I pray (let me honestly confess), I check in google all the symptoms and diagnose my own disease – Dr. google is there, right? The problem is, knowledge makes you proud, you don't submit, be careful men and women, especially women. Why? Because Ephesians 5:22 comes before 23, the instructions are given first to those who follow and not to those who lead, because if you don't follow, you don't have a leader.

Understand how you need to walk with God because the day of the Lord is near. As long as we are not willing to repent, willing to forsake our ways and our thoughts, then you know what happens? We are usurping the authority of Christ in our homes as man, when you are usurping the authority of Christ as women, then we are not David, we are Absalom. Why did Absalom defy his father? Because of something that was outward – he was good looking. Today, it could be something else; you are smarter, have better pay package, you got more skills, anything... it is same Absalom's spirit. You know how Absalom died? You know what theologians say of Absalom? Heaven refused to receive him, earth refused to accept him, therefore he died hanging between the two.

Can man walk with God? Yes, he can. What he should he do? Be willing to forsake his evil thoughts and forsake his evil ways and act justly, love mercy and walk humbly before God, both man and woman. Do you know what you do? You bring the Kingdom of God wherever you go. If you don't, you bring the kingdom of the devil wherever you go. There are only two kingdoms, not the nations of the earth, only two kingdoms: the kingdom of the devil or the Kingdom of the God. And that's what Pastor Vijay said an old saying, "Some people bring joy when they come, some people bring joy when they leave." And all of you who have been living with us for many years, when you leave, don't let Ma and me say "good they are gone." Hear from us, never lose in touch with you, because we know you are on the right track. Same thing in a home, same thing in a church, when you go, there should be regret in the church, not relief. When you leave your home, there should be sorrow in the home and not relief. Change your ways, change your thoughts, walk humbly with God. Yesterday we looked at one verse, I think it was *Hebrews 11:16*, stand up to read that verse.

Hebrews 11:16

¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Read this part alone: ***"Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God."*** Is God ashamed to call Himself your God? You know Indian parents — "Mera bacha hai mat bolna! Bahar ja kar naam ko barbadkiya." (Don't tell anyone that you are my son. You went out and spoilt the reputation). Will God be ashamed to call us His people? Today, now, if Jesus were to come, would He identify you, you, you... "I am proud of you!" would He be able to say? Get these things—that's what the Bible says: Enoch walked with God and he was no more because God took him, God was not ashamed, He was proud of this boy. Let the Sunday school children say – Enoch and God walked so long, then finally God said, "You are nearer to My home than yours, come with Me." That's rapture. ***He is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.***

Closing prayer

Father, this morning we just want to come and surrender once again, Lord. None of us will come to that point but we are constantly getting rid of our evil thoughts and our evil ways for one reason – we want to walk with You. The entire reason of salvation is to walk with You, that man may walk with God again and may have that sweet fellowship with Him and would be able to say like Your servant said, "The Lord is at hand. Though everybody abandoned me at my first hearing, they forsook me, and the Lord stood by me and strengthened me." O Lord, let that be our testimony. Wherever we are, wherever we go, we should be able to say like Paul, we should be able to say like Joseph – a slave in Egypt; the Lord was with him; thrown into prison, he was able to say, "The Lord was with me." That's what salvation is about, that's what it is all about, that we can walk with You again. Help us to love what is just, help us to love mercy, help us to walk humbly with You and with one another and our dealings with one another; be it just, be it merciful and be humble. We can walk with You; we can walk with one another, then we can say, "God

is in our midst." Thank You, Father, thank You, Lord, thank You for these ten months. Tomorrow as the new month begins, if You tarry to come tonight, You give us another day in the land of the living and I pray, we will give heed to Your words and order our footsteps so that we can please You as Enoch pleased You by faith. Thank You, thank You, Thank You, Lord! We praise You, worship You, we glorify You, Lord. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us. Amen! God bless you!