



COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**Romans 4:1-15: OT to NT to You & Me. God is ONE.  
Pastor Matt Poling**

**Part 1: One God, One Faith, One Salvation in the Bible  
from beginning to end.**

Get excited! This is FAITH BUILDING STUFF

God is one and He has one plan of salvation: that of faith in Christ.

*“...there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law”  
(Romans 3:30-31)*

Christians uphold the law, through the power and work of Christ.

Say no to UNHITCHING...

Beware the dangers of “Unhitching from the Old Testament”

Paul, in 1 Timothy 1 says that the law is good... if used properly. And that the law is made for ANYTHING (IE: sin) that is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God.

Are under the law? No. But it is not garbage to be cast aside. Nor is it opposed to the Gospel.

*“Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not!” (Galatians 3:21)*

*“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”* This was 14 years before the sign of circumcision, and over 400 years before the law was given to Moses. The “first” covenant was really the promise of the covenant to come!

Did Christ say we should *unhitch* from the Old Testament? NO!  
Quite the opposite.

*“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5:17)*

*“He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.” (Luke 24:44-45)*

*“And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life... If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”  
(John 5:37-40,46-47)*

You could not get further away from the idea of unhitching.

From beginning to end of the Bible ... it's always been about faith in Jesus.

Do you see the beauty? The continuity of Scripture? It's amazing.

**When we unhitch from the Old Testament...**

- **We make God into something He's not.**
- **We minimize our sin and His atonement.**
- **We also unhitch from the New Testament.**

Unhitching is idolatry, blasphemy. Will cause us to make God into our image. What we desire.

Run from teachers that tell you to unhitch from the Old Testament.

Don't let your emotions rule.

Our feelings will lie to us. They will put other gods before Him. Lead us astray.

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.  
Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD and shun evil. (Proverbs 3:5-7)*

Trust God. The Plan has never changed.

Don't unhitch. Christ didn't. Paul didn't. James, John, Jude didn't.

Don't be ruled by your emotions. They will change and lie.

Confused by the OT? Trust God. Trust His Word. Seek wisdom.

Mike Winger: BibleThinker.org

John Calahan: NeverThirsty.org

These are human resources I use. But test EVERYTHING against the Bible! Let it speak.

*“In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2: 11-12)*

Circumcision was a sign. Put off the flesh. And it continues to this day, spiritually, through the work of Christ in our lives.

**PART 2: And what is this work of the Gospel? Faith credited to us as righteousness.**

*“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.” (Romans 4:3-5)*

God did the work. We receive the credit.

It is not our righteousness, our goodness, revealed. It is His righteousness placed in our account.

It's like God deposited Righteousness into our account at the bank.

Your works don't save you ... but don't forget them!

Read James 2:20-24!

FAITH – RIGHTEOUSNESS – GOOD WORKS – LOVE – FREEDOM, we think of these things separately or linearly. They are not. One comes with the other. Cannot be separated.

### **PART 3: What does this all have to do with marriage/relationships? Everything.**

When we say yes to God, we believe in Him, we trust Him with our lives, He credits us with Righteousness. Without expectation. No work of our own. He loved us while we were sinners. Now we can live out of that love and give that to You and to others. I can do good works because I am free. AND because I'm free...the works are actually GOOD.

This is a beautiful picture of what our marriage relationships (and to a lesser degree all relationships) out to be.

What do we deposit into other's accounts?

Love. Without expectation of return.

Our Spouses, our friends, our family are meant to be FREE.

Free in Christ, and free from our expectation.

We are not meant to ask our spouses to justify themselves to us ... to earn our love.

A successful relationship is not about trying harder. It's about crediting them with love and living out of the joy that their credit has in you. This is freedom. This is life and love without expectation. And it is all powered by the work of righteousness done in you by Christ through faith.

## The Practical Advice (daily)

1. Forgive. You were forgiven much. Do not hold their sin against them.

*“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”  
(Ephesians 4:32)*

2. Evaluate and confess your sin/mistakes/selfishness. Repent to God...AND your spouse. Take the plank out of your eye. In humility, confess who/what you put in front of your spouse.

*“Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24)*

3. Think on good things. Don't think about the lie that the grass is greener... That things would be better if we just went separate ways. Don't meditate on your spouse's sins.

*“It's going to be much harder to physically resist a sin that you've been mentally rehearsing.” Sam Allberry*

Examples: Men, don't think on other women. Women, don't meditate on all the mistakes your husband makes. Both of you, don't compare your spouse to other spouses you think are so much better ... they're not.

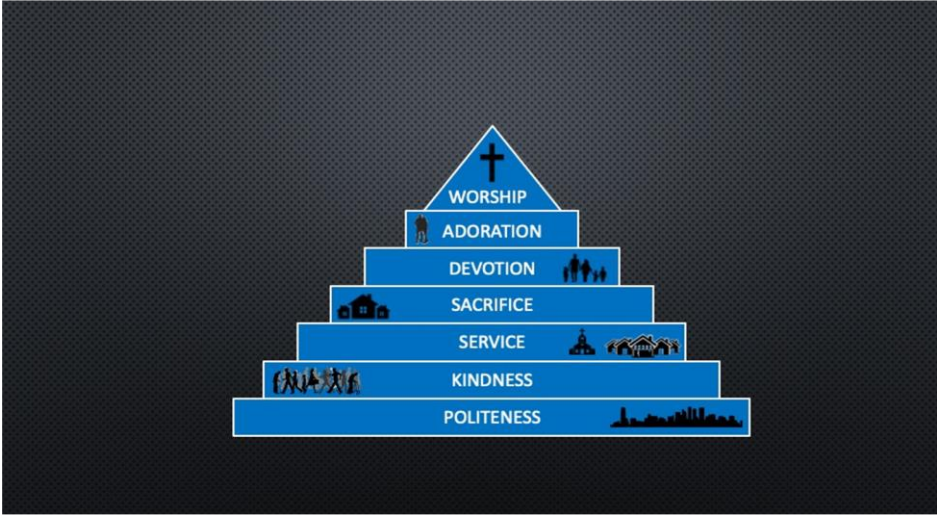
4. Use your bodies as instruments of righteousness. Not instruments of wickedness.

*“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.” (Romans 6:12-13)*

## The Love Pyramids

Ways to practice love if you're married:

Worship God alone, adore your spouse and God, be devoted to your family, spouse, and God...etc. As you go down the pyramid, the expressions of love get easier and more general, and the group gets larger.



And if you're single, levels 2-3 (Adoration of Spouse and Devotion to Immediate Family) become devotion to a larger community. Like Christ had with his disciples.

