

Family update version 2.0!

I hope you have the blessing of being part of a wonderful loving FAMILY.

I know this is not always the case. If you don't know the love a great FAMILY relationship, take heart,... **this message should lift your heart.**

If you are part of a wonderful loving Family relationship, this message will also encourage you even more because it is on **Family update version 2.0!** Most have their own Family version 1.0, their own personal human family. There is a UPDATE to 1.0 Maybe better to say Family version “**infinity**”, as this version will need no further upgrade or updates, it is the “infinity” version that has already reached “perfection”, and,- well, there is no possible upgrade beyond “perfection”.

I want to add to title of this short message:

**“The HONOR and BLESSING of being a member of “THE” Family”,
THE Family to end all families!**

Think of your own Family. What comes to mind? Is it warm and comfortable? Many will answer no”. Please read on....

I have three wonderful sisters, unfortunately we lost our half brother when I was a teen, but had a loving christian dad who was a living example of love and devotion to God, and I do have a good warm and fuzzy feeling when I think of my family.

However,- this is not always the case, in fact I was pretty shocked to find what some experts report in relation to the FAMILY... Now keep in mind the very common wide acceptance that “family” is the “backbone of society”, just Google “family is the backbone of society”, and you'll find tons of results. So.....

Consider this article from People magazine May 28, **1990**, [nearly 30 years ago at the time of this writting] Vol. 33, No. 21.

*“John Bradshaw, a family-systems therapy advocate and family dynamics expert, cites research that found **96 percent of all families are in some degree 'dysfunctional'**—that is, the system by which the family interacts is distorted by the addictions and compulsions of one or more members and, so, ignores the needs of each individual. In his view, it is the '**don't trust, don't feel**' rules in such families that lead the children into their own self-*

*destructive patterns. . . . “ **Wow**, in a family environment feeling that you can’t TRUST and can’t FEEL? This should not be. Shouldn’t the Family environment be a SAFETY HAVEN? FAMILY Should be the one place in all the world, you should be able to **feel** that you can safely RUN TO, enter into,- with TRUST and be allowed to FEEL, to feel SAFE and LOVED !!!!*

The article continues....

*“As 96 percent of all families are to some degree **emotionally impaired**, the unhealthy rules we're living by are handed down from one generation to another **and ultimately to society at large. Our society is sick because our families are sick.**” (Source: Bradshaw, John, Bradshaw On: The Family, Deerfield Beach, FL, Health Communications, 1988)”*

Now, again,- MAYBE you’re listening or reading this now and thinking that is not “my” case? GREAT, then please understand how BLESSED you are,- but a great blessed family relationship is not there for MANY.

Have these views from 30 years ago changed or improved? What do you think?

I found this 2015 writing from the Pew Research Center:

*Family life is changing. Two-parent households are on **the decline** in the United States as divorce, remarriage and cohabitation are on the rise. And families are smaller now, both due to the growth of single-parent households and the drop in fertility. Not only are Americans having fewer children, but the circumstances surrounding parenthood have changed. While in the early 1960s babies typically arrived within a marriage, today fully **four-in-ten births occur to women who are single or living with a non-marital partner.***

As a result of these changes, there is no longer one dominant family form in the U.S.

In 2016 Time Magazine online reported:

Domestic (meaning FAMILY) **violence** makes up **21%** of all violent crime, according to the Department of Justice. That’s nearly 1 in 4 VIOLENT crimes happen within the family! Again “VIOLENT” crime, that’s not just a kid steals \$10 from moms purse.....

It continues:

*Domestic violence and partner abuse don't affect adults exclusively. There were more than 700,000 reported cases of child abuse and neglect in 2014, according to the CDC, and **one in 15 children witness domestic violence every year**, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.*

This really makes my heart hurt to think of, my heart cries.

When will we see Malachi's prophecy?

Mal 4:5 Look, I will send to you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Yehovah.

4:6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers; otherwise I will come and strike the land with complete destruction."

Now let's understand that, to turn families hearts to each other means that they are in a state where that isn't the case.

Is it true that a great number of people are in denial about the dysfunction in their families. With the violence and other problems in WHAT SHOULD BE OUR SAFE-HAVEN,- our Families, it's probable that a great number of people who come in for mental health or addiction counseling are there for reasons that stem from family dysfunction, but statistics show that up to 70% have no idea this is an issue and have a hard time looking at their past for reasons and answers.

Listen, if we have an ache or pain, don't you think it's wise to look for the **root cause** of what is causing that ache or pain. We need to treat the CAUSE, not just the SYMPTOM!

So Now Treatment,- - -

If you can identify a specific CAUSE, then remove / fix / extinguish that Cause, and then move on to healing.

If you can't identify the Cause, is it possible to Heal?

IF one can't identify the cause, then all focus must be on the TREATMENT AND HEALING still. I cannot advise on treatment, EXCEPT,- and I firmly believe in this EXCEPT, because part of the CURE ABSOLUTELY involves

FILLING A VITAL HOLE or DEFICIENCY that EVERY HUMAN BEING IS BORN WITH !!!

Yes, every human baby born, is born with a HOLE in our HEARTS!

Now, you can't see it with the human eye, or even view it under a microscope. *The hole is of a spiritual nature.*

If we deny that there is a spiritual side to our physical health, than the treatment of the body will never be complete! This is a widely accepted understanding now by the vast majority of health experts....

Here is a leading article quote in an online article at mentalhealth.org.uk "A clear distinction is often made between 'mind' and 'body'. But when considering mental health and physical health, the two should not be thought of as separate."

mqmentalhealth.org states this: "It is becoming well known that poor mental health can have a huge negative impact on a person's outcomes in life. Most shockingly, having a serious mental illnesses can reduce life expectancy by 10 to 20 years."

Now, there are some chemical and physical things that do cause brain problems that affect a person's actions, so those things need to be treated by a good mental health professional. What I am referring to is upon treatment of those physical and/or chemical issues, that can help or allow the BODY or BRAIN to function at a workable state, is that there will STILL BE A HOLE IN OUR BEING! And this Hole Cannot be fixed by drugs or other physical treatments. Consider...

*Job 32: 7 I said, 'Age should speak;
an abundance of years should teach wisdom.'* [all the physical things]
8 But it is the spirit in a person, the breath from the Almighty,
that gives him understanding — [what allows us to live in true health]

Even the great war general Douglas MacArthur stated this before congress after calling to attention great efforts that should cause us to heal mankind's strife and need for war he declared: "It must be of the **spirit** if we are to save the flesh."

I call it a HOLE IN THE HEART, but this hole is 100% curable!

We are all born with an inborn NEED for Spiritual sustenance- for spiritual growth. Just as important as physical food/sustenance for physical life, which we must feed, the spiritual,- the spirit **MUST** also be fed. In other words, **our CREATOR made us to have a relationship with HIM!**

The carnal world around us would like to deny this need, but that comes from from the lord of this age...

Matthew 4:3 The Tempter came and said to him [Yeshua/Jesus], "If you are the Son of God, order these stones to become bread." 4 But he answered, "The Tanakh [scripture] says,

'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of Yehovah' [CJB restored]

Mankind CANNOT Live by the PHYSICAL ALONE, we MUST feed the SPIRIT.

This was not a new thought, Yeshua was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, as God was declaring to His creation the 2-part makeup of our beings. He stated for Israel that **IF** they would "take care to obey, so that **you will live**, increase your numbers..." In other words, from our CREATOR, who therefore knows as a loving Father, that for us to "LIVE" -AND- "THRIVE" (increase), we should take care to follow His instructions, which are the basic principles of life.

He then also sent His beloved son to give us a Living Example, who declared: *John 7:37 Now on the last day of the festival, the great day [Hoshana Rabbah], Yeshua stood and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, **let him keep coming to me and drinking!** 38 Whoever **puts his trust in me**, as the Scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being!"*

Two very important points we must take to heart to *truly live*,- Go to our elder BROTHER, and build a RELATIONSHIP (keep coming) with him, as our LIVING WATER -and- *John 6:32 Yeshua said to them, "Yes, indeed! I tell you it wasn't Moshe who gave you the bread from heaven. But **my Father is giving you the genuine bread from heaven**; 33 for **God's bread is the one** who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world."*

Now let's understand how this relates to the FAMILY relationship I began this message with.....

WE ARE NOT ORPHANS!

Yet, too often we live as though we are orphans and fatherless. We are not! This is where we must go to fill our human birth defect,- the Hole in our Hearts, the hole in our very being.

WE ARE PART OF THE GREATEST FAMILY THAT CAN EVER EXIST,- THE ETERNAL INFINITY FAMILY OF GOD!

We must build on that family relationship. Talk to our eternal Father daily, converse with our brother Yeshua continually throughout our day.

When we encounter something that is challenging us, talk to your brother. Ask him, “Yeshua, how would you handle this, help me know how you would handle this, you were here on Earth, you came to know first hand.” By conversing- VISITING with our Father and Brother on a daily, even hourly basis, we grow and build on our Family Relationship with them. Yeshua tells us to Ask, Seek, Knock on his door [Mat 7:7]. Doing so develops what may start as a surreal family relationship and turns it into a “REAL” relationship, ever as REAL as the physical family and/or friends we have.

This Family is your Eternal, never ending, never abusive, never abandoning, always supportive, always caring, always loving family.

Are you living as though you are a spiritual orphan, or do you know someone who is? Take this message to heart, and introduce those who may need to be spiritually adopted to this message.

Write the following statement by Paul into your very being, and let it never fade from your memory banks:

Romans 8:17 *“and if we are children, then we are also **heirs, heirs of God** and **joint-heirs with the Messiah** — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.”* Be GLORIFIED with him.

Yes, you are a beloved family member/child of the creator of the universe, even to the point of being an JOINT-HEIR to the Kingdom Family along with Father’s only begotten son. Allow that to sink in. Build on this relationship daily. **With such a GLORIOUS Future, take hope daily.**

Brother Robert Bates

<https://www.2theway.org>