



Royal Vision

January-February 2001

**THE BEAUTY
AND STRENGTH
OF THE RACES**

**THE WORK:
2000 IN REVIEW**

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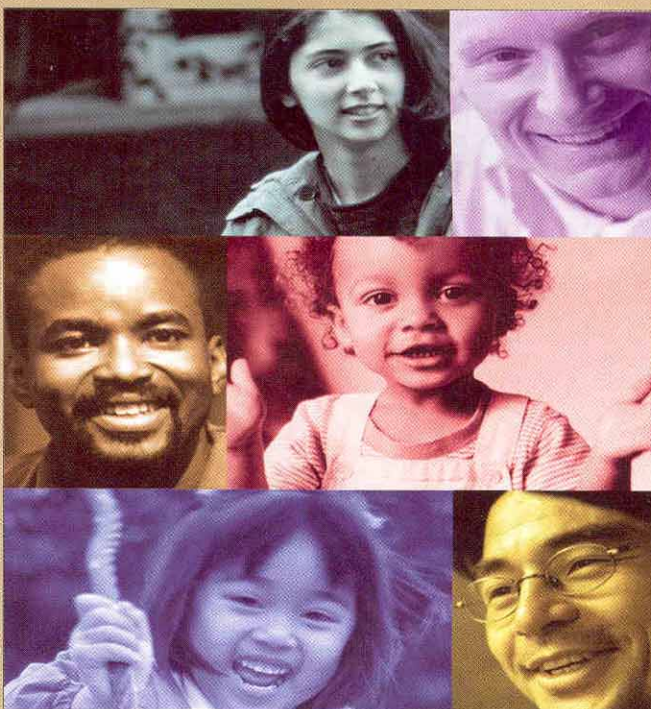
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Beautiful Creations The Creator God had a specific purpose for creating the different races of mankind. (Photodisc/Artville; design by Joel Hilliker).

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Greetings, Brethren and Co-Workers! . . .

Greetings, brethren and co-workers!

Satan, in a very subtle way, destroys the God family vision. I want to show you how he does that. He is trying with all his being to pervert this teaching. I want to talk to you about a sermon that was given by one of our ministers. He was confused about love for neighbor and love for God's family, or the Church. I believe most of our ministers are confused about this subject, which is why God is teaching it to me more deeply. Satan tries to destroy the God family by deceiving us about God's love. In fact, he has already destroyed many members of the God family by confusing them on this subject, the God family. So please keep that in mind and pray that God would deepen *your* understanding on this important subject.



Gerald Flurry
Editor in Chief

Loving God and Your Neighbor

JOHAN REVEALED THAT "GOD IS LOVE" (1 JOHN 4:8, 16). The law is summed up in two great commandments: love toward God and love toward neighbor (Matt. 22:36-39). The second great commandment toward your neighbor is directed at other human beings, but only those unconverted in the world. Though God wants those billions in His family, He is not working with them at this time—they are not begotten of Him yet.

The confused minister said that our neighbor is *every* human being, including those *inside* the Church. If you understand the family of God, it is *NOT* what the Bible terms our *neighbor*. When God says love your neighbor, He's talking about loving those in the world. There is a big difference in how we love God's family and how we love the world. There is a difference, and there must be until that family in the world *becomes* God's family.

This minister used the following scripture and said it applied to loving your neighbor: "*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ*" (Gal. 6:1-2). That scripture is directed toward God's family; it uses the word *brethren*. But this minister applied it to loving your neighbor. That was a mistake.

There is a big difference in how we are to love God, which includes His converted saints, and how we are to love people in the world.

He said, "Brethren, go to your neighbor and love your neighbor actively." If you are not careful, this gets confusing—because you *ARE* to love your neighbor, but *how*? You could give him physical food, or you could give him \$100 a week—there are a lot of ways. But those won't solve any lasting problems. The *most important* way you love your neighbor is by offering or giving him *SPIRITUAL FOOD*. None of his problems will ever be solved until he gets his spiritual life correct. If you study the prophecies of God, you understand that those physically hungry nations and people are going to multiply ten-fold and 100-fold if they don't repent and heed this word, or receive God's *spiritual* food.

There is a big difference in how we are to love God, which *includes* His converted saints, and how we are to love people in the world.

Notice Matthew 25:34-40: "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?"

(continued on page 16)

He was talking about the family of God, and how WE humans, through Him, may be *born into it!*"

We are soon to enter a family named after the Creator of the universe! What better fills the description "well born" than that potential?

So how do we attain this spiritual nobility?

The English word *noble* is used four times in the New Testament. The Greek word *eugenes* (well born; high in rank) is used for that English word only *twice*: once in I Corinthians 1:26, which we have just quoted, and once in Acts 17:11—a verse that *Malachi's Message* has made well known to God's end-time remnant. (The other Greek word for *noble* means only "dignified; honorable"—not implying what *eugenes* denotes both physically and spiritually.)

Acts 17:11 reads, "[The Bereans] were more NOBLE [*eugenes*] than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

How can these Bereans be *eugenes* when God said that not many *eugenes* were called? This confirms that this is being used to describe them *spiritually, not physically*. They were being praised by God for being noble spiritually.

Malachi's Message, page 10, reads: "Do you realize brethren, that your *approach* to Bible study helps reveal to God how *noble* you are? Do you search the Scriptures daily 'with all readiness of mind,' eager to see what the Bible says, so you can FOLLOW CHRIST more perfectly? God's *elect* are very *noble* people when it comes to their Bible study."

How do we attain the spiritual nobility the Bereans achieved? How do we attain the awesome, royal positions God has awaiting us? The end of verse 11 again, "...In that they received the word with *all readiness of mind*, and SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, whether those things were so."

Because of their approach to Bible study, God says they were *eugenes*—as if they already were well born and high in rank in His family. We know God views things to come as though they already are (Rom. 4:17).

"Luke said these people had *greater nobility* because of this attitude. That means a *higher reward* in God's Kingdom. The NOBLE ELECT have fallen in love with God's truth" (ibid., emphasis mine).

Mr. Flurry wrote that they had "greater nobility" and a "higher reward." That matches up with the meaning of the Greek word *eugenes*!

The Acts 17:11 example reveals the formula for attaining this spiritual nobility: 1) Search the Scriptures EAGERLY—the attitude and approach is an issue; and 2) search the Scriptures DAILY—how often is an issue.

Notice another scripture, expounded upon in *Malachi's Message*, that shows the high reward of being noble in our Bible study: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21). What HIGH RANK God's people are offered! How do we

achieve this reward? Verse 20 shows how: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will SUP WITH HIM, and he with me."

Malachi's Message reveals that those who heed Christ's knock on the Laodiceans' door become Philadelphian again and receive the awesome reward of verse 21! Notice what happens when they hear Christ's voice: They SUP WITH HIM. They dine with Him.

Dining or eating, in a spiritual sense, almost always refers to studying God's word—the Bible. Christ said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). The Philadelphians DINE with Christ. They are diligent students of God's word. They act spiritually noble NOW. Thus God gives them the noble reward of Revelation 3:21.

Because of our zealous, eager, daily Bible study we can become spiritually noble enough to actually SHARE a THRONE with Jesus Christ, as His bride—BORN into God's family! That is definitely, as *Malachi's Message* states, a "higher reward." That is true, royal, spiritual nobility. ❖

Because of our zealous, eager, daily Bible study, we can become spiritually noble enough to actually share a throne with Jesus Christ!

LOVE from page 1

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME."

If you serve someone in the world, that falls under the category of loving your neighbor. But Jesus Christ said that if you serve someone *in the family of God*, then you are showing that same LOVE TOWARD GOD! When God says that we are His family, He MEANS that we are His family! The world is not our family yet, though they will soon have that chance.

Our salvation is at stake. But your neighbor hasn't even been called yet. He is not in danger of eternal death as we are. At the Last Great Day, God will call those people of the world—our neighbors. They will be resurrected and have their day of salvation. But anybody called *today* will either be in God's family or become ashes under the saints' feet! The stakes couldn't be higher.

God is working so hard to get us to understand FAMILY! Likewise, Satan is working just as hard to distort that understanding. It is so important that we make this distinction between loving God—which includes His family—and loving the world.

Soon, God will call everyone (I Tim. 2:4). But He has not yet, because the teachers are not ready. We, as their teachers, will have to be full of God's love. They will need so much love because they will have just lived through the worst time of suffering ever known to man.

One minister left God's Church saying we should love everybody, mistakenly thinking that meant we should be inviting everybody to church services—even going to the mental institutions to invite people. That is a sure way to destroy God's Church!

If we don't make a distinction between the God family and our neighbor, then we can get confused and be in grave spiritual danger.

Here is another strong statement from Jesus Christ about God's family. "While he [Christ] yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to

speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand TOWARD HIS DISCIPLES, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matt. 12:46-50).

thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself."

There is the law of God in its two basic principles. Obviously there is a greater love toward God than toward man. You love God "with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind"—in other words, MORE THAN YOURSELF. And you love your neighbor "AS THYSELF."

When someone is called into God's family, he or she moves from the "love toward neighbor" category into the

those in the family of God. We can love those in the world AS ourselves, but we must love God's family MORE. What better way to unify God's family than to grow more deeply in this kind of love?

Satan hates this law of family love. He even got the translators to use the phrase "adopted sons" instead of "begotten sons" in places, because he wants this God family vision to be hidden from the world.

We are going to be born into the God family, just as children are born into our physical families. We are not adopted! We are REAL SONS OF GOD! Just as physical sons and daughters are born into our families—our own flesh and blood. Romans 8:14 states, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, THEY ARE the sons of God."

To say that love for neighbor is the same as love for God's family is a DANGEROUS DECEPTION. That's a gross distortion of God's truth, and anyone who believes that needs to understand God's law of love more deeply!

"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" (I John 4:21). If you love God, you love your brother—the one God begat into His family. This is so hard to do humanly. We must use God's Spirit as never before to rise above ourselves and serve and love God's family in this way!

John recorded Christ's prayer the night before His crucifixion. That prayer concludes, "O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name,

Jesus Christ said that if you serve someone in the family of God, then you are showing that same love toward God! When God says that we are His family, He means that we are His family!

Christ's disciples were His family! Those who were doing the will of His Father were His family! That is YOUR family too. That is NOT your neighbor. Your neighbor does not do the will of the Father. Who does? Who talks about the God family vision? Who is willing to fight about it in court? Who proclaims this revelation to the world? Our neighbor? No—God's family does.

And if God's family becomes lukewarm and fails to do it, then there is still a little remnant of this family who must. This message about the Father—about the God family—must be declared! We must proclaim what our Father has given us. LOVING THE LAODICEANS AND LOVING THE WORLD IS DONE MAINLY THROUGH THE WORK OF GOD. It is done by supporting this work and this message which declares the Father. It is done by being a light for God's family. We are sons of God. We don't act like the world. And they can see that we are different, because we represent our Father in heaven.

You can read Matthew 18, where Christ said, "Whoso shall receive one such little child in my name *receiveth me.*" That teaching applies only to God's family, or Church. It never applies to our neighbor or the world.

Luke 10:25-27 states, "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all

"love toward God" category. That person moves into the GOD CATEGORY—into the realm of the first great commandment.

Begotten of the Father

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: *and every one that loveth him that BEGAT [God the Father] loveth him also that is BEGOTTEN of him*" (I John 5:1). That is one of the most beautiful scriptures in the Bible. You are to have the same love toward those who are begotten as you do toward God, the one who begat. You are to have the same love, because they are now members of God's family; they are begotten of the Father. That could never apply to our neighbor.

Of course, we place the Father and our Husband, Christ, at the head of

When someone is called into God's family, he or she moves from the "love toward neighbor" category into the "love toward God" category. That person moves into the God category—into the realm of the first great commandment.

this family of love. Nobody could ever replace them. But when someone enters the God family, the Father wants them to receive the *same love* He receives. To love them with all your heart, soul, strength and mind—*more than you love yourself.* That is what makes a family work!

Paul tells us in Philippians 2:3 to "let each esteem other better than themselves." That is talking about

and will declare it: that the LOVE *where-with THOU HAST LOVED ME may be IN THEM, and I in them*" (John 17:25-26).

Christ asked that the very same love with which the Father loved Him would be in us. The same love that the Father had for Jesus Christ is going to be IN YOU! This does not apply to our neighbor—or the world. What an opportunity for growth. This is the heart of the God family vision! ❖