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Relate & Romance! Reproduce! Relax!

This article is actually about the first 3 commandments! If you think I am referring to a portion of the Ten Commandments given to the children of Israel through Moses, you would be incorrect! Those are another discussion for another day in the Light of Jesus!

I want to talk about the 3 commandments given to humankind BEFORE the Fall; the commandments we are actually being instructed to take seriously again, as the Father shares with us the relationship He shares with His Son Jesus in the Spirit, and in which we are included!

The first three commandments come from this passage in Genesis 1:26-28, which say in the NRSV:

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

First, did you notice the language denoting distinct Persons within the Oneness of God in **verse 26**? Did you also notice how it said we were created in the image of this Triune God in **verse 27** (distinct but in Oneness)?

Did you see the 3 commandments noted in verse 28 that match up with the Trinitarian Theology we are learning about more accurately from Jesus in the Spirit?

Here they are:

The first command Triune God gives humankind is to **RELATE & ROMANCE, or "Be Fruitful and Multiply"**

Did you notice that the first command out of God's mouth was NOT "Get a job, earn money, get clothing, worry and struggle!"? Aren't these usually the main things we tend to be concerned about in our fallen flesh? Yes (**see Luke 12:13-31**)!

Are we not learning in Christ that RELATING with Him, our brothers and sisters, and ourselves (**as we really are in Jesus**) is the REAL, first command to be obeyed? Don't we already know and believe in our guts the saying, "**No one on their deathbed ever wished they had spent more time at work?**"

Is not the fruitful and abounding fellowship of the Triune God what we REALLY want to see multiplied everywhere?

Did you also notice that this first command was NOT, "Stay away from thinking or talking about

romance and sex – that icky, bad stuff!?” ☺ We all know better than that (whether married or shackled up!). This is one commandment we weren’t going to disobey, no matter what...or were we?

Are we not learning in Christ that there is a WAY of thinking and talking about romance that is NOT congruent with the Father, Son and Spirit Relationship (**John 8:1-11, Eph 5:1-18**), and a way that IS congruent with that Relationship (**Eph 5:18-6:1-9**)?

Don’t we already experience and believe in our relational guts the negative relational saying, **“Why buy the cow when I can get the milk for free?”**

Is not the exact Love, Trust, Faithfulness, Openness and Creative Imagination of the Father, Son and Spirit, what we all REALLY want to experience in our dating and sexual relationships (which are right and good, and from this Triune God)?

The second command Triune God gives humankind in the same sentence is to **REPRODUCE, or “Multiply, Fill the earth and Subdue it”**

Did you notice that this second command is NOT, “Make sure you always use birth control,” “You MUST be celibate to walk right before me” or “Be self-centered and keep all this property to yourselves”? Hasn’t our violation of this commandment pushed far too many us into the self-centered and cold icebox of empty high-rise condominiums, where we peer at life behind frozen gated communities through plastic and frigid personalities?

Aren’t we learning that self-centeredness, fear and hiding is NOT the experience of Jesus the Divine/Man in His relationship with the Father as a human being (**Mark 10:45, Acts 20:35**), but a participation in a lie about the Father, Son and Spirit and who we are in Him (**Eccl 2:1-11, Matt 4:1-10**)?

Don’t we already experience and believe in our guts the saying, **“Money is like manure; it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around, encouraging young things to grow.” - from "The Matchmaker"**

Isn’t the joy we hear in the Father’s voice as He gazes at His children “in the Beloved” what we want to experience as parents and grandparents in the reproduction of humankind? Don’t we want to experience “With you I am well pleased,” and have our children and grandchildren experience it too?

The third command Triune God gives humankind is to **RELAX, or “have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”**

Did you notice that the third command out of God’s mouth was NOT “Ignore and make fun of people trying to save whales,” “Don’t ever skip church services for a fishing trip,” or “Work and never *ever* take a vacation – because you’ll have an eternity in heaven to rest”? Aren’t those some of the leisures many of us have desired to participate in but were pressured out of in the name of religion and sacrificing and working to please God?

Are we not learning to take more seriously that everything the Triune God made was made by Jesus, the Son of God, and is sustained by Him (**John 1:1-5, Acts 17:28, Col 1:15-17**)? Aren’t scriptures a testimony to the Word of God Himself Who encourages us in the good care and feeding of animals - even on a church day (**Proverbs 12:10, Matt 12:1-12**)?

It is kind of hard for us to conceive of animal care being relaxing now because of the Fall (unless we go to a zoo), but walking among animals is really supposed to be a relaxing thing, not a fearful burden (**Isaiah 11:6-9, Romans 8:18-23**)!

Maybe it is helpful to remember the definition of **Relaxation, which is, “The act of relaxing or the state of being relaxed. Refreshment of body or mind; recreation: (played golf for relaxation.) A loosening or slackening.”** (<http://www.answers.com/topic/relaxation?cat=health>)

In a world where many don't embrace the Gospel coherently yet (which has a negative impact on creation), it is important for some of us to help animals relax when they are burdened also (beached whales, seals in oil spills). And how could a congregational fishing trip during worship service time not be church when WE are the Church?!

Haven't we negatively experienced and known the saying that **“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy”**? Of course we have! And this desire for play is because of our union with the Triune God in Jesus Christ, Who enjoys the most relaxing and refreshing relationship in all of creation, and shares that relationship with us! Isn't that the relaxation we want to experience?

Well, if those are the commandments you are interested in taking more seriously RIGHT NOW in Jesus, then I'm already obeying them with you, and I am a wholehearted “legalist” on those terms! Ha-Ha!!!

~ Tim Brassell