



## 2020 4Q Education: Lesson 9 The Church and Education

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

---

The Church and Education—what does this title bring to mind?

Does it bring to mind being taught the right facts, learning the appropriate creed, memorizing a catechism, learning the 28 fundamental beliefs? Does the idea of church education make you think of being taught how to think or being taught what to think?

Is there a difference between indoctrination and education?

What is more important—being taught the right truths, or being taught how to think, to critically reason so one can differentiate the difference between truth and error?

I love this quote from the book education, has this been what you have experienced at church or church school?

**Every human being**, created in the image of God, is endowed with a **power akin to that of the Creator—individuality, power to think and to do**. The men in whom **this power is developed** are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. [What does it mean—individuality, the power to think and to do? And what does it mean to have this power developed? If we have this power inherently, given by God, then do we have to develop it? What happens if we don't?] It is the work of **true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought**. [So education is not merely to teach facts, or right doctrines or truths. If this is all we do we fail to educate. True education is to teach how to think—this is what Come and Reason Ministries is designed to do, to teach people who to critically reason and think for themselves. Thus, when we present ideas or truths we also present the reasons why so people can see for themselves and we base this upon the integration of Scripture, science/nature and experience—how reality works, not mere quotations. What is the difference in being a thinker versus a reflector of other people's thoughts? We are to be lights in the world, is there a difference between a light and a reflector? What does a reflector do and what does a light do? So what does a thinker do that a reflector of others thoughts does not do? What kind of education leads people to develop this power to think and do?] Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students **be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation**. [What happens if we restrict our study to Scripture divorced from nature and life experience? Is this one of the problems in Christian education, in the church the idea of Scripture alone not harmonized with nature and experience? Yes—this is what leads to all kinds of irrational and superstitious



teachings that don't make sense, that require one to stop thinking in order to continue to believe the church dogma.] Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen. **Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act**, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions. Ed 17.2 [Educated weaklings—wow—how many do we have like this today in society? Millions with college degrees who can't discern the most simple facts of reality because they have been educated not to think, not to critically reason, indoctrinated into false systems of reality whether those false systems are godless evolution or religiosity of a dictator god whose laws work like human laws.]

**Such an education provides more than mental discipline; it provides more than physical training. It strengthens the character**, so that truth and uprightness are not sacrificed to selfish desire or worldly ambition. [Wow—how much of education today is focused on getting ahead in this world, on getting the best paying job, or the most power? But true education is about developing Christlike character, which comes when we develop the ability to discern the true from the false and embrace the true.] It fortifies the mind against evil. Instead of some master passion becoming a power to destroy, every motive and desire are brought into conformity to **the great principles of right**. As the **perfection of His character is dwelt upon, the mind is renewed, and the soul is re-created in the image of God**. Ed 18.1

**What education can be higher than this? What can equal it in value?** Ed 18.2 [What law is this? It is the law of worship, by beholding we are changed. And what impact will it have on character if we educate our children in public schools in which they are taught godless evolution and they are taught it is foolish to believe in God? What will happen to society as millions of children grow up to believe there is no God? What is the law that gets written on their hearts? The law of sin and death, which is survival of the fittest—which is the law that the strong survive, the strong dominate the weak, and anything is fair as long as they win. And this is what we are seeing in society today the complete erosion of any sense of integrity and morality and its root is in the corruption of the education of our children. And Christians, are you supporting organizations or parties that are antagonistic to God, that promote godlessness as a way of life? Why? What is more important to you than bringing people to the knowledge of God, than educating our children with a knowledge of God?]

The lesson points out that the church is a place where serious discussion should take place but that some people are afraid to ask questions. Why? What would cause people to fear asking questions?

- Fear of looking foolish
- Fear of being laughed at
- Fear of being accused of being a hypocrite or reprobate
- Fear of being rejected
- Fear of argument or conflict
- Fear of not having faith—the lie often told that if one has faith then they just believe and don't ask questions



- That the pastor or teacher or elder is God’s representative and they are to be believed and it is irreverent to question them

But as the lesson points out with true education there are no dumb questions.

Any question, if asked with a true desire to learn and not with irreverence, not with a desire to mock, or cause confusion, is worthy of asking. So the issue is never about asking questions it is always about why one is asking questions.

In your upbringing what was your experience at church—did you find that it was a safe place to ask questions, that you were invited to ask questions and even if you didn’t get all the answers you wanted, did your church teach you to be a question asker? Or, was your experience that questions were not always appreciated, that asking questions was irreverent and one shouldn’t question, that the pastor or teacher or the Bible and one should just believe?

We at Come and Reason want to inspire you to ask questions—we may not have all the answers, but we want to instill in you the freedom to humbly ask any question and then to pursue the answer. Some answers might come very quickly, others may take years, others may not be obtained until Jesus comes. But keep asking. So, we like to say, Blessed are the Whys!

In my life there have been questions I have asked that took me years to come to answers that made sense. Thousands and thousands of hours of prayer, study, research, contemplation, working through the possibilities. And that is part of the journey of development.

The greatest growth comes when we discover the answers through study and application, not merely being told the answers. Someone can show us how they derived the answer, but we must then work it out for ourselves. Consider mathematics—a teach can show us how to work problems, but if we want to be able to do math, to understand why the answer is correct, we must work the problem for ourselves.

Thus every person is to develop their power to think and do, to reason for themselves and problem solve for themselves, not merely memorize the right answers.

We never want to lose our curiosity, never want to stop asking questions.

## **SUNDAY**

---

Read fifth paragraph, “As Seventh-day Adventists, we have...”

- And what is the purpose of having correct doctrine? If we have a human law construct, then security is found in knowing the right doctrines. We must have the right definitions because it is all about being legally right and therefore we must have the right rules, the right rituals and



the doctrines become part of that because it is all legal and to legal people it is all about the right legal language or definition of things.

- You see this in every form of doctrinal and sectarian discrimination—where people are looked down upon for not having the right doctrine—say calling a county a dark county if there are no SDAs in that region. This is Pharisaism, how the Pharisees had the right doctrines and looked down upon the Samaritans, the Publicans and anyone who wasn't Jewish. It didn't matter what their character was like, it didn't matter whether they loved God and others, what mattered was the rules, the doctrines, and the keeping of those rules, which required believing the right things.
- This is the falsehood that comes from understanding doctrine through the false legal lens.
- But what is the purpose of right doctrine through the design law lens? To inform us about reality, about God, about God's designs, methods and purposes so we can grow to know God better and choose to agree with Him, grow like Him, and intelligently choose to cooperate with Him and live in harmony with Him and His designs—because it makes sense and we freely want to, not because a rule by someone in charge says we have to!
- Doctrines that are disconnected from God's character and God's design law are not helpful—they become rules and litmus tests of fellowship that actually cause division and we end up fracturing into various sects and denominations based on differences in doctrine.
- What doctrines are not listed in the lesson that are essential to understand these correctly?
- The truth about God's law being design law and thus the truth about God's character. I guess the great controversy could be an umbrella statement that covers everything—but what does the great controversy mean to those who accept the lie that God's law functions like human law?

Read bottom pink section, “What prejudices does your culture and society teach, either subtly or openly, that as a Christian, you must rise above?”

Do you believe it is righteous or unrighteous to seek to destroy another people's culture?

And let's define what I mean by culture—I am not talking about a culture of microorganisms in a lab, nor am I talking about manners or politeness, I am talking about: **a particular form or stage of civilization, as that of a certain nation or period**—the African culture, the American Indian culture, the Greek culture etc.

So, with that in mind, is it righteous or unrighteous to seek to destroy another people's culture?

In our society today would progressivism, leftism, want to destroy other cultures, or would progressivism want to validate all cultures and not eradicate other cultures?

When Jesus said to His followers,



All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you** Matthew 28:18-20 NIV84

was He instructing them to go out and eradicate paganism and all cultures based on false views about Him, to eradicate cultures based on the principles of this world, to establish a culture based on love for God and love for others, on truth, love and liberty?

So if we follow Jesus' command will we seek to convert people to Christ? And will converting people to Christ simultaneously be destroying the following cultures?

- voodoo culture
- witchcraft culture—which is nature and earth worship culture
- Native American animistic spirit worship culture
- Hindu culture
- Islamic culture
- Buddhist culture
- godless culture—communism, evolutionism, humanism

So, can Christianity, if it fulfills the gospel commission to make people disciples of Jesus really support the idea of protecting other culture?

Do you see why progressivism, leftism, which believes all cultures are equal and should be protected, works to obstruct via laws, via social pressure etc. the sharing of the gospel. It becomes illegal to try to convert people to Christ. Books like the *Great Controversy* which exposes the abuses of the Roman church through history are labelled as hate speech.

The principles of God are truth presented love and leave others free. If you have truth on your side you have nothing to fear by open speech, ideas being investigated, evidence being presented. But, if you have lies then once your lies have been accepted you don't want people investigating, you want to silence any voices that bring truth because the truth will expose the lies.

So, do we agree that presenting the truth about Jesus, will destroy the cultures based on Satan's lies (2Cor 10:3-5)?

And we agree that doing so by converting people is a good thing?

What about destroying other cultures through military might, by killing those who won't join us—is this a good or bad thing for the world?

As Christians, we cannot advocate the methods of might and killing to advance our cause, but does that set us up to draw false conclusions about the results of those who do or have done so in the past?



For instance, there is an idea being propagated in our society today that America is evil because it was founded by war against the Native Americans and essentially wiped them out and destroyed their culture and this is bad. What do you think?

Would the world be better off if Cortez and the Spanish did not go to war with the Aztecs and destroy the Aztec culture? Would the world be better off if the Aztec culture continued in Mexico and we have ongoing human sacrifice and cannibalism practiced south of the US border?

Or are the people who have lived since the Aztec culture was destroyed better off without human sacrifice and cannibalism?

So, is the idea being pushed today that all culture is equally valuable, healthy, good and all culture should be respected and protected true? No, it is a lie and Christians should have the ability to discern the truth from lies and not buy into the leftism and collude with those who want to stop the gospel from going forward.

So, back to the question in the lesson what prejudices does our culture or society teach that we must rise above?

Would it be movements that oppose Christianity—any movements that promote godlessness, would that include evolutionism? Humanism? Secularism? Leftism?

## **MONDAY**

---

Read first two paragraphs, “Everywhere we look...” What does darkness mean in this context?

What does it mean to be a light in the world?

Is darkness only the lies or falsehoods told, or would darkness include practices that interfere with the truth being brought out that would expose the lie?

So would darkness include ideas or practices like:

- We have faith we don't need evidence?
- So and so teaches heresy don't listen to what they have to say?
- Believing allegations, claims or proclamations without evidence?
- Taking someone's words and editing them to make it appear they are saying something they are not?
- Censoring information?
- Obstructing free speech?
- We as a people have believed this doctrine for hundreds of years and this new idea is heresy?

Consider this quote from one of the founders of the SDA church:





There is no excuse for anyone in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and **truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation.** CW 35.2

**We are living in perilous times, and it does not become us to accept everything claimed to be truth without examining it thoroughly;** neither can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of the Spirit of God; **but we should be teachable,** meek and lowly of heart. **There are those who oppose everything that is not in accordance with their own ideas,** and by so doing they endanger their eternal interest as verily as did the Jewish nation in their rejection of Christ. *Counsels to Writers and Editors* 35.3

So whether in church or in society when we see practices that suggest we don't need to examine evidence, that we should just believe because someone in a position of authority makes a claim, we should recognize that action as an obstruction of truth.

If it were alleged that a computer was found with emails and documents revealing corruption, the innocent person would demand that the computer be brought out and that its contents be examined so that the evidence would reveal it to be a lie. But the guilty would rely on claims and proclamations that the computer is a fake, no need to look, it is a conspiracy.

What is the difference between Christians advancing the gospel—the truth which will destroy ungodly culture—and politics?

**Christianity is about people**—about healing hearts and minds, about freeing people from sin, from guilt, shame, and practices that violate God's design laws and cause only pain, suffering and eventually death. Christianity is about freedom—freedom from sin, guilt, shame and the burden of sin. If the Son sets you free you are free indeed! So Christianity is about writing God's law upon the heart and mind of people so they are transformed from fear and selfishness to love for God and others. Christianity leads to society becoming more peaceful *as the people become more trustworthy* and engage in more activities to help their neighbors.

**Politics is about power**—pure and simple! Politics is always about getting power over people. It may be framed in the rhetoric of advancing the human condition, of eliminating inequalities, of promoting the welfare of others, but make no mistake politics does not transform hearts to become more like Jesus, politics always divides, always incites hostility, and is *intended* to stir up strong feelings and create factions that will ultimately give power to those who lead those factions. And this is true whether it is church politics or national politics.

The lesson points out that Jesus lived under Roman occupation and that Roman society was militarized, and there was much social injustice in the Roman society:



- slavery
- wars for the purpose of enriching and advancing Rome not defending Rome
- gladiators—fighting to the death for sport
- crucifixions
- discrimination, prejudice, bias

How did Jesus confront the social injustices of the Roman and Jewish governments?

- What politicians did Jesus support?
- What legislation did Jesus seek to get passed?
- What political parties did Jesus join?

What about the Apostles did they engage in politics?

Why didn't Paul tell all Christian slaves to run away?

- In that society if the slaves would have run away what kind of life would they have had?
- Would they have less stress or more?
- Would they be able to have a home of their own, get a good job, establish a family and live in peace and security or would they live in fear of getting caught and crucified for the rest of their lives, always looking over their shoulder, always on the run?
- What does this kind of never-ending fear do to a person? Does it enhance love or destroy it? What happens in their character?

Why didn't Paul tell all Christians who owned slaves to set them free?

- If the Christian slave owners set the slave free would that mean the newly freed slave had Roman citizenship?
- Then what could happen to them? Could they become a slave again to someone else?
- But what if the Christian slave owner began practicing the principles of Christ and what Paul recommended they do and they treated their slaves like family? Would the slaves within that home, while technically still being slaves, also have more freedom, more security, and be protected in the Roman society from others who would exploit them because they were under the protection of the Christian who was their owner?

Does the fact that Paul didn't condemn slavery mean that slavery is good or that Christianity supports slavery? Absolutely not!

The situation in the United States during the 19<sup>th</sup> century is quite different from Rome during Paul's time. In the US there was a strong abolitionist movement with many states and leaders opposing slavery. In Rome there was no support from any society leaders to end slavery. In the US runaway slaves could find safety in the northern state, protected by those state governments and leaders so they could get a job, establish a family and live in relative security without the fear of being sent back into slavery or being executed for running away. In Rome there was nowhere for a runaway slave to go and be protected by government.





Have you ever wondered why the New Testament didn't come out against slavery? Does this help? We could add to it the additional corruption to the church if the church focused on politics rather than healing hearts and minds, Christianity would have been destroyed in its infancy.

## TUESDAY

---

The lesson points out that our lives must keep Jesus at the center of all we do. How do we do this?

How does keeping Jesus at the center of our lives impact our interactions with those around us?

Do we restrict with whom we associate if Jesus is at the center?

The Pharisees in Christ's day were very restrictive, but Jesus socialized with prostitutes, tax collectors, Publicans, Samaritans...where do we draw the line on who we socialize with and who we don't?

Jesus told His disciples: "If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them." Luke 9:5 NIV84

Would the attitude of people toward us and toward the message of truth we bring be a factor in determining with whom we associate?

So what if a person welcomes us as long as we participate in their activities—we are not invited, as Jesus was, to be the guest of honor and share the gospel, but we are invited to party with them, what about that?

One way to tell if you should socialize or not would be to ask yourself the question: *If I were to share the gospel of Jesus with them, would they be open to listen or would they condemn, ridicule, throw me out?"*

Of course, the setting matters, the above question would be for a personal visit. That question would not be applicable if you were attending someone else's public lecture—say a medical education lecture, or someone's wedding or funeral and it wasn't a Christian event etc.

The second to the last paragraph reads, "And, as disciples of Jesus, we not only have respect for all people, but will work to provide the kind of place where all people can grow and develop."

I think this is a great idea, a powerful truth—question for you—what kind of actions, practices, principles will create a place where people can grow and develop and what kind of actions obstruct growth and development?

- Can people grow and develop without applying themselves—without exerting their abilities? The law of exertion if you want something to get stronger you must exercise. So growth and development require application and exercise of one's abilities.
  - What kind of practices obstruct this?



- Give a man a fish feed him for a day, teach a man to fish feed him for a lifetime. Does this old proverb have any insight into the development of abilities? What about social programs that give people things but don't give opportunity to achieve for oneself?
- Why would people purposely take actions that interfere with other people's growth?
- Consider Helen Keller—before Annie Sullivan came along what kind of development of ability was happening for Helen? None, she was nearly a wild animal. Why? Did her mother not love her? Or, did her mother love her very much? Why did her mother not do what Annie did? A combination of factors—over-empathy and ignorance. Helen's mother saw her terrible disability and had huge compassion, deep sadness, great empathy for Helen, and didn't want to add any more burdens to this poor child who had already suffered so much. Her empathy fueled her ignorance that disciplining Helen, pushing her to learn in a way that caused the child to suffer, to be uncomfortable, to cry and protest distressed the mother who felt this would be harmful to do to a child with so many disadvantages. The mother's love and over empathy along with ignorance of how reality works interfered with doing what was best for Helen. Annie however, wanted Helen to grow and develop to the greatest level possible for her. So she removed her from her mother's presence and began to teach with firm boundaries. And when Helen slapped Annie, Annie slapped her back. What would happen in society today if we had a cell phone video of a social worker slapping a deaf, dumb, and blind child? What if that child was black and the social worker was white? But was Annie abusing Helen? What was the outcome of Annie's actions with Helen? Helen learned sign language, brail and eventually became college educated. Who practiced greater love in action for Helen, her mother or Annie?
- One of the great lies in society today is the over-empathizing lie combined with ignorance of how reality works that sees people who come from real-life situations of disadvantage and concludes it would be wrong to stress them, to burden them, to require them to exercise their abilities, that it is more compassionate and loving to give them sustenance because they already have such burdens upon them.

The Christian approach is to understand truth, understand reality, understand God's design law for life, and love our neighbors, our fellow human beings with actions that create opportunity for all people to develop their abilities to the highest extent possible for the restoration of the image of God in each one of us.

## WEDNESDAY

---

Read first paragraph, "Albert Einstein..." I love this and agree completely. God is infinite and we are finite and those who love the truth will never stop growing and advancing in our knowledge of the truth. And as we grow in truth we come closer and closer to God the source of all truth and this is an eternal journey for we never become God.

Consider this historic quote, what do you think of it?



We should consider that **it was not merely to accomplish the redemption of man that Christ came to earth**; [What? Do we appreciate the cosmic nature of the war between Christ and Satan, of the forces behind the scenes, of the angels and other intelligences throughout the universe that are involved?] it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might **regard the law of God as it should be regarded**; [How should it be regarded? As design law, immutable, the protocols of love upon which life is built and not as imposed rules like we make up that require infliction of punishment] but it was to **demonstrate to all the worlds that God's law is unchangeable, and that the wages of sin is death**. [Why is God's law unchangeable? Because it emanates from His character and is the protocol upon which life exists. To change it would be to destroy the universe as we know it and God would not be the God Jesus revealed Him to be. And this explains why the wages of sin is death—because sin transgresses the law, the law is what life exists upon, so to transgress it means to take one out of harmony with life, which results in death. Example, the law of respiration—if one transgresses it ties a plastic bag over their head, the wages of that is death.] RH March 9, 1886, par. 23

There is a great deal more to this subject than we can take in at a glance. Oh that all might see the importance of carefully studying the Scriptures! Many seem to have the idea that this world and the heavenly mansions constitute the universe of God. Not so. **The redeemed throng will range from world to world, and much of their time will be employed in searching out the mysteries of redemption. And throughout the whole stretch of eternity, this subject will be continually opening to their minds.** The privileges of those who overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony are beyond comprehension. RH March 9, 1886, par. 24

The lesson points out that we are able to think and states, “as human beings, we are able to think about what has been called ‘the big questions’ about life and our existence in general. And, of course, here is where Scripture plays the central role. Who are we? Why are we here? How should we live? What happens when we die? Why is there evil and suffering?”

- Who are we?
- Why are we here?
- How should we live?
- What happens when we die?
- Why is there evil and suffering?

## THURSDAY

---

The lesson points out the importance of sharing our lives with others of community. Why is connection with others so important?

What do we learn from the metaphor in Scripture of the body—many different parts but one body?



Is there something beyond the fact we have different abilities? Does the metaphor of the body say something about harmony, cooperation, unity?

Does it go beyond this world to the kingdom of God?

When the blood cells circulate in the body and the arteries divide do the blood cells argue with each other about which ones go to the brain and which ones go to the intestines? Is there a lesson in this for us?

Jesus prayed:

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that **all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.** May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. John 17:20-21 NIV84

Is this more than metaphor? Is something actual being described? Is there something more than coming into agreement of ideas or beliefs? Is there something physical involved?

Paul wrote to the Ephesians:

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in **love**. Make every effort to keep **the unity of the Spirit** through the bond of peace. There is **one body and one Spirit**— just as you were called to one hope when you were called—**one Lord**, one faith, one baptism; **one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all**. (4:2-6 NIV84)

Is this more than metaphor, more than attitude of the heart? Is something physical in God's universe being described? In this unity of love, of faith, there is one God who is over all and through all and in all—is this describing some aspect of reality that goes beyond just what we believe?

Is there a connection of all things in God's universe, a harmony, a chord of energy that, when we are in harmony with God we have connection with Him and others in God's kingdom? And does sin sever this connection, cutting us off from God and from life? Is Jesus not merely a revealer of the truth about God, but the one who literally reconnects humanity back to God and His life giving energy?

Consider these historic quote:

In his sinless state, man held joyful communion with Him "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3. But after his sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide from the presence of God. Such is still the condition of the **unrenewed heart. It is not in harmony with God, and finds no joy in communion with Him.** The sinner could not be happy in God's presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings. Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for



him. **The spirit of unselfish love that reigns there—every heart responding to the heart of Infinite Love—would touch no answering chord in his soul.** His thoughts, his interests, his motives, would be alien to those that actuate the sinless dwellers there. **He would be a discordant note in the melody of heaven.** Heaven would be to him a place of torture; he would long to be hidden from Him who is its light, and the center of its joy. **It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven; they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire.** They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. SC 17.2

Is this more than a metaphorical way to describe the dissonance that exists in the hearts and minds of those who reject God and His methods of love? Is there some aspect of this that is literal, physical?

In your own experience do you experience physical differences when you are in a moment of love and when you are in a moment of selfishness and fear?

Do our choices to embrace lies, fear and selfishness actually change us? Do they cause not just changes in our characters, but in our very physiology? The answer is yes! Our brains fire differently when we love than when we choose selfishness, our neural paths change, our electrical signaling is different, our electron configuration in the dendrites alter, we get different harmonics and different resonance patterns—we are literally changed.

Consider this quotation:

Christ is represented by the Holy Spirit; and when this Spirit is appreciated, when those controlled by the **Spirit communicate to others the energy with which they are imbued, an invisible chord is touched which electrifies the whole.** Would that we could all understand how boundless are the divine resources. FLB 57.7

Is this more than just concepts and ideas that are shared—is there actually energy that flows from Jesus via the Holy Spirit into the believers and through the believers to others who also choose to trust God and value His methods?

Have you ever experienced the joy, the harmony that comes from being with people who love God and embrace His methods? Have you experienced the “energy” of their presence? Can you tell a difference from that energy and the energy of being in the presence of those who embrace and practice selfishness?

Consider this historic quote:

It is God's plan that every part of his government shall depend on every other part, the whole as a wheel within a wheel, working with entire harmony. **He moves upon human forces, causing his Spirit to touch invisible chords, and the vibration rings to the extremity of the universe.** *Evangelism* 93



Is this just metaphor, or is there some reality being described? That God is the source of all life. He is the Creator and as Creator all creation exists because He not only made it but He continually sustains it. Do we understand that trusting God and opening our hearts to Christ results in the Spirit literally changing us, not just the ideas we believe, but the very fabric of our being. We are brought back into unity with Him! Sin causes division, separates us from God and causes division and disharmony. Truth and love brings us back into harmony with God and heaven!

**For by him all things were created:** things in heaven and on earth, **visible and invisible**, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and **in him all things hold together**. Colossians 1:16-17 NIV84

## FRIDAY

---

Read first paragraph, “Christ disappointed...” What is false education? How much do we see in the world today? Should Christians join groups or parties that promote false education? What about political parties that promote godless evolution?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

---

**Thank you to all of our supporters!!! We appreciate your prayers and financial support.**

**SHARING campaign.** November *The God-Shaped Brain: How Changing Your View of God Transforms Your Life*

**BE SURE TO USE OUR WEBSITE STORE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER—DON'T SEND AN EMAIL.**

If you watch online, please go to [Pineknoll](https://www.pineknoll.com) and request your free copy of their new book, *Conversations about God* by Graham Maxwell, with Louis Venden and edited by Jon Paulien and they will ship it to you at no cost, **anywhere in the world!**