

A New Relational Life

By Lynn Warner

When a child is born into the fallen world (Babylon), he begins the daunting task of organization in a place of sin and chaos. The sudden, chaotic entry into the unknown brings with it awareness of a new physical world of moving shapes, sounds, and sensation. The baby begins learning relational patterns to help him organize these chaotic experiences and begins to relate to people and the environment. His first relational pattern begins to be organized and established by bonding to his mother. But because he was born into a fallen, sinful world (and he is also a morally fallen creature) these relational patterns are flawed by sin. He is not able to have a **proper** relationship with his mother, with God, with others, with animals, with plants – with any of God’s creation, even including himself.

Proper relational patterns are built on trust, but unfortunately in the fallen world trust is easily broken. Trust is learned through Truth and Love (faithfulness). “Truth” is fidelity to reality (Fidelity: “faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support”). Truth gives us assurance – it conforms us to reality, which is the true nature of things. It is assurance that words, thoughts, and actions conform with what is real – this gives the individual assurance in their identity as it relates to reality. When we are surrounded by Truth, we mature in integrity and wholeness. When we trust someone, we are declaring our assurance and confidence that their commitment to us is true – it is part of reality. It is the reliance of the mind and heart on the integrity, justice, and friendship of another.

We cannot trust those who have deceived us. To “accept” someone or want the “best” for them is not the same as truth—it is not enough for trust to fully develop. If someone deceives us by ensnaring us in false words or acts, misleading us and causing us to believe what is false (or not believe what is true), we can’t trust them. Even if they claim to love us, without trust we can’t let our guard down and be “real” – there will be walls preventing proper relational patterns to develop and mature.

The world lies to us. So, a child born into a morally, relationally fallen world begins and continues to relate to people and the world around him in broken ways. His character is engraved by the fallen world, and his actions regarding right and wrong often bring harm, because his ways are enslaved to sin.

A child born into God’s kingdom is given power or authority to become a child of God, as seen in John 1:12: “*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name*” (KJV). This second birth is born of water and the Spirit, as Jesus describes in John 3:5-6: “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*” Jesus also told Nicodemus that one must be born again before he can see the Kingdom of God (John 3:3): “*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” Those that are “born again” have a new spirit, a new relational intent to know God in Truth.

In this new birth, the new spiritual child begins moving into a new awareness of reality through his exposure to Truth—he now sees his own fallen, relational nature and the consequences, which lead to death. He is now aware that Jesus has saved him from eternal death—eternal separation from God. And he begins to be aware of God’s motivation to save him and its tremendous cost, as revealed in John 3:16-17: “*For God so loved the world, that He*

gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

The Truth is essential for trust, and trust is essential for healthy, maturing relationships with those we love. We must be able to trust another to know and be known by them. To trust God, we must have Truth, and God has given us three wonderful gifts of Truth: First, He gave us Jesus, Who said, *“I am the way, **the truth**, and the life; no man comes to the Father, but by Me”* (John 14:6). Second, God gave us the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of Truth, concerning Whom, Jesus said, *“Howbeit when He, **the Spirit of truth**, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come”* (John 16:13). Finally, God gave us His Word – Jesus prayed to His Father, *“sanctify them through thy Truth, **Thy Word is Truth**”* (John 17:17). Jesus doesn’t just speak grace and truth to us, He lives them out in everything He does because He is full of them as described by John in John 1:14: *“And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten, full of grace and truth.”*

The child of God thus begins to learn righteousness and moral truth through his new relational life with God Himself – through Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God’s Word. He is growing to know God better, as Jesus defined eternal Life in John 17:3: *“And this is life eternal, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.”*

God always speaks the Truth in His Word; we are exhorted to trust Him, love Him, and have a real, abundant life relationship with Him. We learn to know Him, as He knows us, and when we are in Heaven, we will know as we are fully known. Our relationship with Him overflows into our relationships with others and God’s creation. Our character is being engraved to become more and more like the character of Christ, and our actions in regard to right and wrong bring healing instead of harm.