

Message: The Three Governors

Hello and welcome to JesusFamilies.org's audio messages!

The title of this message is, "The Three Governors".

Take a look around in your relatively small realm of existence, - your neighborhood, workplace, town or city. Is there peace & harmony among people, or is there a good deal of conflict or coldness towards one another? Please remember that in a musical context, harmony means all the contributors working together in unity to make hopefully beautiful music. So, to make it perfectly clear, are all the people around you (including yourself) working together in a harmonious way and interacting with each other with kindness and gracious civility and honest truth?

Now, try and zoom out to a global perspective. How are humans doing on a global scale? Is there peace and harmony among the people of the nations and groups of the earth? Remember, peace is not the absence of violence or animosity among people, as most politicians define peace - that is a sad re-definition of peace, a lowering of the bar, so to speak, to a very low level. The true definition of peace is people having hearts that not only reject violence and animosity towards others, but who also desire kind and civil relationships with all other people. So, I ask again, how is humanity doing with having peace and harmony as the general state of affairs between people? If you have eyes to see, you will acknowledge that the state of the human race is very poor in this regard.

Is it not true that the majority of humans are not interacting in a peaceful and harmonious way? Remember, peace does not mean merely the absence of conflict...rather it means people wishing each other well and not seeking to avoid interactions. Given the fact that humanity has such a problem with true peace and harmony, have you ever wondered why? Who or what have you blamed for that? Have you been able to identify the three governors of humans in considering why people are the way we are?

If you dig deep enough, you will find the three primary attributes of human nature that are the cause of people rejecting peace and harmony as the way to treat other people. Those three attributes of human nature – the three governors - **are fear, selfishness and pride**. Sadly most people are not governed by truth, reason or even law. Rather, they are governed by the three self-defending attributes of fear, selfishness & pride. Dear listener, please think about that for a minute as it has significant implications to you and your life...don't let pride say, 'no it doesn't'.

Let us take a closer look at the three governors. What is the primary characteristic of selfishness? It is having a perspective of wanting to please myself above all others. To be selfish is to care primarily for myself...my security and promoting myself and my own interests above all others. Some people are clever and will do a few charitable deeds in order to mask their selfishness, but that does not change the basic orientation of their hearts.

A selfish individual says, "I am going to do this thing because I will benefit from it, and I don't care how it affects other people".

For example, if I am an individual in a place of power over others, I might say, “I am going to use my nation’s military to destroy this group of people who do not want to submit to me”. What would account for that attitude and action? Would it not be fear, selfishness or pride?

As another example, if I am an individual who is materially wealthy, I might say, “how can I add to my hundreds of millions so I can become a billionaire?” Is that attitude and action not the epitome of selfishness?

If I am a materially poor person with no power or influence over others, I might say, “how can I steal my neighbor’s food and not get caught?” What motivates that person? Is it not fear or selfishness?

If I am a religious person, I might say, “we can’t let that group of people use our building because they could compete with our enrollment”. Is that not a selfish attitude?

We could list billions of examples of selfish attitudes and actions.

Selfishness is a basic operating level of human life that most cannot escape. In fact, many do not even think being selfish is bad as it fits in well with the philosophies of evolution and survival of the fittest. “Looking out for #1” has become a fashionable and acceptable belief for most people in the United States as the people who make up the culture erode further and further each year. Sadly, many don’t understand the ramifications of people living more selfishly as each year passes, but there are very practical implications for all who live among such a people.

Let’s move to the next governor – Fear. What are some aspects of this human characteristic of fear? Mistrust of others...suspicion of others. Believing that in general, other people are looking to take something from you that you believe you need. At its most basic level, fear whispers to the human heart, ‘that person is different from me, thus I don’t trust him because he might want to harm me’; or, ‘I must survive in this world so I must do what I have to do in order to achieve that because most people will take from me in order to survive’; or, ‘I have encountered so many people who want to take from me or get what they want without concern for me, that I am justified in not trusting anyone’; or, ‘I have heard these things about that kind of person so they are going to try and harm me’. Fear based on people’s ignorance or prejudice is the normal state of most of humanity.

So, to reiterate, fear is that aspect of human nature that controls people by making them react or behave in a manner that preserves their own well being without concern for others...fear plays on our selfish view that not only must I survive, but I must do materially well in this world. Fear tries to compel us to be selfish and un-concerned about other people...it operates on mistrust and self-preservation. Fear rejects living by reason and principle. Ultimately, fear says, “I believe you are going to harm me, so I am going to harm you first or put myself in a position where I don’t believe I can be harmed by you no matter what it does to you”. Hatred or dislike of people often has fear as the originating cause, and often the thought process of fear that causes hatred is again, ‘they are different than me...I don’t understand them; I don’t trust them; I’ve heard such and such about them, thus my dislike or hatred of them is justified’.

This attitude of fear is manifest in the vast majority of people of the earth billions of times each day...it is a primary reason that humanity struggles in darkness, death and suffering.

Religious people - especially sincere bible people – are particularly susceptible to the governor of fear. Why? Because they have been taught that what they believe will determine whether they go to hell or not. This is a very scary belief to labor under! The belief is effective in keeping bible and other religious people in their particular religious box. It works like this for bible religious people.

A bible person has been taught that everything in the bible is “God’s Word” and accurately represents the thoughts and intents of God, for this is what it seems Paul says in his second letter to Timothy. So, the bible person listens to Paul for their most fundamental belief about God...that the scriptures accurately represent God. Contrast this belief to the belief that disciples of Jesus hold – that Jesus of Nazareth represents God, not the bible or the scripture. These are mutually exclusive beliefs due to the fact that the other author’s of the scripture contradict many of Jesus’ most important teachings.

For example, Paul and most of the old testament justify killing your enemies, while Jesus clearly contradicts that with the command to love our enemies. So, the bible person is taught to trust in the scriptures and the god revealed by the scriptures. What is the god of the scriptures like? That largely depends upon who you listen to – whether one or several of the 66 authors that contributed to the bible, or your favorite bible teacher - but the vast majority of the authors of scripture paint a god who is quick to destroy and punish people, and who uses both supernatural means and other people to do so. He is also a god who hold’s hell over the heads of people in order to force them to comply with his commands. What would be the natural response to such a god? Would it not be fear?

So, along come Jesus of Nazareth, painting a new and different picture of God. His words only account for a very small portion of bible people’s book, and since Paul’s teaching that the whole book represent’s God, Jesus’ words are largely drowned out, buried, discounted and nullified by the other voices in the book. The scripture-truster also is taught that to question the scripture is to question God. Again, that is a powerful motivator to keep people trapped in their religious box.

Along comes a disciple or student of Joshua of Nazareth. She understands the distinction between Joshua and his teachings and all the other people and their teachings who wrote the bible or the scripture. So she tells people the simple truth that to truly have Joshua as your teacher and master means that his person, words and teachings alone reveal and represent God accurately. What do you think the scripture-truster does who hears that? The fear governor kicks in and says, ‘oh, no, that is wrong...I have been taught – and millions of people believe – that the scripture is God’s Word...we need the whole counsel of God’s word, not just Jesus”.

What did the fear governor do? It effectively prevented the person from considering Jesus in his proper role and his teachings – it kept the person in their religious box. If the scripture-truster was open enough to listen a bit more and not reject the belief out of hand, it would only take one simple step to prove the disciple’s point is true. For example, the scripture says “there is a time to hate, and a time for war”. Joshua teaches, “love your enemies”. It really is very simple but only if you have the right source of truth – Joshua – and are willing to use reason to examine your beliefs in light of the standard of Joshua and his teachings. Sadly, the fear governor that people submit to prevents people from considering something from a different perspective, or to consider something we believe might be false because they have been taught and believe that to leave a religious belief they once held as true, might send them to hell, or perhaps upset their comfortable life.

What can overcome this situation? What can free people from the box they are in? Faith and courage. I encourage the listener to listen to that message.

What about the third governor, pride? Isn’t pride a good thing? Don’t we hear regularly how a certain company is proud of their product or services? Don’t we hear how a nation’s people are proud of their athletes at the Olympic games? Don’t we hear how a parent is proud of their child’s

accomplishments? Just because we hear something regularly does not mean it is true, neither does it mean it is something good.

I would suggest that being “proud” of another person’s good accomplishment is not bad, but that is not the pride I am talking about in this message.

Rather, I am talking about self-pride which says, “I am better than you, or more worthy of you to be treated with respect or honor”. The pride this message has in view is the human pride which says, “I or we are better human’s than you based on our skin color, birth right, wealth, education, culture material success, etc., and thus we have some right to use you in some way and thus treat you as something less than us”. The pride which says, “Our religion or God is the greatest God, and as such, you are evil and deserve to be destroyed since you don’t ‘worship’ him”. The pride which says, “These people are dumb and ignorant and worthless and thus deserve to be taken advantage of by we, the superior people”.

Pride causes many people to enter into conflict. Pride says, ‘I will not do what is right because people will view me as having been wrong, and I won’t admit I was wrong’. Pride says, ‘my dignity as a human being is maintained by having other people view me as a good, smart person, and I will not admit being something other than those things...I will not confess my error, especially to that person whom I dislike’. Pride causes people – particularly men – to enter into conflict, both at the individual level as well as the national level. How much violence and hurt has been generated due to people’s pride? How many people have been killed and injured and badly affected by human pride?

Self-pride in rulers is particularly dangerous as it will often lead to serious conflict. Even a leader who wants something that is right can approach the issue with pride. For example, one leader or group will say to another, “Unless you do this right thing, we will attack you and punish your people”, while the proud person or group who is the object of that threat would go to war and as a result see thousands of people die, rather than comply with the demand. Is this not the way of the nations? What is that if it is not pride? Is pride a good thing if it causes many people to suffer or die? How about the leader of a group or nation who will not take “hand-outs” from another person or nation in order to help prevent the starvation of thousands of its people? Why won’t they? Is it not pride?

Perhaps most importantly, what is it that prevents one person from asking for forgiveness from another person based on a perceived wrong committed? How much un-forgiveness and bitterness and vengeance and unnecessary human separation is caused due to pride...due to a person being proud and thus unwilling to apologize to another? How much ancillary or collateral suffering and damage does that result in each day? Trillions of occurrences?

The world’s religions and their thousands of sects exist due largely because of pride. Religious pride says ‘we have the correct god’ using little reason to defend the belief. Within the same religion, the sect divisions are largely caused by attitudes of, ‘we have the correct understanding of that scripture’ or ‘we have the correct theology’ or ‘we have the correct understanding of God or his kingdom’, etc. So, pride and fear divide the human race based on differences among people – skin color, language, culture, food preferences, religion or beliefs, political systems – the list goes on and on. Is there a better explanation of the division and mis-understanding and animosity expressed between individuals and groups?

How about the pride demonstrated hundreds of millions of times a day by ordinary human beings, which pride says, “I will not listen to you or your ideas since I don’t respect you for x,y,z reasons”. That might actually be fear with pride as the justification.

What is the bottom line on pride? It is one person or person's being offended (due to self-pride) and thus wanting to see the offender disgraced or even harmed – or see the offending party punished – for the offense. This is pride.

Is this not the way of the people of the earth? Is this not the normal way human's interact with one another? Can you reasonably deny that these observations accurately reflect humans and our nature?

Please, after this message, take a few minutes to evaluate the world in light of this simple truth – that Fear, Selfishness and Pride are the three governors of the vast majority of humans and their communications, decisions and behavior. Are not the people of the earth and most decisions, especially political ones that involve conflict, based largely on pride & fear? Is not fear and mistrust involved in much of the human behavior that occurs each day? Think about this dear reader.

Is not most of the human conflict – whether personal and small scale, or national and the basis for war - caused by fear, selfishness or pride? Please, if you know another primary cause for human conflict, write me and let me know. Think this through and acknowledge it's true, for if you do, you will come to realize something very important that can help you.

The way of the world that Joshua of Nazareth describes in his teachings when he references “the world”, is the people of the earth that are governed not by his Father or himself - nor even by reason and principle - but rather by fear, selfishness and pride.

Let us repeat this very important truth. The way of the world that Joshua of Nazareth describes in his teachings when he references “the world”, is the people of the earth that are governed not by his Father or himself - nor even by reason or principle - but rather by fear, selfishness and pride.

I challenge the listener to prove this premise as false. And, if you arrive at the belief that this is a true premise, what are you going to do about it? Can you see that you are not exempt from being influenced or ruled by the three governors? If you can come to that right conclusion, again, what are you going to do about it? Nothing and try and remain comfortable living under those three governors? Will living your life being guided by the three governors provide you with a good life...a life of meaning and significance? Or will it be a shallow, re-active life, largely devoid of higher or greater meaning and thus devoid of deep satisfaction?

For those listening who are interested in not living under the three governors, you should be asking – ‘is there a way to overcome the three governors of self and humanity and thus lead a higher quality life?’

There is good news in that respect! There is a way to escape being ruled by fear or selfishness or pride. There is someone who can enable us to be free from those governors, and instead be guided by both a superior Governor as well as that Governor's principles. What is the thing that can enable us to be free from being ruled by fear, selfishness and pride?

It is faith. Faith in the right person will set us free and will allow us to live by the principles of love, humility and righteousness. We must be lifted up above the three governors in order to escape their insidious control, and only faith can lift us up in such a way as to provide true freedom from them.

Faith which enables love and humility will make a person free from being ruled by fear, selfishness and pride.

Faith in the right person will free a person from all three of the governors, especially fear, and replace the governor with high level principles that make the human life something special and beautiful.

The first destructive characteristic of the human soul – fear – is destroyed by faith. Faith is the cure for human fear. However, faith can be in the right person or thing, or in the wrong person or thing. When a person places their faith in Joshua and the Father he reveals, they are placing their faith in the right source to overcome their weaknesses...in the ultimate healer...the One Joshua describes and the Creator and living God. When you do this, your faith can make you whole, as Joshua demonstrated many times when he was here on the earth. Faith enables a person to spiritually connect to the one person who knows them better than themselves and who has the answers and comfort a person needs to overcome the fear that this world encourages. If you know – have real faith – that your Father cares for you, loves you with an everlasting love, and that life on this earth is just the beginning of the journey before you join Him, you can overcome all fear – including the fear of death. That is true freedom, which freedom is reflected in these sayings of Joshua:

“If you continue in my words, then you are my followers; and then you shall know the truth, and that truth will set you free”.

“Fear not, for your faith has saved you”.

“Those who seek to keep their lives in this world, will lose Life; while those who seek to lose their lives in this world, will find Life Everlasting”.

“I am the resurrection and the Life; he who trusts in me, though he dies physically, yet shall he live again in the resurrection; and all who trust in me shall never spiritually die.”

Did you listen carefully to the Light of the world’s words? Do you have the faith to really, actually believe him? If you do, your life will change...that is the proof of faith. This is in contrast to religion, where you can quote all the words and have all the right beliefs, but your heart and life betray the fact that those beliefs are empty and meaningless.

Once you have faith in the right person, you then not only have the power to overcome fear, but you have the knowledge and understanding of what it means to be selfish and the costs of a selfish life. So, faith will lead you to submit to a person who says, “be the lowest servant of all”. That teaching is the opposite of the selfish life and will lead a sincere student of the Light to pursue that manner of living. In addition, the Light says, “the greatest love that exists is to lay down your life for your friends”. Please note what love is. It is important since love is redefined by the world to mean something other than what Joshua defines it as – **true love is selfless behavior motivated by compassion**. Please let me say that again, as love has been so deformed by the peoples of the world as to be un-recognizable.

Perhaps the greatest teaching of all from the Light that will fight the selfish life is to *treat others the way we want to be treated*...a teaching he says sums up all the correct moral aspects of the Jewish scripture and is echoed in other cultures as well. Surely humanity would be radically different if all humans – or even a significant majority – lived by this simple teaching. And yet, the original articulator and proclaimer of that radical principles is ignored even while his principle is mocked and disregarded by those who claim him in some way in favor of the governor of selfishness.

While faith is necessary to actually receive the teachings of Joshua, live by them and be rewarded for such, many seek to pick and choose what teachings of Joshua will fit into their life in the world.

They are those religious people who know some of what Joshua says, but will pick and choose that which will serve them as they reject his basic teachings of needing to lose our lives in this world in order to find and remain in Eternal Life. Dear listener, don't fall into that trap...you will have to escape religion in order to live out a more selfless life. You will need to turn your back on religion and its adherents, who themselves are in bondage to, and propagate, the three governors.

From a faith standpoint, pride is dealt with both at the time a person enters into faith in Joshua as well as afterward. For a person to enter into faith, they must humble themselves and admit they are not great humans who live a life of perfect love and peace and harmony and righteousness with all they encounter and live with. The Light of the world makes remorse for one's faults and failures the necessary first step that must happen in order to take the second step, which is to enter into faith in him. Thus, pride is an extremely damaging characteristic of humans that must be dealt with before they can be delivered from fear and selfishness.

Ah, but once we humble ourselves and enter into faith, whole new vistas of opportunities and life can grip us and propel us forward in that life of faith. If we remain humble, our journey can be all the better. Please listen to the Light:

"Those who humble themselves will be exalted, while those who exalt themselves, will be humbled".

"When you come into a place or group of people who want to honor you, don't receive it, but rather take a humble place so that others might be honored above you".

He has many other such teachings that show the way to defeating pride in our lives. Better still, he provides the power to live those teachings out IF we have faith.

To sum up, we have seen how faith will:

1. Enable a person to overcome fear, and;
2. How faith in the right person will enable one to live a more selfless life, and;
3. How entering into faith requires a person's pride be broken.

Thus, we can conclude that a person's faith in the right person can overcome the three governors that guide most human's life - fear and selfishness and pride – faith in Joshua and his Father can produce a life of hope, courage, love and righteousness.

I ask the listener to truly examine themselves...start with this day and ask yourself how many of our words or actions were the result of being guided by the three governors? And if you continue your examination in a brutally honest manner, and come to the place of understanding that you are in fact governed by the three governors – I encourage you to turn away from that dark and hopeless life and instead turn to your Father who loves and you and will receive you and give you new hope and a new life.

Peace to you, dear listener.