

Free

SIMPLY ENLIGHTENED

A Twelve Tribes Freepaper

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COFFEE SHOP

REVOLUTIONARIES

Our generation has come into the world with quite an inheritance. Technology, information and science are catapulting forward the way human beings interact with their environment. We whiz about the electronic universe on our iPhone while hurtling down the highway at 85 miles an hour to make it to our college class where we stop for an hour to listen to a lecture about the indigenous Kung Bushmen from Africa who snort green powder up their nose as a form of hallucinogenic. We leave class and use GPS to navigate over to the new Thai restaurant where we get to eat the same dish as an indigenous Southeast Asian peasant, thousands of miles away.

The glow of the computer screen irradiates our pale faces as we spend hours and hours fashioning our own personal web pages where we carve out our own electronic self-image. The ability to add or delete a "friend" at the click of a button gives us a delightful sense of omnipotence. Yawning at our iPad, we pack it up, scoot back our chair, grab our rolled-up purple yoga mat from the closet, and shuttle off to an hour long session of authentic Hindu exercises that they claim will make all the energy in our body flow in the same direction. That's a good thing, right? And if we happen to get stuck in traffic on the way, we can pop in our "Enlightenment for Dummies" DVD we just bought for \$5 at the checkout stand in the grocery store.

We've seen it all, we've heard it all, we've done just about all of it... now what? If we human beings can scan the

vastness of space and probe the depths of the ocean, why are we at such a loss for words when we attempt to have a deep conversation with the person sitting right next to us. Or what about having one with our parents? But who would want to do that? What do they know, anyway? They're the ones who got us into this mess in the first place.

But maybe we some of us can have "deep" conversations with our friends. Maybe we're those who stay up all night sitting at a booth in Denny's, pondering the mysteries of life, the universe, and everything. Maybe we're those coffee shop revolutionaries who can smoke a joint and wax philosophical for a while, while the cigarette burns down between our fingertips, solving all the world's problems while sucking down a fake vanilla milkshake. Like the shake, are these long, fruitless discussions the food our souls really need? Is this "deep" discussion equivalent to love and true friendship?

Many cultures throughout history have acknowledged the need for brotherly love and devotion to family.

Two men would slice into their palms with a knife and link their hands together as a covenant of brotherhood, a sign of linked fates. "What happens to you happens to me. No matter what we have to go through, we're going to be together." Isn't this simple, priceless friendship worth infinitely more than the lofty claims of enlightenment and self-realization that bounce around the new age airwaves?

Marriage takes a stab at true devotion, but in this day of rampant independence and selfishness, hardly anyone understands what it really means to make a covenant. Are these last generations losing the character it takes to be committed? Is the selfishness so deep and integrity so lacking that relationships can only be based on what we are getting out of them in the moment? Do we realize the accountability we bear in treating our human relationships as disposable? Do we realize that our passing pleasures

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have eternal consequences? A wise man once said "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and yet lose his soul?"

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Most of us are content to sit back and let the characters in our movies or books act out life for us, while we stay comfortable in our air-conditioned houses and chew on organic baby carrots. But if not that, then what are our options, really? Do we

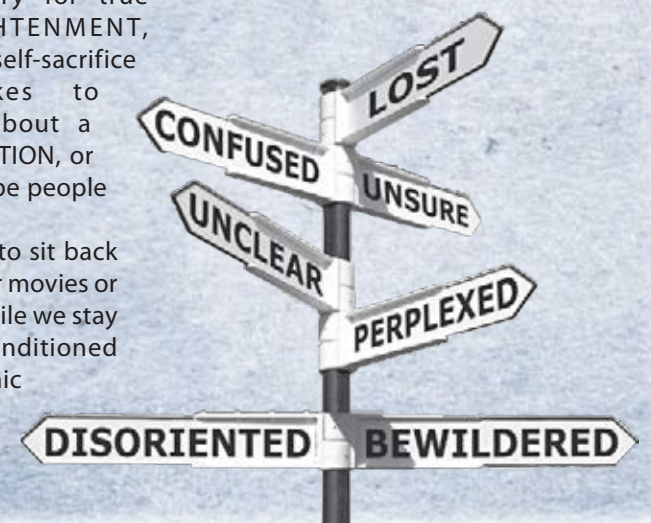
really see anything worth giving all of our strength and loyalty to?

In our efforts to escape the futility of life we get our friends together and smoke ourselves into a little stupor and cynically joke about anything containing even a notion of sincerity. Or we can try to ignore the quiet desperation in our soul and buy into the system and apply ourselves to four or five years of college, and forty years of a "good job" hoping that somehow we'll be "happy", and if not happy, at least secure.

Or we may try to deceive ourselves into thinking this measly little job at the drugstore won't last forever. "One day my art will take me somewhere; one day people will recognize my talent, they'll give me money, and life will be better after that, after I'm hired at the circus, or signed to a record label, or whatever..."

In the meantime, however, I'll at least do my best to seem very lofty and mysterious, so that my friends will all look up to me. Or I'll just go along with society and take comfort in my religion or AA meetings to get me by until I go to Heaven or whatever happens after this life...

But the undeniable truth, buried beneath all the glitz and all the religion and all of the boasts of "higher learning," is that there is a flaw in the foundation of society as we know it. The human race is set on a course that is unable to be sustained. Human beings are operating outside of the boundaries given to them, boundaries that all of nature functions within. Instinctive truths have been suppressed or discarded altogether, and we will not find any rest until what has been lost is restored. ❀



ENLIGHTENED

enlighten (en-lahyt-n):

1. to give intellectual or spiritual light to; instruct; impart knowledge to.

2. to shed light upon.

Origin: late 14th c. "to remove the dimness or blindness from one's eyes or heart."

A half-smiling monk in saffron-colored robes treads slowly through a tranquil garden, the sun glistening off of his round, bald head. His rhythmic chants blend into the melody of the chirping birds and the buzzing of the tiny honey bees—the perfect image of enlightenment itself... Or is it?

Ask around, and you'll find people have a lot to say about what it means to be enlightened. Some say being enlightened is your inward, spiritual path towards becoming free from the suffering that your desire and ignorance brings upon yourself. Others say it is transcending the material existence. Still others say it is realizing that you can create your own reality.

But what does our Creator, the True One, who is Love, think of enlightenment as? What does He, the one who created mankind in His own image, think about what the fullest expression of being human is? To Him, enlightened people are those who are full of **love** and who express it all the time. And this love isn't just some feeling you have, alone on a mountaintop. This love is a direction of the will, expressed towards another person. **Being enlightened has "one another" attached to it. To be enlightened is to lay down your own life and pursuits to serve and care for others. This selfless act creates a community—a common unity among those who believe in love enough to actually do it.**

For even if you understand great mysteries and have spiritual knowledge, enough to move a mountain, but you do not love, it is nothing.

It was for this cause of love our Master Yahshua* gathered together a band of disciples who spent all their time, day and night, with one another and with Him. He was the Son of God, and God is Love. But it wasn't enough for Him alone to partake of this fellowship, to live an enlightened life —

but He was preparing His disciples to live how He lived. That's why He said, "follow Me..." He taught them to put love into action. Living together in community, He was able to help heal them of all of their wrong ways: ways of relating to God, ways relating to life, and ways of relating to each other.

Being with their Teacher and with one another day-in and day-out, in community life, brought all these false ways to the light. They needed to be with Him because they were full of problems that they couldn't find an answer to in themselves or in following a teaching alone. There are so many things inside us human beings that are really dark, where the Light needs to come. We need to be purified and restored in our souls. He was the One who had the solution. He was the Light of love that could illuminate the cracks and crevasses in their souls. And the amazing thing was those dark places, once exposed to the Light, became Light as well. **Hidden motives were exposed: their petty strife, shallow pragmatism, and selfish refusal to suffer—all had to come to the Light. This was a time of intense training and none of them looked very enlightened while going through it.**

Because of His own humility and dependence on His Father, an environment grew around Yahshua in which He and His friends could share everything—not just their possessions, but also their joys, hurts, struggles, and victories—they had everything in common. A true spiritual Master passes on his teachings by example while keeping his disciples with him all the time. Thus, the disciples learned through observation and experience the way their Master thought and responded to every situation. They learned how He related to His Father in Heaven. He was their best friend and they were right by His side, learning to be true sons. He even told them they were going to be the Light of the world. They saw what it meant when He said that He couldn't do anything apart from His Father. They witnessed His inner turmoil, His time spent in fervent prayer and contemplation. Yahshua had no advantage over anyone else, but walked on this earth as a needy man who had fellowship with the Divine Father in Heaven.

Despite the greatest efforts of individuals with much greater character than our present

generation, virtually every attempt to live together in community has failed. Many found themselves powerless to overcome the fatal flaw of mankind — selfishness. So what was different for Yahshua and His disciples? Only through communion with their Creator were they able to have the power to forgive one another and be purified of their own darkness, rather than that darkness destroying them. If they hadn't been living together, they never would have seen so clearly what was motivating them. Their common life was a crucible with the heat and pressure needed to actually transform them. In this environment, unable to hide their weaknesses, they began to accept themselves and each other for who they really were. They learned through experience that, apart from forgiveness and depending upon their Father in Heaven, they were a hopeless, un-enlightened mess. But with Him, the Way of Life was being illuminated right before their eyes, as they walked the ancient path of faith, embodied by Yahshua and demonstrated through this life of love and unity.

However, all of this was merely preparation for receiving the very Spirit of God: Ruach ha Kadesh, the "set apart breath" or Holy Spirit. Receiving this Spirit was the only means of being truly enlightened. Yahshua completed His mission by dying as a payment for their sins and guilt. After rising from the dead, He went up into the heavens and sent His Spirit to live inside of them.

These disciples who had been through the fire, who had learned how to be humble and honest, got filled up to overflowing with the Spirit of the Creator of all things. They experienced an inward spiritual transformation in their hearts which was manifest in a very tangible way — a new social order — community. As they gave themselves to denying their selfish tendencies and to loving one another their lives continued to undergo constant change and renewal — they were being restored from the damage they incurred while living lives separated from their Creator.

Now they experienced true joy and true love. They found the grace to forbear with one another with kindness and gentleness and patience, even those who weren't kind to them. And they had a peace about them that ordinary people could not understand. This was the enlightenment that we all want, but it came as the result of the deep salvation they had gone through while they were with Yahshua. They all still had wrong ways to be healed from, but through the power of the Holy Spirit

and their fellowship with one another they were able to actually overcome the sin that so easily entangles all of humanity. They now became the teachers, just like their master, passing on what they had learned and living out His example. When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them, they gathered others together with them and established the same full-time, practical life of discipleship that they had known with Yahshua. They taught the new disciples the same lessons that they had learned. They helped them to give up their false concepts and false identities. They taught them to depend upon Yahshua.

But now there was an amazing difference. Yahshua had been with them in person, but now because of His Spirit being given to them, their connection to Him was through being spiritually connected to one another. They learned to recognize and respect Him (His Spirit) in one another. Their love for Him grew as they fell in love more and more with each other. They gladly shared their lands, houses, possessions, and even forsook old friendships and family ties, and even their own lives in this world (their independence), anything that would have held them back from loving Him and one another with all their heart.

Yahshua's Spirit, love, and forgiveness are on the earth once again. Being connected to Him is what it truly means to be *enlightened*. Another word for enlightenment is "holy." *Holy* means to be set apart in order to be made whole, enabled by Yahshua's death in our place, to come into the Light and have Life, even as He did. Guilt and the inability to obey what we know in our conscience can be put behind us. Through Him it is now possible to overcome the fallen nature we've inherited, that which formerly kept us divided and alienated from one another

Enlightenment doesn't just mean knowing about light and love, but it means being set free from all of the false things inside of you that cut you off from others and hold you back from being real. Enlightenment is your sins being forgiven so that you are free from fear and guilt, which enables you to live together without sin destroying you and your relationships. Enlightenment is found in the Way, the Truth and the Life - which is Yahshua.

Our Master Yahshua won't be found in the divided Churches of Christianity, but only in a people who love one another so much that their unity and their life together proves that God really did send His Son as a ransom for us, and that He loves and needs us even as His own Son. For, as He said, "You will know a tree by its fruit." Please come and see! 🌸

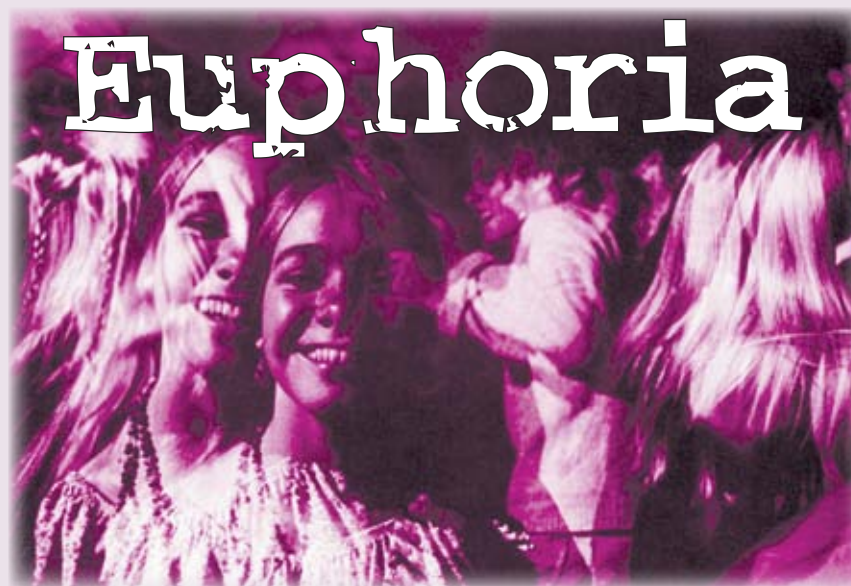
* *Yahshua is the original Hebrew name of the Son of God, later translated through the Greek as "Jesus." See back page for more about Yahshua.*

Some of your earliest impressions as a child never leave you. Never.

Our next-door neighbor, Mr. Stephens, just about broke our door down when he came screaming into our house telling us that he had found his daughter dead on the living room floor. In between the garbled communication and scurry I kept hearing the word, "overdose." Nothing could console the man. He was beside himself in hysteria. My mother ran to the phone. Shortly afterwards the ambulance came, and I was surprised to see that Mr. Stephens was also taken. I kept looking at my mother and watching her reactions, "What's an overdose Mom? Why are they taking Mr. Stephens away? What are they going to do with him?" A sharp "Shuu..." was all I heard, and quickly I was scuttled away to another room to sit with my older sister who kept telling me, "stop asking so many questions."

Later, that evening I got out of bed and went down the stairs. Stopping halfway down, I overheard my parents talking privately in the kitchen below. I couldn't get everything they said as they were whispering very quietly, but then my father said something I never forgot: "She wasn't hooked on dope, Emily, she was hooked on the feelings of euphoria it gave her." That seemed so strange to me as a nine-year-old child. I dared not come into the kitchen to ask anything at that point. (I found out later from my sister what *euphoria* meant.) I had known Mr. Stephens' pretty eighteen-year-old daughter, and she always seemed very kind to me. How could Stephanie's feelings kill her, I thought? I couldn't understand. She didn't look sick to me.

Everyone in my family was very quiet for the following week. There was a cloud of something heavy, almost foreboding, that



Euphoria — *A strong feeling of great well-being or elation. An excited state of joy, intensely pleasurable. A feeling or activity characterized by its extreme intensity. Elevated mood. Euphoria is a desirable and natural occurrence when it results from happy or exciting events. An excessive degree of euphoria that is not linked to socially acceptable behavior is characteristic of an abnormal mental state. It can be associated with mood swings sometimes caused by intense religious experience, sexual pleasure, or drugs, etc, in which somebody is so dominated by an emotion that self-control and sometimes consciousness is lost.*

seemed to creep inside our own house, but I couldn't figure out what it was. Eventually, life went on, and I heard Mr. Stephens was living somewhere else now. He didn't want to come back to his house.

Emotions are powerful. You would never think that "feelin' good" would create such a nightmare. But it did, and it does. For Mr. Stephens' daughter, Stephanie, the role these emotions played in her life led first to addiction, then overdose, and ultimately death.

In many cases these intense, emotional sensations of euphoria can influence very positive experiences. But more often than you would think, it results in very damaging, immoral, or even deadly consequences. Depending on the stimulus, once something is introduced to the

emotions, the personality and character of a person can radically change — for the rest of his life. This is especially true if it pertains to an acquired aberration or perversion. A lot of people have those kinds of experiences with "the new kid" in the neighborhood. Some of those experiences take a lifetime to heal.

Euphoria is an overwhelming, emotional sensation of deep, intense pleasure or well-being. For some people, drinking a Coca-Cola, a beer, or coffee can easily stimulate this sense of euphoria. They get "goose bumps" or a bit of a "buzz" off such stimulants. The caffeine or alcohol content within the bloodstream interacting with the brain's nervous system *triggers* the release of chemicals and hormones to produce that feeling of euphoria.

But the real "magic" behind this chemical reaction in the brain is that it over-stimulates a person's emotional responses. Doing so creates desires and emotions

that take people far beyond their own natural responses.

Thoughts and experiences, or an association or relationship to someone or something, can also generate these intense feelings of pleasure and euphoria. Those tingling or excitable feelings can also be stimulated by such things as fine clothing, the abundance of possessions, food, money, sports, drugs, chocolate, antiques, an assured sense of security, expensive cars, sexual impulses, and comforts of every manner.

Movies and TV trigger an emotional response vicariously. All these types of things can stimulate the brain to release certain secretions or hormones that produce an overwhelming urge or passion to have or do something. Whatever the stimulus is, its emotional impact upon us depends largely on what we allow with our own *will* to affect us. We're not helpless in the face of desire, but chose what we give our soul to.

From Euphoria to Idolatry

From our earliest impressions as babies to old age, the nurturing and appeasing of these feelings of euphoria often guide our path in life. They potentially mold and shape our future and our character. Very strong emotions tend to control, dominate, or preoccupy our attention and time. The gratifying of these desires becomes the underpinnings for many decisions we make in life, including our occupations or careers, marriage, sexuality, pursuits and ambitions.

That's why people get "hooked" to certain things because of the pleasurable feeling of euphoria. It's the heightened emotional experience and subsequent physical dependency upon something that causes people to become "addicted."

What used to be just "normal" no longer satisfies. They are forever



hooked on the “high” that comes from their over-stimulated brain.

It may seem strange to consider it this way, but in essence, anything that dominates one’s conscience to the destruction of his character is *idolatry* in the eyes of God. Often, it leads to the destruction of the characters and lives of others, too. The emotions experienced in idolatry are part of human makeup, but they were only meant to come from one source. And that source is worshipping and serving the Creator of mankind. All other stimulation not given by Him is idolatry.

Like the bottle of alcohol, it isn’t the alcohol itself, but it’s the *feelings* and *dependence* upon the alcohol that characterizes idolatry. You are overcome emotionally, and become obsessive in behavior. This is what led Stephanie to her untimely death with drugs. Anything that arouses the mind, emotions, and will to a spiritual, emotional, or physical state of devotion could be classified as idolatry. This dependence leads one further and further away from his conscience and his recognition and devotion to God alone.¹

The Induction Process

“By what a person is overcome, by this he is also enslaved.”²

When you nurture unrighteous desires, your personality and character can be completely transformed.³ You go from a state of natural righteousness to degrees of unrighteousness and depravity. The more you reject your conscience, the more you will be tempted with other fallen desires. Thus, you derive pleasure out of doing what is evil.⁴ Your

ability to analyze situations objectively at this point becomes more and more impaired. It is overshadowed by your own passions and desires.



Generally, the more you yield to the lower inclinations of your nature, which is never satisfied, the more enslaved you are to your own fallen appetites and desires. Like a ship whose rudder is no longer fully functional and which will soon shipwreck, someone who no longer functions according to the natural law in his conscience (doing what is right) will lose his ability to judge matters objectively and will severely go off course. He is no longer responsive to the instinctive law within him and is therefore *turned over* to doing what is unnatural.⁵ A person in this state has corrupted his own soul, which is made up of the intellect, emotions, and will. He lifts up his soul in worship to another god. He will pay in his own personality the due penalty for the error of his ways.⁶ Idolatry stimulates this kind of emotional response that glorifies another god.

Such a person tends to lean more and more compulsively towards an *addictive state* of being, in which he is controlled by his own lower appetites. His god is his belly (in Greek “*matrix*” – i.e., appetites, *inner workings*) which needs to be filled up. That which is empty always seeks to be filled up. In Latin, it is the word for “womb.” It is the cavity that is empty inside, which people desire to fill up to

⁵ Romans 1:26-28

⁶ Romans 1:27

satisfy that emptiness. It is also that place that gives birth to something:

“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14-15)

Nothing Seems to Satisfy

“Do not be deceived; bad company corrupts good morals.”⁷

Sometimes, people are introduced to certain practices or exposed to certain aberrations by means of induction.⁸ An aberration results from leaving (or deviating from) a natural point of reference. You end up at an entirely new one that is abnormal. This process of induction spiritually and morally often comes through the influence of another person, often by either physical touching or some sexual advance. Usually, it is something that captivates or stimulates your emotions.

You are opened or made aware of something you didn’t know or experience before. From that point on, the disorder you are enamored with you will compulsively feed. Whatever the induction process, an aberration or perversion of some manner can be formed within your emotional and/or mental makeup. This causes you to deviate from the truth. What was once normal, healthy emotional or sexual behavior fails to release the chemical



⁷ 1 Corinthians 15:33

⁸ **Induction** — 1. To introduce or orient someone towards a particular thing, an understanding or belief. 2. The act or process of inducing somebody into a state of being, feeling, or idea.

from the brain that provides those feelings of desire or euphoria. And in its place, through the induction of an aberration,⁹ evil desires or perversions are introduced producing an abnormal sexual or emotional disorder.

That is why normal behavioral patterns change to abnormal (like homosexuality) because an aberration has been formed in the mind. Once this aberration has been formed in the mind it is very difficult to reorient. The tendency would be to resort to abnormal behavior or excitation, for the normal orientation has been essentially replaced by the aberration. Nothing else will seem to satisfy from that point on.

If a husband or wife, for example, tire of each other emotionally (due to their lack of response to each other’s needs), then the relationship may end in divorce or adultery. The divorce stemmed from a fundamental disregard of conscience – failure to love your husband or wife. When selfishness prevails, the relationship begins to break down and deteriorate. When it reaches the point that there is no willingness to sacrifice for another person, the basis for any true relationship is gone.

Since there is an unwillingness to accept the cost to love, the husband or wife may become open or vulnerable to other morally corrupting influences, leading to adultery, fornication, jealousy, and immorality. Such emotionally based choices in disregard of conscience reveal the fundamental principle of idolatry at work.¹⁰ Whatever is emotionally elevated and sought after becomes the object of worship.

Parents are often the ones that pass on various familiar

⁹ **Aberration** — 1. A departure from what is normal or desirable. 2. The act of wandering; deviation, especially from truth or moral rectitude, from the natural state.

¹⁰ Matthew 5:27-28

¹ He is the one true source – **Elohim** (Hebrew word for *God*).

² 2 Peter 2:18-22

³ **Transform** — 1. Change something dramatically; to change somebody or something completely. 2. The act, process or shift of change from one state, stage or phase to another. 3. The exchange, substitution, or replacement of something or somebody. 4. Alteration, variation, or modification from one state or form of something to another.

⁴ James 1:14-15

Euphoria *continued from page 5*

tendencies or desires in taste, behavior, appeal, etc., that set the pattern in their children's own lives. DNA also plays a significant part in those tendencies becoming set patterns of behavior. A false feeling of status or prestige comes into play, giving one the appearance of importance. A feeling comes over people and they are dominated by it and held captive by it. There are many inroads from our early childhood that may have been inadequately dealt with, but form very distinguishing characteristics and traits in our personality later as adults.

In the spiritual realm, there are all kinds of spirits attached to things, and it is our association and response to these things that stimulate us mentally and emotionally. When we become emotionally obsessed or mentally preoccupied with anything, it is the essence of idolatry.

There is an inherent, human desire in every person that senses the need for dedication or devotion. However, this devotion was meant for God alone. Human beings sense they are not truly whole or complete apart from this devotion to their one true source – the Creator. When all three aspects of our soul (intellect, emotions, and will) are not under the authority of our conscience, being directed through wise counsel in good judgment, then we become open prey to many things that can potentially destroy us.

As human beings we bear the image of the one true God. When we are not totally devoted to the one true Source of our life, that image can be distorted, contorted, disfigured, deformed, warped, twisted completely out of shape. Failing to represent or reflect (as in a mirror) the image of the One who created us, we are subverted by evil, and made to bear a lesser image than that of being truly "human." In this state, the emotions are especially susceptible, since they are acutely sensitive and are often the first to sense spiritual influences. The soul of man must come under the authority of the supreme Creator. Otherwise, idolatry is inescapable. ❁

"You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not bow down to them nor worship them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, passing on the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Exodus 20:3-6)

"He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully." (Psalm 24:4-5)

Forgiveness

"That's not enough!" said the lady to the train driver. He was late. Circumstances beyond his control had caused the delay and he said 'sorry' at least six times. But it was 'not enough'. No matter what he said or how he said it, she could not forgive him for keeping her waiting. Has that ever happened to you? That no matter how sorry you were, it was 'not enough'? Or perhaps the shoe was on the other foot, and you simply could not forgive. Bitterness creeps in, doesn't it? Bitterness makes people sick and causes cancer. It holds people back from living life to the fullest.

On the other hand, forgiveness releases people from a debt. You know, holding on to a grudge, not forgetting an offense however hurtful. It's easy to remember hurts, and hard to forget them. How come it's so hard to 'forgive and forget?' The reality is that we can only receive as much forgiveness as we extend. To forgive is to erase bad history with a particular person, to look into the future and not into the past. Most of us have spent our lives being unforgiven or unforgiving and it has caused a lot of damage.

Forgiveness is not free; it costs you. It involves giving up your rights for justice. It means to forego, to leave behind, give something up. You have to die to your offended heart. That gives us a future. There is nothing holding us back anymore. Either to the one who is forgiven or the one who forgives. No more guilt and remorse. No more being weighed down with the weight of offense and bitterness. Just imagine – to infinity and beyond! That's how we see eternal life – living in a permanent guiltless state – set free to... To what? Make the same mistakes? No. Set free to love. How can you love someone that you can't forgive?

This is how His forgiveness works: We are all appointed to die and remain in a state called death. This is the place where our guilt is paid for. When Yahshua died on



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the cross, He went to death and paid with his guiltless life for the selfish things that we did, so that we could be forgiven from our guilt and therefore live eternally. Pardoned, you could say.

We who write this paper believe this with all of our hearts' and consequentially, we now owe our very existence to Him. We are disciples of Yahshua. We are thankful, forgiven, hopeful and free and there is nowhere else we'd rather be. Except one thing — we would love you to enjoy the fulfillment that comes from being forgiven and being set free to forgive others. We live in communities all over the world. Imagine living with a bunch of people in a house and not forgiving or being forgiven – yuck! Maybe you do.

If so there is a way out; Yahshua's forgiveness sets us free to love from a pure heart. ❁

*With all of our love,
From The Communities of the Twelve Tribes*



TRIBE actually means groups of families who live together in clans, united through a common ancestor. We believe in the God of Israel and follow in the steps of a man who had faith, who burned with a passion for something more than what he saw existing in the world around him. He walked away from the confined, leveled mentality of the society in which he lived, in the hope of finding a new beginning. He looked forward to the start of a new nation of people who were connected to their Creator and to one another. His name was Abraham. Most people know him as the father of the nation of Israel.

If you were to read the Bible, you would discover that the entire book speaks continually about tribes. The God of Abraham has always had a desire to be accurately represented by a united, tribal people who express His very character and nature to the world. Through their oneness of heart and purpose, this tribal nation would prove His existence, manifesting the love and unity of a people connected to Him.

As the stars of the sky, and as the sand which is on the seashore, God promised to multiply his seed and make a great nation out of him (Genesis 22:16-18). Our Creator was faithful. Abraham fathered Isaac, and from Isaac came a son named Jacob (whose name was later changed to Israel). From Israel came twelve sons who became the tribes that housed the descendants of Abraham. Thus Abraham found the new beginning he longed for – the twelve tribe nation of Israel.

Each tribe was made up of clans, and each clan was made up of families. Those families were made up of husbands and wives who desired to rule over their households and raise their children in the way of their God. The tribal life that grew out of these families was the corporate life that our Creator desired for man to have from the very beginning. He wanted a people who would be joined together for a common purpose, who would live at peace with one another, and in absolute unity. However, this unity and peace didn't last long. Like every other nation that has been on this earth, it ended up broken and divided.

Thousands of years after God had spoken to Abraham, another man walked the earth with the same heart and desire as Abraham. He, too, longed for that twelve tribe nation to fulfill all that it was meant to. His name was Yahshua the Messiah. You might have heard of him as Jesus, but we call him by his Hebrew name. His name means "Yahweh's Salvation." He had the power to save men from their sins and to remedy the very things that caused them to be separated

and divided from one another. He spoke a clear message as he walked the earth. This message called people out of the evil society they were a part of, compelling them to leave their old self-centered life behind them, and to become part of a whole new social order within community. Yahshua saw that natural Israel was not fit to represent God to the world, nor could they maintain unity among

matter what religion you are a part of, what country or social class or period of history you live in, or whether you are a man, a woman, or a child, the common ground among us all is the conscience.

Our Creator gave everyone a conscience, the instinctive knowledge of right and wrong. In that knowledge we know that a loving Creator does exist and that we owe our very life to Him. We

in order to keep us on course. The more a person silences that voice within him, the more evil he becomes and the more guilt he accumulates. No matter how you try to cover it all up – therapy courses, philosophies, and positive affirmations – nothing erases the guilt. You end up deceiving yourself into thinking you're a good person, especially when you compare your life to others' lives which seem more corrupt than yours. Yet, deep down inside, your conscience knows everything you've ever done (no matter what you do to try to hide it). Religions and philosophies can mask it over or put a nice veneer on it, but the grass roots reality is: your guilt remains.

The faith we live by has caused us to leave everything behind – our possessions, our ambitions, our relationships, yes, even our old lives – in order to follow Yahshua and participate in the forming of this new nation. Those who are a part of this new society have given up their self-satisfied, self-seeking pursuits, and have entered into a tribal life of caring for others, sharing what they have, and loving one another more than they love themselves. This is true freedom!

Can you picture how life would be if we all had this kind of love? We would all care for each other and truly appreciate one another deeply. There would be no wars or violence to plague mankind ever again. We would all live in peace and harmony and this would only be the beginning. Your imagination can fill in the rest. For those of us already gathered, we no longer need to just imagine.

We listened to the voice of hope and saw the condition of our dirty conscience. We saw our need for forgiveness. Now we stand together with others who saw their same need, and as a people we are experiencing the reality of what we once only dreamed of. It's the new land where people from every nation – the rich and poor, male and female – can live together in complete peace and trust for one another. Yahshua called this life we have in common "the light of the world." It is the witness of His kingdom. It stands in bold contrast to the darkness of the world's societies.

We are so thankful that we can share with you the longing of our Creator's heart: a nation of twelve tribes living together in unity. He is the Creator of the universe, the same One who created the radiance of the sun and the wing of a butterfly, who washed the sky blue and put music in the heart of a bird, the One who gave us the freedom to be in love with one another and live in unity...Who would have thought that this God was the God of tribes? 🌸

The TWELVE TRIBES A Tribal Life

We are a tribal people. The folk that you will meet in our community are part of a tribespeople. Our life is expressed through living together in community. We love working with each other on our farms and in our cottage industries, doing folk dances and playing music, building, teaching our children at home, and caring for one another. Our desire is to live as naturally as possible by being close to Creation and to people. Our vision: not a lifestyle, but the forming of a new nation – the twelve tribe nation of Israel. We want to be restored back to what we were created to be.



themselves. He recognized the need for a spiritual twelve tribe Israel to emerge.

He spoke the same message to all men because he knew in the heart of every person there was common ground. No

understand that there is an inward law that governs our behavior. This inner law is meant to be an expression of everything that is good. It is meant to be immovable and unchanging like the stars of the heavens

Liberator

A person facing certain death has no doubt about the reality of judgment. At that instant, he knows where his life is taking him; he is no longer able to ignore the voice of his conscience.

He faced certain death. He not only sensed judgment — He stood before the judge and was condemned. The dreadful sentence of death had been rendered. He bore a heavy weight of guilt as He left the court.

His was not a private execution before the eyes of a few required witnesses. He walked before His countrymen, disfigured by the brutal treatment of His guards. Strong men paled at the sight of Him and women wept. Step by awful step He walked to where His life would finally be wrenched from His battered body.

Many men had walked that grim path before. The guilt they bore sealed their eternal destiny. Stumbling and collapsing from exhaustion, He finally reached the place of execution. In a few agonizing hours the public spectacle came to an end. Those who were there heard Him cry out about being forsaken by God. He surely was.

There before the eyes of heaven and earth His life ended. The weight of guilt thrust His righteous soul down into the pit of death, the place of torment. Yet He didn't bear His own guilt — He bore ours. He willingly took upon himself the anguish that our sins deserved. In all His suffering He uttered no complaint and felt no bitterness.

His death was the greatest act of love ever demonstrated. His innocent blood covered every unjust and filthy act that we have ever done — all the things we continued to do against our conscience.

He spent three days and three nights in that place of torment, and that was enough to pay for the sin of us all. The pain He went through was enough. Even in death there was not one bit of distrust or resistance to His Father's will for Him. That's why the full anguish of death was able to reach the very core of His being in such a short time. It more than equaled the suffering which the hard-hearted will resist eternally as they continue to reason away their guilty consciences.

When He had done all He was sent to do, His Father raised Him from the dead. Because of His innocence it was impossible for Him to be held any longer in that place of torment. In His death He purchased the earth and all its inhabitants. In His resurrection He became King to all who would follow Him. His name — *Yahshua* — means *I am mighty and powerful to save*. That same power that raised Him from the dead enables His disciples to love one another the same way He loved us. It actually breaks down the barriers that alienate human beings from one another. It produces a life of love and unity — the evidence that God loves mankind and sacrificed His Son to set us free.

He is our Liberator. Anyone who is willing to do His will can come to Him and be set free from the sentence of death. God, in His great mercy and lovingkindness towards man, provided a way that even the unjust and filthy could find forgiveness and change their eternal destiny. ♦



THERE IS A PEOPLE who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds — to love their Creator with all their heart, mind, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being just ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth. Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that the Son of God came to earth to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary and want to know the purpose for which they were created.

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