

Living to Win

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Personal from. . .

Ronald L. Dart

The Solitary Man

*So God created man in his
own image, in the image
of God created he him;
male and female created he them
(Genesis 1:27).*

Everyone knows this verse by heart, but there may be something here that lies unnoticed even though it is crucial to the story. It is God's motive for what He did on that sixth day of creation: "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18).

On the sixth day of creation, God not only created man and woman, He created something else. He created a *relationship*. We call it marriage. And don't make a mistake here. He really did create this *relationship*. It didn't just fall out as a result of a man and a woman being alone together without any clothes on.

And in His formulation, "It is not good for man to be alone," God iterated a universal principle that goes far beyond marriage. We know these things, almost intuitively, but sometimes it isn't easy to express them clearly. Solomon, though, found a way:

"Two are better than one;
because they have a good reward
for their labour. For if they fall,

the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a three-fold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 KJV).

This is so obvious, so true not only in the Bible, but in human experience, that you would think it would transcend all argument. But you would be wrong. In the 18th century there was a Swiss born French philosopher named Jean Jacques Rousseau. He was one of the most influential thinkers and writers of the Enlightenment. If you have read very much of history and political thought, you will have heard of him – usually in the best of terms.

But ideas have consequences, and many of Rousseau's ideas are still producing a lot of mischief in the 21st century. I am indebted to Nancey Pearsey and her book,

Total Truth for some new insights into Rousseau's theory of man.

Rousseau said the way to grasp the essence of human nature was to hypothesize what we would be like if we were stripped of all social relationships, morals, laws, customs, traditions – of a civilization itself. This original, pre-social condition, he called the "state of nature." In it, all that exists are lone, disconnected, autonomous individuals, whose sole motivating force is the desire for self-preservation – what Rousseau called self-love.

Take special note of what Rousseau calls the *original condition of man*: "the state of nature." And take note of the image of man as a lone, disconnected, autonomous individual who has *no motivating force* beyond self-love. We may be hearing, with Rousseau, the first echoes of what today is called, "self esteem."

Ms. Pearsey asks: What did that mean for Rousseau's view of society? If our true nature is to be autonomous individuals, then society is contrary to our nature: is artificial, confining, oppressive. For Rousseau, the *really oppressive relationships were personal*

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Changing Lives

CEM gives away far more tapes than they sell. If a person cannot afford to buy tapes or the YEA books, we will give them *FREE*. We are changing lives of the young and mature. The YEA books are anchoring young people to Christ as never before. Would you like to play a part in this? Your donations make it possible for us to freely give these items to those who cannot afford them.

2005 Feast of Tabernacles Distinctively Inspiring

By Skip Martin, Festival Chairman

What are people saying about the 2005 Feast of Tabernacles? "First, let me say I felt that the CEM Feast was exceptional this year and the Last Great Day was outstanding. We do feel very blessed after the service and message. . . Thank you who make this happen each year." "This was our first experience. It was wonderful and I think it is a gift from God to have the CEM Feast site." "I thought the Feast was a great experience and CEM did a great job putting it together."

There was truly a different feeling at the CEM Feast site. Even with an average attendance of around 900, it seemed much smaller. This was probably because of the close family atmosphere. Fellowship was emphasized, with activities geared for meeting and bonding with new people and old friends. CEM provided hamburger fixings for the Family Picnic. The clown was the main attraction for the kids. A Variety Show gave individuals, groups and even families the opportunities to treat us with their talents. Two family puppet shows, and tiny tots clogging with their mom, were just some of the outstanding entertainment enjoyed by all. Singles and Seniors enjoyed separate luncheons which provided fellowship opportunities. The traditional Pie and Ice Cream Social was an event no one ever wants to miss.

For five days of the Feast, 130+ kids, aged 3 to 20, enthusiastically streamed into classes and seminars to learn more about God's way in a fun environment. Comments on the Festival Questionnaire rated the YEA classes and seminars overwhelmingly "excellent."

The CEM Feast Seminar Program has grown to become one of the best that can be found anywhere. Attendees benefitted from such topics as Facing Eternity, Abstaining From Premarital Sex, Healthy Congregations, Listening to God, Community Evangelism, and many other topics space does not permit listing. Close to 3000 man hours were spent in many seminars.

Every year, CEM's Music Program sets the tone for our worship service. Uplifting hymns and special music give speaker and audience more inspiration to worship God each day. Ron Dart commented that, over the years, his message had changed on more than one occasion because of the inspiration of music at the Feast. Realizing God and man are capable of enjoying many different kinds of music, one day of the Feast is set aside for Contemporary Christian Music sung with the "Festival Band." This year's was the best yet.

The seventh day of the Feast is always devoted to Youth Day when our young people are in charge of the entire service. Skits, testimonials, and special music are presented. A special slide presentation of this past summer's "Camp Outreach" showed young people and adults taking time from their busy lives to help the needy. It was truly inspiring to see how our youth are learning true Christian principles.

The CEM Feast is the highlight of the year for most of us. The Feast is produced by an all volunteer team we call the Festival Association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped make this year's Feast exceptional.

Winter Family Tournament in Lexington, Kentucky

By Jim O'Brien

Come hear Ron Dart at the Winter Family Tournament in Lexington, Kentucky beginning Friday evening December 23rd and running through Monday, December 26th.

You will have the opportunity to hear such outstanding speakers as Ron Dart, Guy Swenson, David Antion, Bill Jacobs, Jim O'Brien, Pam Dewey and Jeff Henderson as well as Dr. Tom Roberts and Gilford Monroe from the Church of God Seventh Day.

To make reservations at the Four Star Griffin Gate Marriott Resort in Lexington call 1-800-391-6690. Be sure to mention the Church of God to get the special discounted rate of only \$48 per night.

Check out this Winter Family Tournament at www.cogcincinnati.com/tournament, register and get more information. See you in Lexington!

The Solitary Man
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ones, like marriage, family, church, and workplace. This explains why it was so revolutionary when Rousseau proposed that individuals are the sole ultimate reality. He denounced civilization with its social conventions, as artificial and oppressive.

Don't miss this, "Individuals are the sole ultimate reality." Nothing could be more contrary to the revelation of what God actually did. Note this well. God created man *in His own image*, male and female. And since God is a family, He created man *in family*.

But back to Rousseau for a further moment. What did he say liberated man from the oppression of family, marriage, church and workplace? Fasten your seat belts. I don't want you to get whiplash. The liberator was: The State. The state would destroy all social ties, releasing the individual from loyalty to anything except itself. Rousseau spelled out his vision with startling clarity: "Each citizen would then be completely independent of all fellow man, and *absolutely dependent on the state.*"

Nancy Pearsey notes: "No wonder his philosophy inspired so many totalitarian systems." Which it did. "Robespierre in the French Revolution, as well as Marx, Lenin, Mussolini, and Hitler. Even Pol Pot, who massacred a quarter of the population of Cambodia, was educated in Paris and read his Rousseau."

Rousseau theorized the ideal legislator "should feel within himself the capacity to change human nature." For if human nature is indeterminate and can no longer be defined positively, there is an unlimited space for the state to impose its own definition of human nature.

"In the state of nature human beings are autonomous cells, with no ties to others, except *those they choose for themselves*. Virtually, by definition, then, any relationships, not a product of choice are oppressive – such as the biological bonds of family, the moral bonds of marriage, the spiritual bonds of the church, or the genetic bonds of clan and race."

It was at this point, as I read about Rousseau's theory of the social contract, that I began to sense the genesis of the language of abortion and the woman's "right to choose." When a woman becomes pregnant, she has entered an involuntary relationship, forced to carry another life within her body. According to this line of political thought, the natural bond of mother and child are oppressive. She must be free to choose the relationship, and not forced to assume it.

It seems that to be pro-choice is a good deal more than to be pro-abortion. It has huge political and moral overtones.

When Rousseau came on the scene, the idea of the state as liberator was a totally new concept. When I read that Rousseau's solution to the liberty of man was the state, my first reaction was. . . "What??" But as Hannah Arendt points out in the *Origins of Totalitarianism*, disconnected, isolated individuals are actually the most vulnerable to totalitarian control, because they have no competing identity or loyalties.

I think the younger generation has been profoundly influenced by Rousseau's doctrine of radical autonomy. Here, all loyalties are subordinated to one center.

In liberalism, the individual exists prior to its membership in moral communities such as

marriage, family, church, and polity. The self is even prior to any definition of its own nature. Thus for liberalism, the core of our personhood is our ability to choose our own identity – to create ourselves. This is why relationships and responsibilities are often considered separate from, and even contradictory to, our essential identity – why individuals often feel they need to break free from their social roles as husband, wife, or parent, in order to find their "true self." It is Rousseau redux.

The basic tenet of liberalism is that no individual can have an obligation to which he has not consented. All human attachments are to be dissolved and then reconstituted on the basis of choice – that is, contracts. Ideas like these do not remain purely abstract and academic. They filter down from professors to their students, who may well put them into practice.

If you want to know where the Supreme Court found the "right to privacy" articulated in *Roe vs. Wade*, you need look no further than Rousseau.

So why am I telling you all this? Because God did not create us to be divided all over the landscape, and isolated from one another. He did not create a solitary man.

There is much more to say about this, but to hear it, you'll have to write for a *FREE* cassette tape of a radio program titled, *The Solitary Man*. Just check the box on the enclosed card and return it to us. You won't want to miss this truly fundamental message.

Thanks for keeping in touch,

Ronald L. Dart

New Bible Study Books Now Available

Continuing beyond YEA Sabbath School books, CEM now offers Bible Study books as an ongoing series for biblical education. Individuals can use these books at home, or with in-home fellowship groups any day of the week. Churches can use them on the Sabbath to systematically study God's Word while youngsters attend YEA Sabbath School classes prior to the worship service.

Each student should have his own full color ten-lesson-book to prepare for class by reading that week's lesson, answering the questions, and reading the devotional Bible readings each day. The Bible Study Leader should have both the Students' Book and the Leader's Guide to make preparation easy, and Bible study effective. The Leader's Guide is designed for interactive discussion, so almost anyone can lead a Bible study. We recommend that the Leader orders the *Christian Origins* radio series for added background, information and greater confidence in leading.

This ongoing program is intended to be taught beginning with book one, lesson one and continuing through the series of studies. When you complete the fifth lesson in each book, call CEM at 1-888-BIBLE 44 to order the next set of books for your group. They should be handed out when lesson ten is taught so everyone can prepare for the next exciting study.

Community Bible studies are becoming ever more popular. The Bible Study series can make an excellent evangelistic tool for building your church and bringing others into a relationship with Christ. Participants should be encouraged to invite their friends and neighbors to join in the discussions.

With this series, we embark on one of the most important sections in the Bible – the very beginnings of the Christian faith and walk. This series from the Book of Acts makes the connection to Abraham's call and commission. Abraham was not merely called to be blessed, but to be a blessing. Abraham and his seed were to change the world. The first thing God had to do was to break the church free from tradition and to impress upon them the importance of doing what Abraham was originally commissioned to do – be a blessing to the whole world.

Jesus' commission makes it clear when you read it in the Greek: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the Gentiles, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I

Calendar of Events

Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29, 2006 at the Paris Landing State Park, TN. For your affordable room reservations call 1-800-250-8614 and give 3043 for the reservation number. Great sermons, seminars, YEA classes and fun family activities. If you would like to help, email smartin400@sbcglobal.net.

am with you always, even to the end of the age."

These new, easy to use books provide you with the tools to make disciples, teaching them to observe all that Christ commanded. Don't delay, call 1-888-BIBLE 44 and order your books today and be a blessing with a church or community Bible study.

Comments from YEA Feast Classes

"Thank you so much. I always love YEA lessons, I really loved my teachers this year. I also like the memory verses this year!"

"Thank you for your passion and enthusiasm for little people. Thank you for helping us learn more about Jesus and His plan for our lives."

"Thanks for all the assistance with this year's YEA. It was great that everything needed was already to go. The kids were awesome and we are grateful that we could work with them."

New Web Address

Check out our new website at www.borntowin.net. It's new and improved with more frequent updates. You will find interesting and insightful articles and essays to read, sample YEA lessons for youth, a calendar of events to help you know what is happening, book reviews, CEM's bookstore, etc. And you can hear the *Born to Win* broadcast.

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That the man of God may be proficient and equipped for every good work.