

5. One of the errors of legalism is the erroneous assumption that if you have a good relationship with people then you have a good relationship with God.
6. Unity is a part of God's plan which provides the Royal Family with corporate stability through knowledge of Bible doctrine: **(1)** security based on eternal life, **(2)** protection through positive response to the teaching ministry of the pastor and the metabolization ministry of the Holy Spirit, and **(3)** confidence based on eschatology which combines with the doctrines of logistical grace support in time, life after death, eternal life, the rapture, and the evaluation tribunal of Christ.
7. The baptism of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation is the means of establishing positional unity; all believers occupy the top circle: positional truth which is our universal union with Christ forming the body of Christ.
8. For this unity to become a reality in time to form a corporate body of believers, there must be a corporate advance by means of the three spiritual skills: **(1)** the filling of the Holy Spirit, **(2)** doctrine facilitated and applied from the stream of consciousness, and **(3)** utilization of the ten problem-solving devices. The technical term for this is experiential sanctification.
9. Collective advance within a system of corporate mentorship results in experiential unity among believers. When believers possess and apply the collective inventory of biblical truth to life and circumstances, then the power of the Word is mutually introduced into the devil's world.
10. The local church is the classroom where corporate mentorship by the Holy Spirit occurs within the souls of believers. This may be illustrated by a simple formula: the filling of the Holy Spirit + the function of Operation Z + the application of the ten problem-solving devices = Christian maturity.
11. Because of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, positional unity means we all are members of a new spiritual species within the same royal family.
12. Each believer possesses equal privilege and equal opportunity to advance together in fulfilling the plan of God.
13. Wherever God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, doctrine, and grace are emphasized then there is harmony, consensus, and agreement among members of the Royal Family.
14. The baptism of the Holy Spirit means that all barriers associated with the resident sin nature have been positionally removed.
15. Positional sanctification refers to salvation when the baptism of the Holy Spirit enters every believer into union with the Person of Christ. Experiential sanctification is the function of the spiritual life post salvation.



16. Experiential sanctification is the function of the spiritual life after salvation. The function of the spiritual life depends on the three spiritual skills noted above (see point 8).
17. Ultimate sanctification is the status quo of the believer in resurrection body in the eternal state. ▼

Problem-solving on the Trail:

Rattlesnakes are proverbially abundant upon all these prairies, and as there is seldom to be found either stick or stone with which to kill them, one hears almost a constant popping of rifles or pistols among the vanguard, to clear the route of these disagreeable occupants, lest they should bite our animals. As we were toiling up through the sandy hillocks which border the southern banks of the Arkansas, the day being exceedingly warm, we came upon a perfect den of these reptiles. I will not say 'thousands,' though this perhaps were nearer the truth—but hundreds at least were coiled or crawling in every direction. They were no sooner discovered than we were upon them with guns and pistols, determined to let none of them escape.

In the midst of this amusing scramble among the snakes, a wild mustang colt, which had somehow or other, become separated from its dam [mother], came bolting among our relay of loose stock to add to the confusion. One of our mules, evidently impressed with the impertinence of the intruder, sprang forward and attacked it, with the apparent intention of executing summary chastisement; while another mule, with more benignity [gentleness] of temper than its irascible compeer, engaged most lustily in defence of the unfortunate little mustang. As the contest was carried on among the wagons, the teamsters soon became very uproarious; so that the whole, with the snake fracas, made up a capital scene of confusion.

When the mule skirmish would have ended, if no one had interfered, is a question which remained undetermined; for some of our company, in view of the consequences which might result from the contest, rather inhumanly took sides with the assailing mule; and soon after they entered the lists, a rifle ball relieved the poor colt from its earthly embarrassments, and the company from further domestic disturbance. Peace once more restored we soon got under way. (Gregg, p. 19.)

(End JAS3-18. See JAS-19 for continuation of study at p. 181.)



1. The trail riders were briefly entertained by the chaos brought about by the animal-reptile kingdoms, however prudence required that order be quickly restored.
2. Vanguard riders were shooting snakes, a wild mustang enters the periphery of the train, and dumb mules take up the fight both with the colt and each other.
3. There is danger that one of the mules will seriously wound the other, that one might get accidentally shot, or both struck by snakes.
4. Order had to be restored. Discernment dictated that the intruder be the one eliminated.
5. When chaos occurs in our lives, we must learn to discern what the cause of the problem is. If self, then the recovery is rebound. If an outside exigency, then elimination of the problem is the immediate objective.

James 3:16 Where jealousy and selfish ambition
exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

6. Whether animals or humans, those who permit their limbic system[†] to rule their lives create an environment of confusion, disorder, and chaos.
7. Elimination of unruly animals is by rifle ball while the emotional human, by the wisdom of discernment.
8. In our episode near the Arkansas River, there are a number of outside adversaries as well as some on the inside.
9. There is nothing more arrogant or cantankerous than a mule, especially a self-righteous mule.
10. If there were an outside adversary which should have earned the ire of the self-righteous mule, it would be the den of rattlesnakes which were striking at the heels of his fellow mules.
11. But instead, his attention is distracted by the appearance of a licentiously wild mustang colt who sought to become cordial with the “loose stock.”
12. Logically, the sheer numbers of snakes should have commanded the mule’s attention, but one mustang with trends opposite those of the self-righteous mule’s sent him off to badger and chastise.
13. Suddenly we have an antinomian mule, who has trends similar to those of the colt, coming to his defense by attacking his own fellow mule.

[†] “limbic system: a complex system of nerves and networks in the brain, involving several areas near the edge of the cortex concerned with instinct and mood. It controls the basic emotions (fear, pleasure, anger) and drives (hunger, sex, dominance, care of offspring)” (*The New Oxford American Dictionary* [2001], s.v. “limbic system”).



14. The self-righteous mule obviously was outraged that a licentious colt would come calling on his fellow trail mates.
15. The real threat is the rattlesnakes which is being exacerbated by the disturbance among the two mules and the mustang colt.
16. The pioneers quieted the cacophony by dispatching the colt while the vanguard completed its genocide of the snake infestation ... what might be referred to as Operation Prairie Storm.
17. Restoration of order was the primary objective while protection of necessary livestock was the secondary objective.
18. Absence of a Frontier Trail Guidance Counselor made it possible to solve the problem without a government imposed five-day waiting period, an environmental impact study, or post-skirmish syndrome therapy.
19. Sans rattlesnakes, mules, and ringer mustangs, similar skirmishes occur in the local church. What are the causes and solutions? This conversion from trail riders to parishioners brings us back to James 3 and horses.
20. Life is filled with sudden interventions of the unexpected. When riding the trail of life, you do not know what will occur next in your average day. Hopefully not rattlesnakes, cantankerous mules, or frisky mustangs brought under control by gunfire.
21. There is one common thread between them and us: volition. The former use instinct, we use logic. The first thing to know about a horse is that it is dumb struck with fear. Helping him overcome fear is the key to success.
22. If you know how to do it, you can develop a personal relationship with a horse by convincing him to trust you. That trust is developed by understanding his fear and how to subtly administer the infliction of pain.
23. It is the combination of convincing the horse that you are not a thing to fear, or better stated, someone he can trust.
24. Secondly, trained properly, the horse will respond to the calculated inflictions of pain that will train him to do what you want him to do.
25. This requires us to study some details about the mammal of the family Equidae whose numerous varieties are called breeds and relate specifically to the horse.
26. The taming of the horse is a process that can well be described as a conversation. When a person learns how to “talk” to a horse, the horse will become a friend. Not knowing his language causes big problems.
27. To make sure I convey to you accurately the details of horse training, I quote from the book, *How to Think Like a Horse*, by Cherry Hill (2006).

