

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Practical Guide to Living Out The Law of Christ, Pt 5

Selected Passages

Keywords: The Law of Christ, Holiness, Obedience, Love, Sanctification

PowerPoint Presentation included: A Practical Guide to Living Out The Law of Christ role of Spirit.pdf

SermonAudio Blurb: Having resolved that the bible teaches that the New Testament believer is not under the Law of Moses, but rather, the Law of Christ, the question is then raised, “What does this look like in one’s life?” This series seeks to help bring out the various facets related to holiness, sanctification and godliness in the life of a believer. Today we begin to see the role of the Holy Spirit in how we are able to obey the Law of Christ. This sermon is a primer on sanctification and how the Holy Spirit is key.

I. Introduction.

- A. We continue with this series on a practical outworking of the Law of Christ.
- B. So far we saw that until we grasp and love the realities connected to having believed the gospel of Jesus Christ, the commands will not always make sense. This is the indicative/imperative motif.
- C. Last week I began to show you the second principle which simply says that because we are saved by God’s grace and live by God’s grace, the commands we are given are actually to a higher standard.
- D. Today I will begin to show you a third point: The New Testament uses a type of imagery that pictures one stripping off sin to describe the lifestyle of a Christian and putting on godliness.
- E. Now the question then arises, how is this godliness accomplished?
 - 1. Some then go right back to Old Testament law and try to do it. This ends poorly.
 - 2. Some seek what is commonly called a “second blessing” which is very wrong and yet very popular in many circles.
 - a. Though the specifics might differ in various ways, all of the movements agree that this second blessing, this higher, victorious event, is done by the Holy Spirit.
 - b. One of the wicked results of this doctrine is that it creates a two-tier category for Christians. Those who have this event see other believers as missing out.

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3. Behind all of this is a poor understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in the process of sanctification. And there are serious consequences to it all.
 - a. First, it demeans and borders on blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Second, it creates a sense of superiority and arrogance between brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - c. Third, it brings a sense of great discouragement and defeat for so many.
 - d. Fourth, it brings great temptation to be a fraud to fit in.
- F. So in this final principle on living out the Law of Christ I want us to gain a mature, wise and helpful understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in our lives.
 1. We are going to first do a little bit of work in theology to understand what is happening once a person has placed their faith in Jesus Christ.
 2. Then we will work out how this looks in our lives. The process is what is called “sanctification” but you can also just think of it as growing into holiness or godliness or becoming mature as a Christian.

II. A Practical Guide to Living Out The Law of Christ.

- A. Basic theology of sanctification.
 1. The first thing to understand is that sanctification is really a part of salvation.
 - a. We tend to think of salvation as getting forgiven for sin or gaining eternal life. But salvation is a big tent that captures a whole lot of truths and blessings.
 - b. But we tend to not think about how this whole thing works and where God fits into it all. We know He does but it often is very vague in our minds.
 - c. The Triune God is fully involved in all aspects of saving sinners. But each person in the Trinity has a role in it all.
 - (1) The Father:

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(2) The Son:

(3) The Holy Spirit:

(4) The Sinner:

- (a) So what do we bring to this thing called “salvation?”
- (b) We bring our sin and rebellion.
- (c) The bible does not ask us to finish the work that God does for us.
- (d) The only thing we do is believe God and His promises in the gospel.

2. This brings many consequences, or fruits, of salvation.

- a. We have a new position:
- b. A new end: “
- c. A new relationship to sin:
- d. New process:
- e. New calling:

3. When we talk about the Law of Christ, obedience, sanctification and such we can become overwhelmed at times and only see our failings.

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- a. We mentally chart our life as a Christian and it looks a bit sad. We beat ourselves up.
 - b. But we forget that there is a transfer that took place from being in Adam to now we are in Christ. Think of it like a different sandbox or a different road system.
4. In each of these points the idea of sanctification is present in one form or another. When you place your faith in Jesus Christ you are saved and it sets into motion various things by God but it is simplest to just say that you begin to grow in respect to your salvation.
- a. Initial, also known as Positional Sanctification.
 - b. Progressive, also known as Experiential.
 - c. Ultimate, also known as Glorification.
5. There are different perspectives that the bible gives to us regarding sanctification and it is wise to keep all of them in mind when you examine your own life or another's.
- a. Past Perspective (1 Corinthians 6:11).
 - b. Present Perspective (1 Thessalonians 3-4, 7).

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- c. Future Perspective (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- 6. When thinking about your salvation you need to make a clear connection between sanctification to also the bigger idea of salvation.
 - a. It too has a past present and future perspective. And in many ways, they mean the same as sanctification.
 - b. The Believer is called to be what they will not be until the resurrection and eternity.
 - c. There is a positional, as well as, a not-yet reality. We are holy and yet we must become holy.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Beloved if you keep these distinctions in mind you will do well. You will be of help to one another in those times of darkness and discouragement.
 - 1. We can and should long for the day of glorification, but we cannot expect it in this present age.
 - 2. We can forget the initial sanctification and then lose heart because we think we still belong to this age and forget that we are set apart in Christ.
 - 3. Or we can latch onto the initial or ultimate parts and fail to give heed to the call to fight sin, put off/on, and so on.
- B. When we return, Lord willing, we will then pull all of this together with the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we grow in obedience and Christlikeness.

Benediction

May the God who gave us the Word sanctify us in it so that we might find ourselves strengthened in the truth, humble of heart, able to encourage one another toward love and good deeds, especially as we see the day of our Lord's return drawing nearer. Amen.