

*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 2

### Selected Passages

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

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** A Practical Guide to Living Out The Law of Christ powerpoint.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 see the vital connection between the realities of what is true as the basis for doing the commands given by our Lord.

### I. Introduction.

- A. I don’t want these next few sermons to get lost so I am creating a sub-series title to help them stand out. I want to help you understand better what is your responsibility before God because of your salvation through Jesus Christ.
- B. Today I want to add more to the very first point I made last week.
  - 1. We need to learn to keep in mind the realities while you seek to obey the commands of the New Testament. This is the idea of the indicative/imperative within the bible.
  - 2. Keep the definitions clear. Write them in your bible.
    - a. Indicative = fact/reality (what to grasp, remember, believe)
    - b. Imperative = command (what to do or not do)
- C. We saw this worked out in 2 Peter 1.
  - 1. **Because** we have already been granted everything to life and godliness through a true knowledge of God.
  - 2. And, **because** God has already granted to us all the precious promises for the purpose that we might share in the very life of God.
  - 3. We are to diligently add to that saving faith with which we started our walk as a Christian. And the first step is to have the courage to begin to grow in our knowledge of God.
- D. However, this can become its own sort of law by being reductionistic.

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1. We reduce the purpose of being a Christian to a simple set of things we are to do. We even do it because of the truths that the bible give as the basis of doing these things.
  2. But in the process we forget the most basic purpose of all things in the process, which is the glory of God.
- E. Much confusion on what it means to glorify God and as a result there is a lot of heat but very little light.
1. You must first grasp that the essence of God is glory.
  2. This glory of God is therefore intrinsically displayed in all parts of creation.
  3. And the great sin of mankind as individuals and as a whole is to not love and delight in that glory of God.
  4. And this idea of glorifying God is at the core of the Christian walk.
  5. In 1 Corinthians 10 Paul is addressing meat offered to idols and he gives several point that are indicatives:

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- F. The goal of this mini series is not to give you a list of things to do. It is to call you to be a man or woman who reflects the glory of God.
  - 1. Miss this and you miss the purpose of all things in your life. In fact, this is a common reason why people start to think and live out legalism.
    - a. You fall into the trap of thinking that the Christian life is a series of checklists that need to be done. And miss the whole point of it all.
    - b. It is like playing football and getting so caught up in uniforms, play calling, maintenance of the fields, or worst of all, your personal performance, that you forget the goal is to score touchdowns and win the game.
  - 2. But the whole of this creation, from the furthest reaches of the universe to the tiniest particle, has one purpose. . . to shout forth the glory of their Creator.
- G. With the idea of the glory of God in our minds I want us to see the indicative/imperative idea work itself out in a couple of the New Testament books.

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

- A. Romans.
  - 1. Chapters 1:
  - 2. What follows is a masterful unfolding of certain huge realities that we all claim but all downplay at times (Ch 1-3) shows that all are under the power of sin.
  - 3. Ch 4 then shows how faith has always been the way one finds life and forgiveness.
  - 4. Ch 5 then builds off of that reality of justification. We have peace with God through Jesus Christ.

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5. Ch 6 then corrects the wrong thinking that we are free to sin because of grace (6:1).
  6. Ch 7 points out that this serving of God for righteousness is not through the law but through grace.
  7. Ch 8 then moves to the reality that if we have peace with God (ch 5) through Jesus and if we have died to sin through Jesus, then we also face no condemnation.
  8. Chs 9-11 shows that though we often think we know what God is doing, he is always doing more that we can imagine and working it all in ways that boggle our minds.
  9. But in ch 12 this all changes.
  10. Ch 13 is the same and yet you will see that Paul moves seamlessly through the command back to certain truths that then lead to more commands.
- B. Ephesians.
1. Ch 1

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a. Vs 6, 12, 14. The goal of all things, both big and small, in all of creation, is the glory of God.

b. The indicatives are beautiful:

c. Out of all of this, Paul finds himself compelled to pray.

2. Ch 2

3. Ch 3.

4. Ch 4.

## **III. Conclusion.**

A. Time is gone but the opportunity for you all is still very much present. Read the rest of the New Testament letters and you will see this over and over.

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- B. Before you become an expert in the dos and don'ts, become an expert in the whys. That will move you from legalism to the Law of Christ.
- C. You will find that so much of the rules you push on another are really for you. I will leave you to think about that over this next week.
- D. But do not forget the grace shown by God to you. Let this dwell in the depths of your soul and think upon it much. And then slowly begin to act on it.

## **Benediction**

**Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing the good news of Jesus Christ, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**