

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 6

Selected Passages

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

PowerPoint Presentation included:

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. In this sermon we see how the Holy Spirit is the key to living out a life obedient to Christ’ commandments.

I. Introduction.

- A. We again come to the issue of living out the law of Christ in the life of a Christian.
 - 1. I commend the last five sermons to you if you have not heard them as they have a lot of practical help on how to honor God in your obedience.
 - 2. And make no mistake about this, at the heart and soul of the work of the Church is calling people who claim to follow Jesus Christ to obey all that He commands.
 - 3. The Christian life is not a buffet line where you pick and choose whatever fits your mood.
- B. Review:
 - 1. In the New Testament seldom is there a command to obey that does not first give the truths that drive it. It is wise for you to grasp and love those truths for they will help guide you in obeying the commands that follow.
 - 2. Also, the New Testament seldom just tells you to stop something. Rather it tells you to put off something and replace it with an action or attitude that is faithful to your calling as a Christian.
 - 3. And finally, in all of this, we must understand the importance of the Holy Spirit in guiding, teaching, convicting and empowering us in the process of “sanctification.”
- C. In all of this the Holy Spirit is actively at work for the task of bringing those bought by Christ’s blood and loved by the Father to the finish line.

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1. The problem for us today is that the work and presence of the Holy Spirit is so messed up by bad theology and bad teaching that we do not access or understand how the Spirit is constantly and faithfully working in the Church.
 2. But through it all the Holy Spirit quietly and faithfully ministers to us as a whole and as individuals as He brings us into a ever greater conformity to our Savior.
 3. The age to come has come and yet it awaits coming. The new covenant is inaugurated and yet it awaits complete fulfillment.
- D. Today I want to give you seven areas where the Holy Spirit works in the Church for the purpose of sanctifying us. Seven areas the Spirit is actively working so that we might live out the Law of Christ.

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

A. Giving of the Scripture.

1. This is the teaching called “inspiration.”
 - a. But in theology this refers to the Holy Spirit’s work in giving us the bible. It is the fact that the Spirit superintended the writers of the biblical books to write without error what God desired them to write.
 - b. The writer to the Hebrews betrays his conviction that behind the words of the Old Testament prophet stood the Spirit of God. Three times in the book (3:7; 9:8; 10:15), the writer to the Hebrews indicates that it is the Holy Spirit who speaks when the prophets speak.
 - c. In 2 Timothy 3:16 we find that Scripture is “God-breathed.” This is where the term “inspiration” comes from.
 - d. In 2 Peter 1:21 we find that no prophecy given was from man but because those men were moved by the Holy Spirit.
2. This is so simple and yet the most commonly missed part of the life of a Christian.
 - a. He has given us His Word to guide and teach us, and we ought to know it exceedingly well.
 - b. But too often we work so very hard at anything BUT knowing it.

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3. But what about when we do open the bible and read it? What happens when we do sit down with the goal of understanding and knowing God's Word? This too is where the Holy Spirit comes into play.

B. Illumination.

1. It is one thing to have the bible. It is a whole other thing to understand it. And this is where the idea of illumination comes about.
2. Any person who meets with me regarding the nature of the Christian faith is told to pray a simple prayer before they read the bible. "Open my eyes that I may see the wonderful things in your law" (Psalm 119:18).
3. Ephesians 1:17-18.
4. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 is the classic passage for this.
 - a. The key part of this is in vss 10-16.
 - (1) The "we" and "us" in vss 10-13 are not talking about you and I. This is a reference to Paul and the other authors of Scripture.
 - (2) When we talk about illumination we need to keep it separate from inspiration. They are not the same.
 - (3) Notice in vss 14-16 we then have what is called illumination.
 - (a) This is the idea of how the unbelieving mind cannot grasp the things of God.
 - (b) This is how you and I and any other person can hear and read the Word of God over and over and never grasp it.
 - (c) It is not an intellectual grasping, but a spiritual/heart level grasping. It is where the knowledge becomes life and hope to you.
 - b. How do we know the mind of Christ? It will be in the Word of God but without the working of the Spirit, we will miss it nonetheless. The Spirit knows the mind of Christ.

5. 2 Corinthians 4:1-6.

C. Conviction.

1. 1 John 2:3-6.

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2. John 16:8.
 - a. Threefold work of the Holy Spirit in conviction.
 - b. And so through the Word of God the Holy Spirit convicts of sin. It brings the awareness of our rebellion to God.
 - c. He convicts of the need of righteousness before our Holy God.
 - d. And finally, He convicts of judgment.
- D. Guiding in truth.
 1. John 14:26 shows the two-fold teaching ministry.
 2. John 16:12-13.
 3. 1 Peter 2:1-2.
- E. Indwelling.
 1. The idea of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the Church is unique to the New Testament and is the result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.
 2. John 14:16-17.
 3. Romans 8:9, *“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”*
 4. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and 6:18-19.
- F. Empowering.
 1. 2 Corinthians 4:16.
 2. Ephesians 3:14-19.

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3. Ephesians 5:18ff

G. Praying.

1. Romans 8:26-27.

2. How often do we pray for things and have no idea really how to pray?

3. We are like our little children who ask for silly things because they are immature and lacking wisdom. They yearn for the sweets and the play when what they need is solid food and instruction and discipline.

4. And so we pray in ways that are often ill-thought through and immature and selfish in nature. But all the while the Spirit prays too, knowing the mind of God so that the will of God might be accomplished.

III. Conclusion.

A. As the Holy Spirit faithfully works in our lives let us learn to submit ourselves to His holy work. Let us learn to embrace the simple tools given to us rather than chase for the glittering lies false teachers lift up before us.

B. The answer to growing in holiness is not some magical, mystical moment. Rather, it is faithfully taking in Word of God, growing in sound doctrine, and actively seeking to apply what you know and learn. All the while applying the standard of loving God and others.

C. And as we do this, one final aspect of learning to live out the law of Christ will become abundantly clear to us. And we will consider it next week if the Lord wills.

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and give you peace. Amen.