

*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 3**

### **Selected Passages**

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

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** none

**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. In this message we note how the obeying of the Law of Christ is much more than stop committing a sin. Christ calls us to something far greater and higher, consistent Christ Himself.

### **I. Introduction.**

A. How is a Christian to live?

1. By what standard and basis?
2. The Law of Christ is the answer. And it is bound up in the New Covenant rather than the Old Covenant given to Israel.
3. Therefore, we ought to be a people who look into the New Testament for our directions and commands for just as the Old Covenant had laws and duties, so too should we expect the New Covenant to have them as well.
4. When we think about the lifestyle of the Christian it should be a pursuit of true holiness.
5. This means that we need to grasp that the commands of the bible, especially the New Testament, are not suggestions or for the mature and serious Christian.
  - a. If you are a Christian of only 1 week, these are your duties in light of God’s salvation.
  - b. We are never saved from sin to continue in it. But too often this is exactly what we do in various ways.
  - c. We are saved by God’s grace. We are kept safe by God’s grace. And so it is not uncommon for people to think that because salvation cannot be lost, that it is fine to do whatever they wish.
  - d. I think a key effect that we battle with is that we tend to look at Grace and see freedom to do less rather than freedom so as to excel higher.

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- e. Grace does not lower a standard, but pursues the highest of standards, biblical, God-define love.
- B. We spent two week on the first point of living out the Law of Christ First, learn to keep in mind the realities while you seek to obey the commands of the New Testament.
  - 1. Commands in the New Testament do not exist out of nothing.
  - 2. There are beautiful, powerful realities that lie behind every command. And when you love and trust and hope in those realities then the commands become light and reasonable.
  - 3. This takes us to the next principle for living out the Law of Christ in your life.
- C. Today, I want us to see another key aspect to the Law of Christ.

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

- A. The second principle is to understand how these commands are often held to a higher standard than the Old Covenant laws.
  - 1. 9 out of 10 commandments are repeated in the New Testament. This leads some to think that this idea of the Law of Christ is simply a repeat of the 10 commandments.
  - 2. But this is not correct and you will see it in how the New Testament takes the commands and moves beyond the mere doing or not doing of something and goes to something higher and better.
  - 3. The first indication of this is seen in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5.
    - a. 5:20, their righteousness is to be higher than the Pharisees. And then He launches into this teaching on the commandments.
    - b. 5:21 with 22.

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c.      5:27 with 28.

d.      5:33 this is not one of the 10 commandments, but it is built off of not lying. However, it is expressly forbidden in Leviticus 19:12.

(1)      But like all things related to any law, we can find loopholes to manipulate. We fall in love with the letter of the law and fail in the spirit of the law.

(2)      Jesus then makes His higher, stricter point in vss34-37.

e.      5:38-42.

(1)      This command comes again, not from the decalogue but from Exodus 21:24. It is part of the law of retribution. Even in its form here in Exodus, it is bent toward mercy and restraint. One cannot exceed the injury received.

(2)      Jesus then gives three examples of a different standard. Take these as examples rather than the writing of formal statutes.

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- (a) Romans 15:1-5 (note vss 4-5 especially)
  
- (b) Philippians 2:3-8. Imagine if Jesus had the mind set of His rights and privileges.
  
- (3) 2 Corinthians 8:9, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though being rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”*
- (4) (Turn back to Matthew 5)
- f. 5:43-47.
  - (1) in vs 42 Jesus quotes from Leviticus 19:18.

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- (2) And again Jesus turns this whole thing on its head in vss 44-45.
  - (a) The Law of Christ moves us away from hatred and away from vengeance and away from enmity to one of grace and love.
  - (b) This love is the love God showed to us.
  - (c) vss 46-47 simply illustrate this more fully.

## III. Conclusion.

- A. 5:48, The standard for a New Covenant believer is never the Law of Moses and it is never the standard of this fallen age.
  - 1. We judge ourselves in light of our Lord Himself.
  - 2. We set our minds upon Jesus who is the perfect reflection of God the Father.
  - 3. And this is the perfection of which He speaks. This bringing us to the goal, the point of completion.
- B. And it never ends this side of heaven. We shall always strive for it as a Christian. The commands of the New Testament serve as a prod to push us further and further into the holy task of laying down our life every day.
  - 1. We talk about dying to self but this is only talk until we take up the cross of Christ ourselves and begin to follow Him.
  - 2. And when we do that, then these commands come into focus. And we begin to see the depth of the grace shown to us by our Father in heaven.
  - 3. We see how we fail and how we wander and give up. And yet instead of a whip and threats, our Lord shows us His nail pierced hands and feet and reminds us that we strive forward in the fulness of God's grace.

## Benediction

**May our gracious Father in heaven cause us to be found in Christ, clothed on in His righteousness which comes through faith from the hand of God. May we know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings as we become conformed to His death. Amen.**