

# Jesus' New Commandment

## *The Greatest Challenge for the Body of Christ*

CCP Wednesday Night Service

February 7, 2024

### I. Introduction: Jesus wants us to keep his commandments, but do we know what they are?

We can all agree in general that the Law is good and to know God's will and obey it is right

- Conflicts arise with the how and why, but those aren't our lesson today
- Specific, supporting scriptures for the premise...reading with our text...outline to share: *John 14:15,21, 23-24 & 15:10; 1 John 2:4-6 & 5:1-3*
- Our goal is to tear down walls of deception and confusion...The dark kingdom has successfully obscured Jesus' New Commandment
- Get definitions of key words very clear, then we'll be able to get right to the point
- John sometimes says to keep God's commandments and mentions a singular commandment in the middle of teaching about keeping commandments (plural)
- Accept the challenge for personal correction and God's remedy for it!
- Our text for tonight: 1 John 2:4-5:5 and 2 John 1:1-6

### II. Definitions and Conclusions of Background Study

God led me to conduct comprehensive research on New Testament commandments

- Red Letter KJV search augmented by a good Harmony of the Gospels
- Recorded commands can be classified into three categories: Direct, Indirect or Implied, and Extrapolated Instructions to Disciples. General commands can be further subdivided into straightforward instruction, hyperbolic speech (requiring interpretation), correction of rabbinical tradition, and application of kingdom parables.
- NT Greek: Tereo (keep/guard) Nomos (law) Entole (command/authoritative instruction)
- OT Hebrew: Torah (instruction) Mitzvah/mitzvot (commandments) Chukkim (statutes) Mishpatim (laws/judgements) Brit (covenant/law) Eidot (witnesses/memorials)
- Associated use of the Law as it pertains to our life in Christ (salvation/redemption, sanctification, glorification & earthly reign, the eternal state)
- The first question: What exactly are His commandments? Are they only the discernable 'thou shalt' and 'thou shalt not's' or all of Jesus' teachings?
- If the latter is true, can we, or should we even, codify all of His instructions? The quick answer to that is: It's good to know, but we don't need to! (see Matt. 22:37-40)
- Finally, recognizing that His instruction is largely to the church the third step was to research all commandments to the church by diving into the epistles and repeating the process (Acts and Revelation were part of the Red Letter study)
- The takeaway from this research was threefold: NT commandments are the same as the OT ones, but Jesus takes Jewish law to the Next Level; Emphasis on "my/his" reflects the establishment of the New Covenant, which is better than the Old; There is one New Commandment, which should not be conflated with any others

### III. What is the consistent message from Jesus given by John the Apostle?

Abide in me/my love, keep my commandments, and love one another as I have loved you

- Read John 13:34-35 and 14:15-17 and 15:9-17
- Vs. 1-11 of Chapter 15 point to abiding in the Vine for fruitfulness and joy. Vs. 7 refers to prayer and a promise to those abiding (Psa. 37:4) especially regarding corporate intercession
- This will result in glorifying God the Father and, combined with His pruning, you will bear much fruit and thus become Jesus' disciples
- Read 1 John 3:11-24 again for parallels with John 15, then nail down important points
- First: What is Jesus' New Commandment? Love One Another
- Second: Don't combine the two great commandments; Why does the 2<sup>nd</sup> seem harder?

# Jesus' New Commandment

## *The Greatest Challenge for the Body of Christ*

CCP Wednesday Night Service

February 7, 2024

- Third: LOA ≠ LTN (Rom. 13:8-10 and Jas. 2:8); A distinction is made in the law of love (1 Thess. 3:12 and Gal. 6:10)
- Fourth: The standard is sacrificial love (Jn. 15:8, 16; 1 Cor. 3:10-15 and Matt. 13:3-23)
- Fifth: You are your brother's keeper (Gen. 4:1-10 and 1 Jn. 3:10-12 and Jas. 1:15b)
- Sixth: Be aware they hate you for following Jesus (His word/teaching); Let's change the 11<sup>th</sup> commandment by displaying charity in the church (Jn 16:8-11 and Rom. 1:18-32)
- Seventh: False Love + False Peace = False Unity (and no joy) 1 Cor. 13 deals with hard things in relationships; true love will never violate any of God's commandments
- Eighth: The key to abiding and fruit-bearing is keeping his commandments (Jn. 15:10,12 & 14:26) Stay connected and clean in His Word and obedience to the Spirit; Use the means of grace to increase the flow of life-giving sap from the Vine

#### IV. **Critical aspects of this commandment that need further consideration**

The OT law is upheld in the NT and its status exalted (Matt. 19:16-19, 22:34-40 and Rom. 13:10)

- Correcting rabbinical tradition redefines the Stranger; no place for favoritism, lording over others, manipulation in the church; CC distinctive get it right
- Let tares grow with the wheat, show charity to all members of the body (Mt. 13:24-30)
- LOA is a church function, not just an individual mandate (Jn. 13:34-35 and 17:20-23)
- Emphasis on "one another" is the "NEW" aspect: it pleases God more that anything else in this world and everyone outside the church needs to see it in action! (Heb. 12:14)
- This requires the Holy Spirit flowing through and out of you, sometimes at a high flowrate! Good fruit that remains and much fruit are conditions wholly dependent upon a good connection and a clean/clear conduit (Jn. 15:1-11 & 16-17)
- It is a prerequisite for effectual intercessory prayer, especially of the corporate kind
- How can you practically keep this commandment, when you are forsaking the assembly (Heb. 10:23-25) even in part? Definitely, not well, and most likely, not even close!

#### V. **Summary with a challenge and a remedy for correction**

We were chosen and ordained to go as the Body of Christ to the world bearing good fruit for God by abiding in Christ and loving one another, then by this demonstration of God's love and sharing the good news of salvation, we bring other sheep into His fold and make them disciples of Christ, too, teaching all things through His Spirit. This is practically accomplished through our local church, a physical manifestation of the spiritual reality of Christ's body and presence on earth "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20) However, God has to work out this purpose in each one of our lives individually, so that we might conduct ourselves in these good works, which He foreordained (Phil. 2:10).

You may not be submitting yourself to God in some area of your life that He wants to work on, and it may have something to do with sins or bad habits regarding charity towards people in close relationship with you. This adversely affects your abiding in Christ and ability to bear fruit for God. The remedy is simply to trust & obey, as the song says: "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." You can be confident in this: "that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" Phil. 1:6 God is faithful to complete the work that he began in you. Turn to Him now, confessing your sin and receive the forgiveness, which is already yours in Christ Jesus, and be cleansed from your unrighteousness, then walk in the light of God and fullness of the Holy Spirit for His honor and glory...