

"Doctrine of Justification and Sanctification"

Galatians 3-4

Part 11

Introduction: Two weeks ago, in our study of Galatians we looked at a message in which we learned that as believers we are not under the Law.

Romans 6:14-15

¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

¹⁵ *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*

Galatians 5:18

¹⁸ *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*

In romans 7 Paul gives a wonderful picture of how we are dead to the Law.

Romans 7:1-4

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

² *For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.*

³ *So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.*

⁴ *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*

In all of this we learned that the Law has no authority over the believer. Therefore, our lives are not guided by the 10 Commandments or any part of the Mosaic Law. The Law is a ministration of death and not life.

2 Corinthians 3:6-9

⁶ Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

⁷ But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

⁸ How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

⁹ For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

Now while we are not under the 10 Commandments of the Mosaic Law we are, however, given commandments to keep.

➤ **The Believers Commandments**

1 John 2:3-4

³ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

John 14:15

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

From these verses we can understand that commandment keeping is essential in the believer's life. Obedience to the Word of God must be a part of the believer's life in each and every dispensation. This then brings up a very important question. What commandments are we required to keep?

First of all, let us be reminded that they are Christ's commands. We see that in 1 John 2 and in John 14. Let us then consider some of the commands given to the believers.

1. We are to abide in Jesus.

1 John 2:28

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

To abide in Him is to walk in fellowship with Jesus. Jesus spoke on the importance of abiding in John 15.

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

*⁴ **Abide in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

*⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me**, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me ye can do nothing.***

It is the will of God that we bear spiritual fruit because as we bear fruit God is then glorified. That is what we are here to do, to bring glory to God. The branch cannot bring forth fruit unless it has the life of the Vine flowing through it. That is the picture of the believer abiding in Jesus. When we abide in Him, His life then flows through us.

2. We are to be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Many will say that this is the most important command given to the New Testament believer. I would agree. This is the key to living the Christian life. The verse begins with a negative which Paul uses to make his point. A person who is drunk with wine is controlled by the alcohol that has flooded into the blood stream. To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit as He fills and abides in every area of our lives. To be filled with the Spirit starts by allowing the Spirit to have access into every corner of our lives. There cannot be certain areas that we withhold from Him for then we would not be filled. Notice the words of Carr.

To be "filled" means "to be full to the top; lacking nothing; nothing short of complete." If there is room for any other thing in our hearts, then we are not filled with the Spirit. His will should be our will. His thoughts should be our thoughts. His desires should be our desires. The Holy Spirit is to be in absolute domination of our lives...If you were to be arrested this evening on the charge of being "Spirit-filled" would there be enough evidence to convict you? Or, has the Lord shown you some areas that need work in your walk with the Spirit, your worship of the Savior or your witness to the saints?

In the church that is in the USA today this is something that is not seen very much. It should be but the problem is that there are so many distractions that pull believers down a path where they get entangled in the world. It is rare to find Christians that are fully committed to the Lord and who are filled with the Spirit. The believer who is filled with the Spirit is the believer who has made the choice not to be entangled in the cares of this world. Let us notice what the early church was like.

Acts 6:1-5

And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

² Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

³ Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

They had no problem finding 7 men who were Spirit filled. In many churches today you would be challenged to find one. Notice the statement by an unknown writer.

"Note that being filled with the Holy Spirit doesn't mean we have more of the Spirit, but that the Spirit has more of us! More of my heart. More of my will surrendered to His will. It doesn't happen all at once any more than we get drunk all at once. Being filled with the Spirit happens as we continually choose to live under His holy influence."

Notice the illustration given by Hudson Taylor.

On one occasion Hudson Taylor wanted to teach a spiritual lesson, so he filled a glass with water and placed it on the table before him. While he was speaking, he pounded his fist hard enough to make the water splash onto the table. He then explained, "You will come up against much trouble. But when you do, remember only what's in you will spill out."

This is a great illustration. To be filled with the Spirit means that when we face trials and troubles that shake our lives it will be the Holy Spirit who spills out as He manifests the life of Jesus Christ in us.

3. Seek that which is above.

Colossians 3:1-3

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

³ For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

We are to live for that which is eternal. We must keep in mind that everything here is only temporary and when we die it is all left behind.

Ecclesiastes 2:15-19

¹⁵ Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.

¹⁶ For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

¹⁷ Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

¹⁸ Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

¹⁹ And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.

It is fine for us to enjoy what we have here in this life and it is not a sin to do so. But we must not live for what this world offers. We will leave it all behind and it will eventually burn up.

2 Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

We are commanded to live for that which is eternal.

Conclusion:

These are only 3 commands for us in the New Testament. There are many more and from these we can understand that as New Testament believers we have the responsibility to walk in obedience to the Word of God. We are not under the Mosaic Law but we are under the Commandments of Jesus Christ. Here are a few more commands.

- ✓ **Walk in the Spirit - Galatians 5:16**
- ✓ **Yield yourselves unto God - Romans 6:13**
- ✓ **Walk in Him - Colossians 2:6**
- ✓ **Walk worthy - Ephesians 4:1**
- ✓ **Put on the new man - Ephesians 4:24**
- ✓ **Walk as children of the light - Ephesians 5:8**
- ✓ **Run with patience - Hebrews 12:1-2**