

# LIVING AS PEOPLE WHO ARE CLOSE TO GOD

All the previous lessons in this booklet have directed our attention to what God has done for us. Now we turn to God and ask, "Lord, what should we do?"

As redeemed children of God, what now is our goal in life and guide for life?

## The Basis for Christian Living

1 John 4:19 - We love *because he first loved us*.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - *Christ's love compels us*, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, *who loved me and gave himself for me*.

Philippians 2:13 - It is God who works in you to will and to act according to *his good purpose*.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

- 1) According to the underlined words in the passages listed above, who/what dictates our guideline for living once our hearts have been filled with the Christian faith?
- 2) According to the *italicized words* in the passages above, what motivates us to carry out God's will for our lives?

## Carrying Out God's Will for Our Lives is a Very Simple Concept

Romans 13:10 - Love is the fulfillment of the law.

God's law can be summarized in one word: \_\_\_\_\_

God's law can be summarized in two phrases:

Matthew 22:37, 39 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind ... Love your neighbor as yourself.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**God’s law can also be summarized in more depth with many other words and phrases (see Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Commandment** \_\_\_\_\_

Jonah 2:8 - Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment** \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 19:12 - You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

1 Peter 2:12 - Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment** \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10:25 - Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Psalms 122:1 - I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

**4<sup>th</sup> Commandment** \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:1-2 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

1 Peter 2:13-14 - Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

**5<sup>th</sup> Commandment** \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 9:5-6 - And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.

1 John 3:15 - Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

**6<sup>th</sup> Commandment** \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Matthew 5:27-28 - You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 24:1 - The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Luke 12:15 - Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

### 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 109:2 - ...for wicked and deceitful men have opened their mouths against me; they have spoken against me with lying tongues.

1 Timothy 5:13 - Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.

### 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:14-15 - ...but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Genesis 6:5 - The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

*God's law serves:*

*as a \_\_\_\_\_ to show how damaging and dangerous our sin is.*

*BUT SINCE GOD HAS REMOVED OUR SIN FROM HIS SIGHT BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS ...*

*God's law now also serves:*

*as a \_\_\_\_\_ for thankful living.*

*(Thankful living is also called "fruits of faith" or "good works.")*

### **Some Special Terms to Note & Keep Separate**

**DEFINITION:** *Justification* - refers to our being declared just, holy, or "not guilty" by God for the sake of Jesus

and his work as Substitute. *Justification* is perfect and complete.

**DEFINITION:** *Sanctification* - refers to our being set apart from the unbelieving world to lead a God-pleasing life. *Sanctification* is gradual and always incomplete in this life.

**DEFINITION:** *Discipleship* - refers to our on-going desire to follow Jesus and to grow in our thankful living, reflecting his love back to him and reflecting it on to others.

## What About “Adding To” or “Subtracting From” God’s Law?

*As if God’s law weren’t enough, people have always added their own laws and traditions, considering them a special sort of worship or service of God, a more heightened spirituality. Jesus and the Bible writers reject such opinions.*

Mark 7:6-8 - These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain, *their teachings are but rules taught by men.* You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.

Revelation 22:18-19 - I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: *If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.*

- 3) According to underlined portions of the passages listed above, we have to be very careful in guarding against what?
  
- 4) According to the italicized portions, we also have to very careful in guarding against the other extreme, which would be what?

## SUMMARY

Thanks to Jesus’ substitutionary work, God declares us to be perfect even though we are not. But while we live in this world, we still carry with us our old sinful condition. Therefore, on our own we are not and cannot be perfect. Rather we agree with the statement, “Christians are not perfect, just forgiven.” The Christian is no longer coerced by fear and the threat of eternal judgment but energized by Christ’s love to love both God and others. The reason for all this loving and doing good is not to earn salvation by our own good deeds, but rather to thank God for the salvation which is already assured. In reality it is God’s Spirit who gives us this new power through the words and promises of God in Scripture.

Agree? or Disagree?

- A. Agree/Disagree – Without love no one can obey God’s commands.
  
- B. Agree/Disagree – You can’t live a perfectly holy life until you become a Christian.
  
- C. Agree/Disagree – The work of Jesus Christ as our Substitute and Sin-bearer gives us the chance to win eternal life by following his example.
  
- D. Agree/Disagree – Christians, who are declared innocent, still continue to commit sins because their sinful nature still desires to disobey God.
  
- E. Agree/Disagree – A Christian does not go to heaven because of his good works.
  
- F. Agree/Disagree – God doesn’t care whether a Christian does good works or not.
  
- G. Agree/Disagree – Washing dishes can be a good work for God.