

## **IF YOU LOVE ME KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS PART III**

### **Evening of 2-19-17**

We have learned how every man, woman, and child is commanded to be saved, be baptized, and be a disciple, a learner, and a student of the commands of Christ. Then after we receive the love of God in our hearts, we should, from the heart, want to obey Him. Jesus said, John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

This morning we learned that the law of Christ that is engraven in our hearts through His spirit is the same law moral law that was engraven in stone by the finger of God and given to Moses. The difference is that Christ fulfilled all the righteous demands of the written law. So we are not under the law which means we are free from the penalty that is associated with not keeping the law. Also, we are now free to serve Christ from the heart. What we do we do from the heart and not from fear of condemnation or damnation. Tonight we are going to learn how this truth even goes deeper than that. We need to follow the Lord and obey His commandments which also means we need to follow the leading of His Holy Spirit within us. This may mean Christ commands us and leads us through His Holy Spirit. However, we should make sure that it is the Holy Spirit leading us and not whim or a false leading.

#### ***I. UNDER THE NEW COVENANT, GOD WRITES HIS LAW IN OUR HEARTS BUT THAT LAW WILL NEVER CONTRADICT THE WRITTEN MORAL LAW.***

##### ***1. GOD WILL NEVER LEAD CONTRARY TO PRINCIPLES OF AUTHORITY,***

Holy Spirit will not lead contrary to the authorities He placed over you.

Though we are not under the law, we as Christians are not to be lawless.

The same God who wrote on those tablets of stone is the same God that writes His law in our hearts. He will not contradict Himself. We showed how Paul quotes the 2 tablets of the Ten Commandments when talking about the law that is written in our hearts. Since we are not under the law, it means we have more freedom to serve Christ. However, that liberty means we are free to follow the Holy Spirit's leading in our lives. But the Holy Spirit will never lead us contrary to certain biblical principles. One of those principles is the principle of Spiritual Authority as outlined in our past Sunday School class. For example:

#### ***A. Consider the example of Pharaoh and Moses***

In Sunday school we finished up a study about spiritual authority. In that class we learned how God purchased His people out of Egypt from the authority of Pharaoh. The people did not come out of Egypt until Pharaoh released them from under his authority. So it is that God is the ultimate authority and he can deal with our human authorities His way in His time. Note how the Lord dealt with Pharaoh in the following passages.

Exodus 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

Exodus 5:2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

Exodus 5:3 And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

Exodus 6:1 Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

After we have shown ourselves to be submissive to human authority God will start speaking to us by His Holy Spirit and direct us accordingly for greater service.

Moses was 40 years faithfully taking care of Jethro's sheep before he was qualified for this special ministry and position.

After this when he learned humility he was called to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. When he did so he was commanded to go to Pharaoh and ask him to release God's people from Egypt. When Pharaoh, who was the human authority, refused, God, who was the greater authority, dealt harshly with Pharaoh. So God is able to deal harshly with our human authorities until they submit to his will. Ultimately, God is the supreme authority and he teaches all men that. But even God does not teach us to circumvent our authorities but to trust in Him. He is able to bend the will of rulers and leaders. Can we trust Him to do this?

**B. HE TEACHES US TO NOT VIOLATE THESE PRINCIPLES EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO WITNESSING AND SEEKING TO WIN PEOPLE TO HIM.**

I Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

I Peter 3:2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

Notice the Lord tells wives who have an unsaved husband that they should not preach to that husband. But that they should win over their husbands without the Word. How does anyone get saved without the word? In this case the Lord says a wife should not usurp her authority over her husband even in trying to get him saved. In other words the Lord says His spirit is not going to direct us contrary to his commands and his clear Word and His established principles of authority.

We see people justifying all kind of rebellion in the name of winning people to Christ. The Spirit of God does not lead this way!

**C. THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST WILL ONLY LEAD IN HARMONY WITH HIS WRITTEN WORD.**

The Bible is clear that people can receive a false Spirit and the Word of God is what we should use to try the Spirits.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

II Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

I John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

I John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

As we said before, the same God that wrote the law in tables of stone is the same God that will write His commandments in our hearts. If we think the Holy Spirit is leading us to do something, we should make sure that there is not a Scriptural principle that we are violating. The Holy Spirit will not lead us in contradiction to clear revelation.

## ***II. Consider the Examples Of Men Who Were Led Of the Spirit.***

### ***1. It is the Holy Spirit that calls men to the ministry.***

When God leads us to a special place of service that leading is specifically for us. So the command can be for us and not necessarily for anyone else.

In John Chapter 21 When the Lord appeared to Peter he said to him.

PETER DO YOU LOVE ME? John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

When Peter said he did love the Lord then the Lord said do what I called you to do.

If we love Him we will want to keep His commandments. We will want to do what He calls us to do. We will want to obey Him.

Then the Lord told Peter a hard thing:

John 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

John 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

This was a hard thing. Note Peter's reaction to this call of God in his life. Note what he said:

John 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

John 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Jesus told Peter a very important thing that each of us needs to learn.

When it comes to the specifics of Christ's commands and calling in our life, God has a unique path for each of us. We must obey him and follow Him alone in this path.

This is where we have freedom and liberty. In Christ we are free to serve Him. We must follow His leading in these matters. Peter later learned this when it came to dealing with gentiles and witnessing to Cornelius in Acts chapter 10.

If it were not for the great New Testament truth of Christ fulfilling all the righteous demands of the law the New Testament church as we know it would never have been started. Today, the Church is primarily a gentile body. We worship on Sunday instead of Saturday. Missionaries are sent throughout the world. We no longer offer blood sacrifices. All this because we are no longer under the law. To obey Christ's commandments is also to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. This is when we graduate in our Spiritual walk. When we learn to walk with God and be obedient to His calling and Spirit leading in our lives.

All my life I was a musician, and logically when I got saved I thought that was probably what God wanted for my life. So in 1976 I went to Baptist Bible College to study Sacred Music. But as I was about to graduate, the Lord made me very uncomfortable about going into this field of service. This was none other than the prompting of the Holy Spirit in my life.

Through much prayer, and counsel and trying the Spirit, so to speak, I determined that God was leading me to the Pastorate. This I believed was God's calling in my life. I remember surrendering to this call and praying to the Lord. I said, Lord I will do what you want me to do, but don't lead me to a country church. I am from the city and people in the country will not understand me and I won't understand them.

You see what I said to the Lord was how I wanted to be led but 4 years latter I was called to this country church and have been here for 34 years. You see just like Jesus said to Peter follow thou me.. so Jesus said to Frank Bissol .. YOU FOLLOW ME. IF YOU LOVE ME .. KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS. There is nothing written in the Bible that says Frank Bissol needs to go to West Clifford and Pastor a country church. But Christ's Spirit, and His leading I am sure, led me here 34 years ago and I have been here ever since.

If we love the Lord we need to follow His lead and not our own. The Holy Spirit can lead you and you only, as we follow His promptings. But that leading will not violate the principles I outlined above.

## ***2. It is the Holy Spirit that directs people to places of service.***

I Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

We do not place ourselves in the church. He places us here for His purpose. I did not choose to come to the Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford. When I first came to the church a fellow visited our church and I asked him where he lived. He said upper Podunk road. Then I remembered back to that silly prayer when I prayed.. "oh Lord don't put me in a country church!" You know you're in a country church when you pastor a church only a few miles from Podunk!

THIS IS WHERE GOD PLACED ME. AND GOD LEADS OTHERS TO THE PLACE OF SEVICE OF HIS CHOOSING NOT OURS..

One of the lessons I had to learn early in my ministry is to get your eyes off of how God leads other preachers.

Peter said to our Lord, what about John. Jesus said get your eyes off of John and follow me. So that is what we are all commanded to do!

A mistake many preachers make is that they go to a conference somewhere and see how God is blessing another preacher in another place and try to take how God has blessed someone else in the way God has led them and then superimpose that to where they serve. How often that blows up in their face and causes problems. The Lord says FOLLOW THOU ME, not doctor so and so, or brother so and so, etc.

### **3. *The Holy Spirit Will Lead Us to Witness.***

The Lord directed Philip to witness to the Ethiopian Eunuch.

Acts 8:26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

Acts 8:27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Acts 8:28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

**Acts 8:29 *Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.***

Acts 8:30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

Acts 8:31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Notice how Philip was available to go when the spirit said go. Immediately. Sometimes the Spirit does not lead us because we are not available.

I wonder how many people would have complained to the Lord saying, "Well Lord, I can't do that tonight. I need my rest, or my favorite TV show is on." Or it is Super bowl Sunday. I wonder how much greater we could be used if we just were available to the Spirits leading?

Would we be available to go and do what the Lord commands us to do immediately?

Philip was available. Philip obeyed the Lord's prompting and leading. We say, "Well, the Lord doesn't lead that way anymore." "Well, He is not giving new revelation any more because the Bible is written." However, when the Bible says walk in the Spirit just what does that mean? Or what does this mean?

**ROMANS 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.***

Note, it says,

Acts 8:29 **Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.**

This is when we graduate in our love for the Lord and obeying His commandments. We graduate when the Spirit of God can lead and direct us to obey Him. The Lord wants us to submit and obey in all things. The Spirit will speak to the hearts of those who love Him. Those who love Him will be led of the Spirit.

Though He may not speak audibly to us like he did to the prophets of old, yet nevertheless He can lead us and when He does we should obey him. We also need to test that so called leading.

### **III. WE MUST HAVE LIBERTY TO FOLLOW GOD'S LEADING AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT VIOLATE SCRIPTURE.**

Paul did not dictate the will of God over others.

Note how Paul did not Lord it over Apollos:

I Corinthians 16:12 As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

Romans 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

I have had people through the years that do not believe in celebrating Christmas. I don't make a big deal about it. That is up to them. As long as they don't become judgmental of those who do I can live with them if they can live with me. Through the years I have found that I need to give people liberty. The more rules we have, the less liberty.

I have some people who have this diet or that diet. Some people do not believe in drinking coffee others do. On and on we can go. These are matters of soul liberty. There needs to be a little liberty for us to follow the will of God for our life. As we follow the Lord, let us not assume that God is leading everyone like he is leading us. If it is Scripture it is for everyone, some things are not for everyone.

My job is not to legislate all the details of your life. In some matters of the moral law we must all agree. When it is in black and white how can we argue? However, in Christ, there is liberty to serve Him.

My daughter, one time, had a panic attack and started to go into hyperventilation. I never saw anything like it. We rushed her to the hospital emergency room. The doctors and nurses said not to worry she will be all right. You see when in our minds we try to take control of something that we have no control over sometimes we go into overload and have a panic attack. In her case she gets car sick. We were all dressed up and going to a funeral. She had not eaten anything all day and started to feel car sick. She was so worried she would get car sick she tried to control her breathing and wound up having a panic attack. I never saw anything like it. I thought she was having a stroke. We took her to the hospital emergency room and they laughed at me because I was so worried. They laughed at me and said she is going to be perfectly fine. I didn't understand it and got mad at them and said she is not normally like this!

If you tried to control your breathing you may go into hyperventilation, there are many things in your life that are beyond your control. When you try to control them your body may go into a panic attack scenario.

So it is in the spiritual life. The church is a living organism that is being controlled by Christ's spirit. What we all need to do is love Christ and keep His commandments and the church will be a healthy place. He is in control not us. All we can do is love Him and live for Him and obey Him! When we worry about this and that and try to micro manage everything the church goes into hyperventilation mode. We often see this when the Church is having a building project or some special events. People start panicking about this or that and there is a spiritual panic attack in the church. HERE IS MY ADVICE..

### **CALM DOWN YOU ARE IN WEST CLIFFORD!**

Simply put, what is our spiritual life all about? Jesus put it this way!

Matthew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

### ***Conclusion:***

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

We talked about the basics of obeying the Lord.

Tonight we talked about the subjective more advanced commandments that often vary for each of us. Certainly there are some things that the Lord commands each of us to do that are only for us. The New Testament is this:

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

So for a New Testament Christian obeying Christ's commandments goes deeper than just getting saved and baptized. Obeying Christ means walking in unity with Him through His Holy Spirit. Philip was obedient to the Lord when the Lord said go speak to this Ethiopian, and so too, we should be obedient to our Lord when He directs us through His spirit in the minute details of our life.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

The New Covenant involves Christ leading each of us in a unique way. If we love Christ we need to obey Him from the heart. When the Lord asked Peter if he loved Him, he said follow me. When Peter looked at John the Lord rebuked him.

John 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

John 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Get your eyes off of other Christians, and each of us need to follow the Lord for His perfect will in our lives.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

That walk involves following Him and obeying Him through all the details of this life. The same Spirit that led Moses to write the law is the same Spirit that leads you. He will not lead contrary to the Moral law of God, nor will He violate the principles of the Bible. He will lead you to a specific service and ministry. We need to be sensitive to that leading in His time.

Let's remember not to have a spiritual panic attack in the process. REMEMBER,

**CALM DOWN YOU ARE IN WEST CLIFFORD.**