

SUNDAY MORNING MESSAGE 2-19-17
IF YOU LOVE ME KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

This past Tuesday was Valentines day and the world has been talking a lot about Love. Last Sunday I shared how the standard of love is Christ. We do not know what love is, apart from Christ. God is love. In fact He sets the standard for love. I John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. JOHN SAYS GOD IS LOVE. We also read:

I John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The world thinks love is toleration of everything and everyone. Yet when Love is defined in I Cor. 13:1-13, the Bible says.. love rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth.. So biblical godly love is not tolerant of everything and everyone. Love must be based on truth. So God demonstrated His great love toward us in that he sent His only begotten son to die for us and pay for our sins. Why did Christ have to die? The reason He did was because sin has consequences, and someone had to pay those consequences to avoid eternal damnation and hell.

Our Scripture Chorus teaches this, taken from John 15:13

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

This was the proof that God loved us.. HE DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE.. HE PROVED HIS LOVE BY THE WORK HE DID TO SAVE US. WHAT THEN, IS THE PROOF THAT WE LOVE GOD?

Now this morning we are going to talk about the proof that we love the Lord. It is easy to say you love God. Jesus said, if you indeed love me, keep my commandments. John said,

I John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Last Sunday morning we shared a message about some commands that are universal for every Christian. Today we are going to talk about some commandments that are often unique for each of us. These commands may vary depending on God's calling and placement in our life. There are universal commands that are applicable to all but then there are commands that are specific for our lives.

Last week we said, He commands all men everywhere to repent, in other words, He wants all men to be saved and come to Him, and He commands all men who believe on Him to be baptized in His name, and then he commands all men who are saved and Baptized to continue in His word learning all things He has commanded us to do. All this takes place in the church.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Note: The Apostles laid the foundation for New Testament Doctrine, and it is not for us to reinterpret what they said, but to follow it and obey their doctrine and teaching. How many people today twist the Scripture to their own destruction?

Now Jesus has given the Apostles and their writings in Scripture to record the all things Christ has commanded us. He has made this pretty clear in Scripture. This is what he means when he said to them:

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Last week we shared the universal command of the Lord:

Acts 17:30 ...(HE) ... now commandeth all men every where to repent:

The Bible is clear that God commands men everywhere to obey the gospel.

I Peter 4:17 ... what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

He loved us by dying on the cross for our sins.

It is only natural and right that we should reciprocate that love by believing on Him and obeying the gospel by calling on Him for salvation and being baptized in His name and learning all things He has commanded us as we assemble ourselves together.

One of these commandments for us are the unique authorities God has placed over us that we should follow. We cannot see God, but when we submit to those authorities God has placed over us we show we love Him.

I. Our Submission to the authorities God has placed over us is a way we show God we love Him.

1. Children Parent Relationships:

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

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

This is a unique command that every child has towards their parents. Children sometimes complain that their parents have a stricter standard for them than other parents have for their children. Their complaint is with Christ. He said if you love me keep my commandments. As we teach our children to love Christ they should become more obedient and submissive children. A child who is rebelling against their parents is really a child who is rebelling against God.

2. Husband Wife Relationships:

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

There is a unique relationship that every husband and wife have towards each other. A husband is commanded to love his wife in a way that he is not commanded to love others. It is a unique relationship that calls for unique responsibilities for every husband. And so it is with the wife towards her husband. Being a Christian should only make a man a better husband and a woman a better wife.

3. *Employer Employee Relationships*

Ephesians 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Ephesians 6:7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

Ephesians 6:8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

Ephesians 6:9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Every Christian should be an exemplary employee realizing they do not serve a man but they serve Jesus. We each have a command to live out our Christian testimony in our communities as God has placed us. We are in fact living Epistles written of God. Our testimonies show that we are children of God who love God and obey Him from the heart.

II Corinthians 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

II Corinthians 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

What great opportunities we have as we live our faith in this world of darkness. We need to obey Him from the heart.

4. *Governmental Relationships*

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Romans 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

Romans 13:6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Every Christian needs to be careful they show proper respect for the authorities God has placed over them. To the best of our abilities we need to be exemplary in our civil duties.

5. Pastor People Relationship...

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

When Jesus addressed the seven churches he wrote to the angel of each church. We believe that angel was his messenger that is the Bishop or Pastor of the church. So it is the job of the pastor to be a messenger of the Lord. How we receive that message is often a reflection of an authority problem. Not that the pastor is perfect but God is and he chooses to use imperfect men to share His perfect Word.

The Scripture commands us to respect Pastoral authority. I don't say this because I am a Pastor, I say it because the Bible commands it and Christ commands it. In fact Jesus even said of those who were leaders in Israel, even though they were hypocrites and ungodly he said,

Matthew 23:2 The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

Matthew 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

If Jesus said this of the ungodly Pharisees how much more should people in the church have respect for God ordained Pastoral leadership.

In this day we live, all authority is suspect and that has trickled down even to the church. Some people think it their duty to be a watch dog to keep a check on the Pastor. In doing so they are not a watch dog for God but in fact an employee of that one who is called "The accuser of the brethren... Rev. 12:10)

A godly Pastor will not seek to Lord it over the flock, but a godly flock will respect and honour the Pastor God has placed over them.

IV. CHRIST COMMANDS US TO LOVE HIM AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER

1. CHRIST COMMANDS US TO LOVE HIM..

Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

2. CHRIST COMMANDS US TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER..

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

All of Christ's commands for us are wrapped up in two commandments.

What is interesting, is that the Old Testament law was written on tables of Stones. The first tablet contained laws showing us how to show our love to God.

The second tablet was written to show how we can show our love for our fellow man.

Under the New covenant no longer are these commands written on tables of stone but these commandments should be written in our hearts.

II Corinthians 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

II Corinthians 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

II Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

II Corinthians 3:6 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.

II Corinthians 3:7 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:

II Corinthians 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

II Corinthians 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

Note, under the Old Covenant.. there was this command..

Isaiah 30:21 This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Under the New Covenant we are under this command:

Love Christ and keep His commandments..

If we love Him, we not only will follow the moral law, but will want to follow it from the heart.

Note what Paul says,

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Now here is the thing.. when you read the letter of the law do you think the spirit of the law is going to contradict the letter of the law?

Did the spirit that led Moses to write the law is now going to write something different in your heart?

How can a saved person think it grievous to read the law of Moses and learn nothing from it?

How can we as born again Christians snuff the Bible and these things that are written?

How can we now say these things have no meaning for us today?

Did not the Bible say all Scripture is profitable?

And what is it profitable for?

2TI 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2TI 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

I John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Psalms 119:97 {Mem.} O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

When we read the Old Testament law, it gives commands for every aspect of the Israelites life. But really, it is impossible to legislate everything.

Under the New covenant, Christ gives us of His spirit and now He guides us to obey and follow Him.

Now, instead of reading from a manuscript that says, "THOU SHALT NOT KILL.. " Now, because we love God we will not want to kill. Now, instead of reading a tablet that says thou shalt not steal, instead of reading from a cold tablet, thou shalt not commit adultery, a born again Christian will not want to commit adultery because he loves the Lord, and he loves His fellow man!

So what is the proof you love the Lord? The proof is that we keep His commandments from the heart.

What amazes me is that we have a lot of Christians that claim to saved but do not love God's law. I question, did they receive the same spirit that I did when I got saved? Did they receive

the same spirit that Paul did when he said that the law is written in our hearts? What law is written in our hearts? Note that law that Paul quotes:

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

What law is written in our hearts?

To the Church of Corinth Paul writes that they should discipline a man out of the church for sexual impropriety:

I Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

I Corinthians 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

I Corinthians 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

I Corinthians 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

I Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

I Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Now where is it written that a man should not uncover the nakedness of his Father's wife.

Leviticus 18:8 The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness.

In Leviticus 18 you read about all the sexual sins that God condemns: adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bestiality, when a person is saved they will know in their heart that these things are wrong. You won't have to teach them if they have the Spirit of God.

John the Baptist was beheaded by Herod because he told Herod it was not right for him to be married to his brother's wife. Why did he say that? Because that is what Leviticus 18 says.

The law engraven in stone THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY IS THE SAME LAW THAT SHOULD BE ENGRAVEN IN THE HEART OF BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS!

Which brings us to a deeper law.

Jesus said if you love me keep my COMMANDMENTS.

Which? The same commandments engraven in stone now should be engraven in your heart, but it goes much deeper than that.

No law engraved in stone could possibly dictate everybody's actions all the time everywhere. As comprehensive as that law of Moses was, as much as it legislated all our actions, it didn't work. Because it never spoke to the heart.

So the law can only bring condemnation. So this is why Paul says we are not under the law but under grace. All the sacrifices of the law, all the feast days of the law, all of this was written to lead to Christ and was designed to show mankind their need for salvation.

The law was written to show mankind just how sinful they are. How can you know you're a sinner unless you read what sin is? How can you know how bad a sinner you are unless the standards of the law are preached.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Romans 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

Romans 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Romans 7:10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

Romans 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Romans 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

PAUL GOES ON TO DESCRIBE THE GUILT, THE STRUGGLE PEOPLE EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY TRY TO LIVE BY THE LAW..

Romans 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

Romans 7:16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

Romans 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Romans 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Romans 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Romans 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE LAW?

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Romans 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

THE ANSWER IS IN JESUS CHRIST. WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN OF HIS SPIRIT WE ARE MADE FREE FROM THE LAW AND THE FLESH, AND WE CAN SERVE HIM IN NEWNESS OF LETTER.

Will we then as New Testament Christians despise the law of God? No we will love it more, we just understand we are not saved by keeping it but we are saved through Christ, and as we read it we learn more about what pleases Christ and therefore because we love Him we love His law.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

So when we read the law when we search the Scripture we learn of Christ!

We learn more about His commandments, and in the ceremonial law we see His wisdom and the promise of His coming. We see how His ways are past finding out.

Which brings us to His commandments which are even deeper..

These we will deal with tonight in our evening message.

Conclusion:

We talk about love. The world does not know love, love to them is lust, it is friendship. The world cannot know how to love because they do not know the author of love. GOD IS LOVE. And how do we know God? Through Jesus Christ. And how do we know Jesus Christ?

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

He is the Alpha and Omega. This is a reference to the Word of God..

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

He showed this world how much He loved us. He demonstrated His love toward us by paying for our sins on the cross. He satisfied all the demands of the law. He made our payment PAID IN FULL. That was God's love for us!

Now he asks us to love Him. Call on Him to be saved, and than keep His commandments out of a heart of love from Him.

Now from the heart we will want to obey Him and not sin.

This is what it means when it says Jesus led captivity captive. We were servants of sin, but he paid for our release from sin, we who were captive to sin now can be free in Christ to serve him. Not in the letter of the law, but through grace and through His Holy Spirit.

So if we love Him we will want to obey His commandments. And lo and behold they are almost identical to what we find in the law of Moses. And the commandments that are not, when we read about them in the Old Testament we marvel because all those ceremonial laws are pictures of the Christ that we love. Every letter of this book points to Him. And so we can say with the Psalmist:

Psalms 119:97 .. O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

If you do not love his law, it is probably because you are not saved. So this law I preach to you.

Repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As many as call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom. 10:13