

The Perfect Law of Liberty

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 5

Chapter 1 7

NEW TESTAMENT, NEW LAWS

Chapter 2 12

*ONE HEART, ONE MIND, ONE SOUL, ONE
FLESH*

Chapter 3 15

CONSTRAINED BY LOVE

CONCLUSION 20

INTRODUCTION

So many Christians have fallen into different traps that hinder their walk with God. Strife and differences often rule their lives, and they cannot break free. Many people are stuck living under a system of legalism, constantly feeling the strain of trying to live up to a standard they were never meant to live up to, and not being able to achieve it. Their Christian experience contradicts what they know and what they [are trying/desire] to be.

When Jesus, the Son of God, sets believers free, He sets us free indeed. The only law we are to live by in these days is the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25). And even more, when we live according to that law, God brings us to a place where we are free to express the royal law of love (James 2:8).

This booklet examines the perfect law of liberty, which made it possible to operate in the royal law of love. Furthermore, it reveals how

living according to a higher standard that has already been met in Christ, transforms our relationships like nothing else can.

Chapter One

NEW TESTAMENT, NEW LAWS

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

“For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

“For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

“For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a

forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain” (James 1:19-26).

After free volition, marriage was the second institution established by God for man. But to make it work the way God intended, certain laws were given. In particular were the perfect law of liberty and the royal law of love.

The perfect law of liberty came first. If we lay aside “all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness,” mentioned in James 1:21, and receive Spirit-taught messages in God-consciousness, then our souls are delivered into the perfect law of liberty. If we are more than just hearers of the Word and practice what we have received, then we develop a Finished Work mind, a Finished Work heart, and Finished Work emotions. We live in a Finished Work mental attitude of love where there is no striving or struggling.

Look into the Mirror of the Word

James 1:23 speaks of someone who only listens to the Word but never applies what he hears. This person is someone who looks in a

mirror but forgets what needed to be applied from the Word to his own life. My need to continue in something that has already been fulfilled is reflected when I look into the mirror of the perfect law of liberty. I must look into something that has been fulfilled for me by Jesus Christ so that I don't live under the law that condemns but under the gift of grace (see Romans 6:14).

Many people attend church, but they are forgetful hearers. They don't practice enough of what is preached to even reach first base in their Christian walk. I have had some folks tell me very sincerely, "That was a wonderful message!" But in between hearing the message and getting to the car, they forget. Thus, they cannot live in the perfect law of liberty with a Finished Work revelation of what they heard.

Be Merciful

"If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

"But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law,

and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:8-10).

“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

“Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven” (Luke 6:36-37).

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

“Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge” (James 4:10-11).

If we fulfill the royal law of love by loving our neighbor as ourselves, then we are fulfilling a principle that we have already received in our personal experience. Having received the royal law of love, we are to be very careful to speak as ones who hear and obey the perfect law of liberty.

The problem with many couples is simply that they do not live in the perfect law of liberty and the royal law of love. Once we have been established in the perfect law of liberty, the royal law of love is ahead of everything we can think of. It is perfect love. It is the love that paid for our sins through Christ on the Cross. There, per-

fect blood was shed. Now, because of the Father's perfect sacrifice of His Son, we are justified by faith (Genesis 15:6). We are blessed as those whose iniquities have been forgiven and whose sins are covered. We are men and women to whom God cannot impute sin. That is the royal law of love.

Chapter Two

ONE HEART, ONE MIND, ONE SOUL, ONE FLESH

A husband who is right with God loves his wife through the Holy Spirit in the royal law of love. In doing so, he loves her as Christ loves the Church, that he might sanctify her. As Christ set apart the Church, the husband sets apart his wife through initiating the Word of God, which cleanses her. He loves her so much that she never has to live under a sense of guilt. He never makes her feel badly about what she does around the house. Cleansing and sanctifying, he gives her the Word, and he never condemns her because he lives in the Finished Work.

In approaching personal problems, a couple must always start with the Finished Work. They discuss the issue, say what has to be said, but they always line up with doctrine, Spirit-taught in the Word of God. They don't judge the doctrine, because judging it will only lead to a re-

fusal to accept the royal law of love and the perfect law of liberty.

Some people judge being merciful. Mercy means to withhold from someone what he really deserves, which is judgment and punishment. Grace means to give him all that he doesn't deserve—love, peace, joy, and all the fruits of the Spirit. But he who shows no mercy shall be judged without mercy for mercy rejoices against judgment.

Husbands and Helpmates

The Word of God says that a wife should be a helpmate to her husband (see Genesis 2:18). This means she is knit together with him as one heart, one soul, one mind, and one flesh. She is a resting place for her husband. When he is weak and without power, she comes to him with all of her love and grace, knowing that charity never fails. The animals were all created before Adam. Then, Adam was instructed by God to name them. He saw all the animals as having mates, and he said, "Woe is me, I have no mate." So God put Adam to sleep, took one of his ribs and made him a mate. When Adam woke up, God brought him gorgeous, beautiful, magnificent Eve. His response? "Wow!"

Once, he said, "Woe," and now he said, "Wow!" And believe me, every husband should view his wife that way.

"Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries" (Daniel 11:34).

"Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me" (Psalm 86:17).

In her helpmate role, the wife even helps her husband when he fails. She comforts him and understands him. Beautiful things happen when a wife knows how to hear from God. A godly wife draws near to the Word and bows down in humility before the Cross. This is what a hearer and doer of the Word does. He bows down to Calvary, receives God's love, and ministers with Resurrection love. And the more he obeys God, the more God intervenes in his behalf.

Chapter Three

CONSTRAINED BY LOVE

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-17).

The royal law of love is when I love you as I love God, and I love God as I love myself. Because He loves me, I can respond to others with His quality of love.

Every day of my life, I am to love my wife as Christ loves the Church. Every husband needs to do this because it is so easy for a wife to be unprotected. If a husband isn't right with God, his wife is not protected. She doesn't have the proper covering because the husband is not living in co-crucifixion, co-burial, and co-resurrection (see Romans 6:6, 11, 13).

Covering of Protection

The most important thing a husband can do is to become a covering for his wife by living as one raised from the dead, imparting that Resurrection life to her. This is one of the great privileges God has given to men.

A husband who loves his wife protects her mind, her emotions, and her physical body. This is a part of laying down his life in love. Then, because mercy rejoices against judgment, when he fails, mercy is on his side. It is such a great thing to have mercy on our side, following us all the days of our lives (Psalm 23:6).

A couple came in for counseling who were fighting all the time; they couldn't even come to church in the same car. They both attended church services regularly, they even heard the same messages, yet they just couldn't get along.

They had become real enemies.

One night, a message put the husband under great conviction. He took his wife by the hand and wept, saying, "Please forgive me, I have been a terrible example of Christ's love for the Church. It has been my fault all along because of my constant indifference toward you."

"It's about time," she said with a smile, and then she kissed him and hugged him and they enjoyed a wonderful evening together for the first time in months. That marriage was gloriously healed.

The Only Laws That Matter

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

"For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law" (James 2:10-11).

Imagine being judged by the law of Moses with its dos and don'ts. Offend one point and you have offended it all. But God is saying to us, "I want you to live in the perfect law of liberty. That is what will judge you. Beyond that, I will keep you from falling. I will help you stand. I will hold you up. I will do all of this for you. All

you have to do is have a mindset that you are going to be judged by the perfect, fulfilled law where mercy rejoices against judging you.”

When the Holy Spirit sheds God’s love abroad in our hearts, then we aren’t going to judge a brother or a sister or a wife or a husband. If one fails, you help him.

In this type of setup, a husband will love his wife as Christ loves His Church, and that wife is going to be a tremendous helpmate. They will have harmony, unity, and oneness all because of God’s provision for the marriage: Jesus Christ. God’s provision for marriage is unconditional love. God’s provision is not only mercy, grace, and love, but it is also forgiveness and patience.

Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, and temperance are in a Finished Work marriage, and they flow out of a godly husband as he pours out his vessel into his wife and then receives a fresh supply. What does my wife need today? Joy? I give her joy. Does she need longsuffering and kindness? I give her longsuffering with a meek and kind spirit. Our provision is Christ, and He uses our vessels to bless others.

The most unique thing is that these two New Testament laws are the only laws that remain, in

God's judgment. The Old Testament law was given to Moses when Israel demanded it because they were not comfortable with trusting God, whom they could not see.

Today, the law is to love God, love yourself, and love your neighbor, because you have been set free by the perfect law of liberty. As a result, a special kind of grace and love comes into your heart, and you can be happy in all of your relationships.

CONCLUSION

God's love is so creative. I love knowing that mercy rejoices against judgment and that love takes the place of condemnation. Having put on the Lord Jesus Christ, we can be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) and walk in love (Ephesians 5:2), making no provision for the flesh (Romans 13:14). And as we continue in doctrine, we are free—free indeed.

That is the law of liberty. I am free in Christ, even if I fail—free in Christ, even if I sin. And because I don't want to hurt Him, as soon as I am convicted of the smallest mental attitude sin, I use the principle of rebound instantly. I agree with the Holy Spirit about my sin, bring it to God, isolate the sin, get up, and go forward, cleansed and forgiven.

We are free in Christ to be believer-priests—free in Him to be members of God's royal family (1 Peter 2:9-10). In our worst failure, we can rebound because we are free indeed.

If we did not have the perfect law of liberty and the royal law of love operating on our behalf—two perfect laws filled with grace, mercy, and rejoicing—then our bed would be too short and the covering too narrow to wrap ourselves (Isaiah 28:20). Without the perfect law of liberty, we can have no rest. Without these laws at work in us, we would malfunction in all of our relationships.

Thank God, charity never fails. Instead, it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things (1 Corinthians 13). The answer for everything is Calvary. The Cross is the foundation for our liberty, because of His love. On that, there can be no compromise.