

Church of the Promise

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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

#11 The Laws of Love & Faith

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

The Laws of Love & Faith

Session Eleven

~♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦✠ ~ **BECOME** ~♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦✠ ~

This session will begin to clarify the divine tensions between Gods' _____ & God's _____, His Holiness and His Mercy. These attributes can seem to be opposite of each other to the unrenewed, natural mind. When these are poorly understood, they are often the cause of great divide among men, churches and whole nations. God has clearly revealed the way to understanding them in the Bible. Through two Laws that show how **Justice & Love, Holiness and Mercy** are perfectly balanced in the nature of **One God**. Its why we are going to look into the Law of Love and the Law of Faith in this session.

Four Primary Old Testament Covenants:

- **Noah** – *Eternal Life*
- **Abraham** - *Faith*
- **Moses** – *Law of Love*
- **David** – *Everlasting Kingdom*

Each of these **covenants** are based on the attributes of God that have everything to do with your walk with Christ. Today we are going to examine the two that are the most “Vocalized” in the New Testament, the Abrahamic covenant of FAITH & Mosaic covenant of the LAW of Love, which includes the 10 Commandments.

We are going to be looking at one question. Does the Law of Faith cancel the Law of Love?

WHAT ARE THEY?

The Law of Faith is pictured in what happened when Abraham brought His only son Isaac to the altar of sacrifice. Abraham did

have another son, Ishmael. But Ishmael was conceived when His wife Sarah became impatient while waiting on the promise God gave to Abraham. She tried to give God a hand. The promise to Abraham was that God would give him a son and through the one son he would become the father to many nations. Sarah decided that she was unable to have children so decided to allow Abraham to have a child with her female servant Hagar. You can find the whole record in Genesis. Later Sarah conceived in her very old age. Both of them were well beyond childbearing years, leaving no doubt that God had caused this to happen. Be sure to read the account because we are leaving out so much in the interest of staying with our lesson.

Later God told Abraham to offer Isaac. His only son with Sarah and the son that God had promised him. Isaac was the fulfillment of the promise. Abraham demonstrated full intent to obey but an angel stopped him and the messenger from God. This passage is what the angel said would happen because Abraham had not made his only son more important to him than God.

Genesis 22:16-18

"By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

The faith that Abraham placed in God was so intense that God chose his faith D.N.A. to be the model. How important is this act of "Faith"? It was recorded 4 times in the New Testament.

[Romans 4:3](#) ... For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham **believed God**, and **God counted** him as righteous because of his faith." ...

[James 2:23](#) ... And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham **believed God**, and **God counted** him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of ...

[Galatians 3:6](#) ... In the same way, "Abraham **believed God**, and **God counted** him as righteous because of his faith." ...

[Hebrews 11:11](#) ... Abraham trusted that **God** would keep his promise, conceive seed when she was past age, since she **counted** him faithful.

Jesus dealt with the error of walking in the natural alone and claiming a heritage that was Natural DNA alone and not a heritage based in sincere faith alone.

John 8:39

They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham."

The LAW of LOVE

Moses was given 10 commandments carved in stone. It was a picture of the permanent and enduring love of God. In these 10 eloquent and simple Laws, we find the heart of God. We find them first in Genesis given to Adam as they were written on his heart. Adam enjoyed daily fellowship. "walked with God in the cool of the day."

When sin entered in we can see their hardening take place within Adam's heart and every generation that followed. Until God, from a bush that appeared to be burning on Mt. Sinai, gave them again. This time they were on the outside of the heart carved on cold stone so much like the stone-cold heart of man.

Our sinful nature is fully at odds with them. The Bible records how the Israelites wobbled in and out of alignment with the heart of Love found in the commandments. There was a steady resistance in their hearts against God. When they did try keeping them, they became cruel and harsh, so they would wobble instantly over to the other side to permissiveness, hiding from Love's constraint. Even in the modern church, we can find the same doubleminded reactions from hardened hearts toward God's law. Some will even distort scripture to support their error.

At first glance the Law of Love seems simple and very desirable. Who would not want to live among a people who kept them? Honored by your children, No adultery, No Murder, No stealing, No Falsehood, not even a covetous thought from others. When God gave them, He told us to meditate upon them day & night.

Why do you think He wanted us to do this? What is there to think about? They are simple enough to memorize. How are we to contemplate them day and night for a life time? We should start with understanding our common allergic reaction to them

Let's first understand our duplicity of mind. We mostly think just like the rich young ruler, that we have kept them. We say if this is the rule then we have no sin and therefore make God out to be a liar because He says all have sinned.

These define sin. The modern church, like the Israel of Jesus' day, preferred their own explanations and traditions than the law. Unless the law served them as a basis to execute someone.

These ten simple laws of love are God's defense for capital punishment. When you let, them soak in, we may find within ourselves a severe allergic reaction to them. Don't believe me? Imagine the severest consequence of death being applied to yourself, your child, spouse or parent over breaking any of them and you may quickly find yourself decide they need softening. Yet on the other hand, you will want all of the rest of humanity to keep them in regard to your loved ones and yourself.

This is what Jesus explained when He said all the law and commandments are summarized in these two statements. Love the Lord your God with all your heart mind soul and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. In another place, He said, Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Jesus spent a large amount of His ministry expanding, summarizing, and republishing the MORAL law so that when you received your NEW heart you would recognize His Law of LOVE and rightly use your faith to apply the message it carries.

The commandments teach us what the highest affection that God should have from us ought to look like by telling us mostly what it is not. So then from "Shalt not" limits we can turn and move toward the Shall! # 5 is the only "Thou Shalt" in the 10 and it

comes with a promise of a bonus reward. The condensed, quick topic version is "Honor your Father & Mother." Most people have deeply offended their parents at some point in their lives and might have blamed their parents for their reaction to the dishonor, God has also been severely offended. Great doses of dishonor given Him instead of our highest affection.

Let's look at the Commandments: (Open your Bible & read them)
Deuteronomy 5 & Leviticus 20



Which of them do people think are unnecessary?

Which of them do you believe should not bear the penalty of eternal separation from God which is greater than death alone, but death and the next step being eternally in the unyielding grasp of Hell along with the devil & his angels? Which of them do you find not so very important? The scales of justice are equal penalty for equal value. A life is worth a life.

Q: DID HE REMOVE THE PENALTY?

Jesus did not remove the need for capital offense at their breaking he simply took our place and fulfilled the RIGHTEOUS requirements of it. He did not acquit us, that is to declare us innocent and negate the Law, He validated the Law when He took our place.

Matthew 5:17-19

17. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Our God is the same yesterday today and forever. The God of the Old Testament is the same loving God of the New Testament. We can even see the pattern of his strategy to reach us in this simple verse in Micah that says what is required of us.

Micah 1:8

What does the Lord require of you?

- *Do justly (Law)*
- *Love mercy (Love)*
- *Walk humbly with your God (Faith)*

The cross is where the death penalty is applied. But was it removed? NO! Anyone who does not have His selfless act of redemption applied is still under the death penalty. Does this mean that the Moral code is no longer in effect? If that were true then it would negate the need for the cross. If the LAW of God could be suspended, then God could not be still Holy. God does not abandon Holiness and become less loving to adopt humanity. He brings holiness to mankind through the cross. Just as Abraham received it, we receive it, by faith. A person who has been Born

Again receives the very person of the Holy Spirit living in side of them. He causes the person's spirit that died when they committed their first sin against God to be made alive again. But now with both His power and faith in His Word they are made WELL ABLE to walk free from the bondage of Sin. The book of Romans discusses this matter very thoroughly as also Galatians and Hebrews. The understanding of our newness in Christ empowering us to be able to command SIN's desire to release its hold on us is essential. That will take the simple but great humility to activate the faith to believe God for His tender mercies. There is no room for dependence upon our own ability. As a new, born again, believer you no longer are under the power of sin and can live a life that keeps the heart of God's Moral Law, the 10 Commandments. And with that new found strength that faith affords you can bring the message that offers the gift of righteousness to others.

Up till now we have mentioned the "Law" as an entity. But the Law that Jesus spoke of has three parts or functions. When Jesus said, "*I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*" he understood how laying down His own life would complete the "requirements". The "requirements" are the "**Ceremonial**" portion. That's the sacrificial system that required the shedding of blood to wash sin away. The **Moral** portion of Moses' written law will never go away since it is the very nature of God described in them. There was also a civil portion that when applied was in essence the moral and ceremonial in practical application... for instance those start with certain plausible situations. Most are easily recognized because they begin with "if". Rules that start with statements like "If your neighbor's ox gores your neighbor then..." The **Civil** Law is subject to changes but still give us examples to follow even in our modern times. Today the statement might read, "If your neighbor runs over your pet in his car then..."
So then:

- The **Moral** Law is Perpetual
- The **Ceremonial** Law is Fulfilled
- The **Civil** Law amends to current circumstances

We have mentioned in this lesson the 6 commandments that concern our heart toward others but have not yet brought our attention around to the ones that are concerning our heart toward God. The first 4 speak about how we demonstrate our love for God. It may seem at 1st hearing that there is no benefit to us but that they are only beneficial to God. Making sure that He is always 1st priority is how Abraham was able to have a faith that succeeded. The prophets often compare the human betrayal of God's affection through Idol worship to being like spiritual adultery. This gives us a clue to the offensive nature of our unfaithfulness & disloyalty. The 3rd commandment deals with the sincerity of our heart that is displayed in the manner we handle the use of His name. That could be in the simplest absent minded use of it without regard to His presence or the great act of taking His name as our identity when we claim Him and say we are Christian. Does our life bring that name honor or shame? Then finally there is the 4th. This command bridges the first ones that deal with loving God and the last that deal with loving People because it actually covers both. It deals with our sincere worship of God in regular practice of assembling. It is the way we see His betrothal to us shown before man. We are practicing our desire to meet with Him. These may seem not very essential to you. But let's apply the "golden Rule" that Jesus taught to them. If you were God would you find it appealing to give all that you are to a people who would give their highest devotion & worship to false gods and man-made idols?

Would you want to be around someone who would readily disgrace your name as though you would not know or who had no desire to be in your presence? When we allow our heart to recognize how putrid our natural state of being is to God we may be more inclined to agree with Him that we are in desperate need of a Savior and a removal of our sin hardened heart to be replaced by a new heart. A new heart that wants to Love God in return for the Love He has given to us. The Moral Law is a mirror to view our natural condition apart from the Holy Spirit so that we will readily cooperate with His Love even when it is frighteningly

foreign to our carnal nature. We can now "lean not to our own understanding but in all our ways acknowledge Him".

The LAW of FAITH

It is absolutely necessary that we understand that keeping the Law is not how we receive or keep salvation. It is gained by faith in God's love. Faith and FAITH alone... Not by works (keeping the Law) so that no man may boast. But our righteousness is the result of Jesus obedience to God to fulfill the Law upon the cross and our receiving the earnings of it through faith. If our faith is sincere, it will be alive and growing. With the leading of the Holy Spirit we will find our holiness will also be growing along with obedience to a presentation of God's love will look like what the 10 commandments teach and that looks like Jesus example. An unfailing love is only lived with a completely surrendered life and constantly active faith.

This is a brief introduction to these two laws of Faith and Love and in no way comes close to being complete. We recommend you take serious the request of the Lord to tie them to your thought life and your heart. They become the spiritual diagnostic kit as you gain better understanding of each. Know that God will never lead you into temptation.

The New Testament republishes both the Moral and even makes amendment to some of the Civil law. But the Ceremonial law is completed and is no longer kept and even became a point of contention among the apostles when there appeared to be a wavering over them in the book of Acts. The Galatians were rebuked by Paul for returning to some of its practice. Several times you will see the writings of the apostles address the need for FAITH alone. Yet, James balances by saying that Faith will produce good works. But good works cannot produce faith and without faith it is impossible to please God.

A SAMPLE OF A PENTITANT PRAYER:

My Father, My God,

I consider in my heart, both your goodness and your severity, your holiness and your love. I see both Your Law of Love and your Law of Faith displayed in the cross. I call our own hearts to sorrow over my

injurious behavior toward you and even the whole of humanity. You have the greatest love for each person including me. I no longer want to be offensive to you or the others you also love. I know that I have done so to my own great sorrow. I ask you now to forgive me. I also ask that you assure my heart and soul of your great salvation. That through faith your love is firmly mine for the sincere asking in your son's name. I know that what you have determined, nothing can overcome and you have determined to place your affection upon me and I receive it. I thank you for it. As I read your word, I believe your affection will grow in my own heart toward you and I sincerely hope that great love of yours will be seen in me toward others.

In Jesus Name, I Pray AMEN

PRACTICE:

- Read complete 10 Commandments and Learn the condensed version of them.
- Read Romans
- Focus on one commandment each day ask the Lord to reveal His heart is including it in the ten.

Study Questions:

1. The 1st Commandment speaks of God being a jealous for us. How does this differ from a person who might be jealous of covetous of us?
2. How does the Christian obey the keeping of the Sabbath?
3. Is self defense murder? Does the 6th commandment apply to soldiers and police who kill in the line of duty?
4. What do the 8th and 10th Commandment have in common?

5. What are some false gods (Living precepts & ideology) and forms of Idolatry still commonly practiced today?
6. How did Jesus define adultery and is it only committed after marriage?
7. How can our faith in Jesus' love help us destroy sin's grasp on our life?
8. How can the commandments direct our response to God and others?

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Deuteronomy

Use the Bible Study and a Daily Journal tool as you read. Return your completed form for credit. These completed assignments may be counted as a grade in both the I.S.O.M: Old Testament and New Testament Survey Courses.

ANSWER KEY:

Pg 1 - Justice, Love