

ADVANCED TRAINING

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HOLINESS VERSUS LEGALISM

People criticize those that preach that we must be a holy and separate people. They say we are legalistic. God is a Judge, however, that will judge His people. So just maybe we should look at what He considers legal and what He describes as lawless. Hebrews 10:30 and 31 are scriptures that should make us look at holiness as a commandment as opposed to seeing it as a personal choice.

Hebrews 10:30-31

30 For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “**The Lord will judge His people.**”

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

We must keep His commandments.

I John 2:3-4

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments

4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (We do not have a choice.)

But the lukewarm try to hide behind the fact that God is a God of mercy and grace. Yes, our God is a God of mercy and grace. But He is only Grace and Mercy to those who are sincerely trying to make a holy walk. Here is what the scriptures advise us to do concerning our walk.

1 John 2:6

6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Those that truly want to be conformed to His image are constantly searching themselves to see where they fall short of His holiness. They judge themselves and therefore walk in repentance. He is faithful to forgive those ones. We all fall short, but sadly we do not all repent. Mainly this is because we are not taught the necessity of holiness. It is at this point of discussion that many people whine: “but we are no longer under the law” or they say “you are trying to put us back under the law to be cursed by it”. Let me state for the record that I do not think we should be under the law, but God did not say we could ignore the law either. In fact He said we were to be like Jesus, who fulfilled the law.

James 2:8

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well;

He even wrote the law on our hearts and minds so we could not forget it.

Hebrews 8:10

10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Again, His mercy and grace extends to those that stumble in their holiness walk, not those that do not think they even need to begin the walk.

I Thessalonians 2:11-12

11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,

12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

I agree that when we are first baptized as a baby Christian, we are in Christ Jesus. He becomes our covering and our tabernacle or sanctuary and our sins are forgiven. Like any new baby we are unconditionally taken care of, but as we mature and experience the filling of the Holy Spirit of Jesus as the Spirit of Truth, He expects more of us because now He lives in us and we become His tabernacle, or His mansion or castle. We see these statements confirmed at Galatians 3:27, where we put on Jesus and then at John 14:16-17, where He promises to put us on.

Galatians 3:27

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**.

John 14:16-17

16 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--

17 “the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for dwells with you and **will be in you**.

Again we see the promise of the entrance of His Holy Spirit at Acts 1:4-5 and the

fulfillment of the promise at Acts 2:4.

Acts 1:4-5

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me;

5 “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 2:4

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now let us look at 1 Corinthians 6:19 to see the result of the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

Our body is no longer ours. It is the home of God! Should we not be holy if we are to house a holy God? Colossians 1:27 tells us that it is Christ in us that is the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the **hope** of **glory**.

The opposite of Christ in us being the hope of glory is Satan in us, the hope of defeat! So let us look in the mirror and see who is in us? How are we to judge? By their fruit you will know them.

Matthew 7:18-20

18 “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 “Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Whose fruit are we manifesting? Galatians 5:22 and 23 tells us what fruit will come from our lives or be apparent to the world if we are the castles or Tabernacles of Christ our King.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. **Against such there is no law.**

When the fruit of the Spirit is manifesting in us we are not under the law but we are fulfilling the law or are becoming the law over our flesh. But those that do not separate from the world, its unclean people and their pleasures manifest the works of the flesh which are found at Galatians also:

Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the **works of the flesh** are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things** will **not** inherit the **kingdom of God**.

Paul tells us:

Romans 6:12

12 Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your **mortal body**, that you should **obey it** in its **lusts**.

We must let the law in our hearts and minds through our conscience rule us.

Again I want to reiterate, we are not under the law, but it is still working in us like a blueprint, showing us the way to holiness. If you look at the church as a whole, how much selfish ambition, dissensions, jealousy and outbursts of wrath do you see? Is there not even adultery and fornication in much of its leadership? Why? Because they are lawless or cold to the law that should be operating in their hearts and minds. Are we being legalistic? I don't think so. Look what Paul said to the Ephesians concerning this very thing.

Ephesians 4:22-30

22 that you **put off**, concerning your **former conduct**, the **old man** which grows **corrupt** according to the **deceitful lusts**,

23 and **be renewed** in the **spirit of your mind**,

24 and that you **put on** the **new man** which was **created** according to **God**, in

true **righteousness and holiness**.

25 Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.

26 “Be **angry**, and **do not sin**”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 nor give place to the devil.

28 Let him who stole **steal no longer**, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

29 Let **no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth**, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. (Do you not recognize these warnings against not being the same as the original law?)

30 And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.

To the Romans Paul said:

Romans 3:31

31 Do we **then** make **void the law** through **faith**? Certainly **not!** On the contrary, we **establish the law**.

Maybe we should read that scripture again, as it is very plain! We are to establish

the law. How? By fulfilling it as an individual and letting the Spirit that wrote the law rule in our lives. We grieve His Spirit when we sin. We must search the scriptures, obey our conscience and walk as God would have us walk. Again, how does God want us to walk?

Ephesians 4:1

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy** of the **calling** with which **you** were **called**,

But here is something that each of us must personally do for ourselves:

Ephesians 5:10

10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Ignorance is not an excuse. We are to examine the scriptures closely to determine the correct way. Then look at what our responsibility is if we find ourselves even around lawlessness.

Ephesians 5:11

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather

expose them.

2 Corinthians 6:17

17 Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.”

Ephesians 5:5-6

5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

AS GOD'S DWELLING PLACE, WE MUST BE HOLY

Here is what Paul said to those at Corinth.

1 Corinthians 3:9

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

Then in the next statement he warned the shepherds that were there.

1 Corinthians 3:10

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder **I have laid the foundation**, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

Let us go on to read verse 16, remembering that we have become God's dwelling place since the infilling of the Holy Spirit!

1 Corinthians 3:16

16 Do you not know that you are **the temple of God** and that the **Spirit of God dwells in you?**

Where we go we take Him with us, what we say He hears. When we expose ourselves to evil He too is exposed and affected by that evil.

We are His tabernacle.

Let us look at the word tabernacle in the Strongs Concordance. The number for

tabernacle is:

4632 skeuos (skyoo'-os);

of uncertain affinity; a vessel, implement, equipment or apparatus (literally or figuratively [specifically, a wife as contributing to the usefulness of the husband]):

KJV-- goods, sail, stuff, **vessel**.

4638 skenoma (skay'-no-mah);

from 4637; an encampment, i.e. (figuratively) the Temple (as God's residence), the **body** (as a tenement for the soul):

KJV-- tabernacle.

4637 skenoo (skay-no'-o);

from 4636; to tent or encamp, i.e. (figuratively) to occupy (as a **mansion**) or (specifically) to **reside** (as God did in the Tabernacle of old, a symbol of **protection** and **communion**):

KJV-- **dwell**.

4636 skenos (skay'-nos);

from 4633; a hut or temporary residence, i.e. (figuratively) **the human body** (as **the abode of the spirit**):

KJV-- **tabernacle**.

So we see from the meaning of tabernacle, we are the outer shell, tent, temple, tabernacle or even castle that houses Christ! We are the Queen on the outside as His wife, and yet we are the King on the inside that is the hope of glory. When we reach a mature place of holiness we will truly become one.

THE SECOND COMING THROUGH THE HOLY

The church world is still looking for a second coming of Christ and His Kingdom. Peter tried to warn us at second Peter 3:10.

2 Peter 3:10

10 But **the day of the Lord** will **come** as a **thief in the night**, in which the **heavens will pass away** with a **great noise**, and the **elements will melt with fervent heat** both the **earth** and the **works** that are **in it** will be **burned up**.

Old Israel missed Him the first time, thinking He would come as some mighty world ruler, and they surely did not understand that it was God Himself in the body suit of Jesus coming to reconcile the world. We see this in scripture in second Corinthians 5:19.

2 Corinthians 5:19

19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Today the church world, dead on the street to the truth that has been revealed, will never understand it is Christ in us that is the hope of glory either. Again let us look at Colossians 1:27.

Colossians 1:27

27 To them **God willed to make known** what are the riches of the glory of **this mystery** among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Nor will they understand Luke 17:20-21 or Colossians 2:8-10!

Luke 17:20-21

20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “**The kingdom of God** does **not come** with **observation**;

21 “nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the **kingdom of God** is **within you.**”

Colossians 2:8-10

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

9 For **in him dwells** all the **fullness of the Godhead bodily**

10 and you are **complete in Him**, who is the head of all principality and power.

So you see why we want to be a sparkling clean castle or tabernacle for our King to dwell in.

CONCLUSION

Whose tabernacle, castle or tower are we? Is it Christ in us with the fruit of the

Spirit apparent in our lives? Or is Satan resident in us with his evil fruit manifesting through us? Have we separated and are we obedient to the call of God in Revelation 18:4 to come out of Babylon? God's people must search themselves for the answers to these questions in their personal lives. They must judge themselves before they are judged by God.

1 Corinthians 11:31

31 For if **we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.**

Sadly, if we remain a part of what God judges as evil, we will be crushed and destroyed along with the evil. We must be holy as He is holy and we can only be labeled as holy if we walk in repentance and obey His commands. But to repent we have to first see the sin in our lives and then, at the risk of being called legalistic, dare to change and walk in holiness!