

THE FRAILITY OF MAN, THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

(Chapter 2: Why was the Law necessary?)

Because man is not God, but a creation, his righteousness was not a natural attribute, but was imparted to him by his creator.

No one can know what they are doing is wrong unless they know what is right. Our flesh is incapable of knowing right from wrong as its only desire is to be satisfied. I believe man innately knows when he is doing what is wrong as the residue of the enlightened spirit which is infused with the identity of our soul. As I mentioned man is body, soul, and spirit (*1 Thes 5:23-24*), and the soul and spirit are closely bound; *Heb 4:12-13*: For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Consider this; if sin were natural and justifiable why do men always attempt to justify it. You don't have to justify being faithful to one's spouse, but people attempt to justify why infidelity is ok and natural. The very fact that God uses the fidelity of marriage as a comparison with our relationship with Him demonstrates that the heart of most people testifies to what the Bible says about marriage.

I have never met with a couple to receive counseling for faithfulness, but I have had many couples come for counseling because of infidelity. The reason is that even in the unbeliever's heart they know promiscuity is wrong. Remember the very reason God created man was to have loving fellowship with Him. The creation of man was an expression of God's love, and man was to express his love back to God through faithfulness and worship, which is the purest expression of love we are capable of.

We must always remember love requires choice, and choice requires reward or judgment, and this is where the complexity of man's relationship with God has arisen. Because we have choice, man was tempted to do it his way. Understand it was fallen man who cried out for the Law, rules and regulations; they told Moses you meet with God and whatever He tells us we will do. **Ex 20:18-19:** Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. **19** Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." **Ex 24:7:** Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient."

Many of us react to God the same way, we want someone to tell us all what we are doing wrong and then we will correct it in our own strength and walk with God. People have good intentions but lists, rules, and regulations are powerless without the strength of the Holy Spirit. No man can keep the law perfectly, but with the grace and mercy of God we are able to remain in fellowship with Him. The minute we turn to the flesh we lose that fellowship, as no man can keep the law, but in Jesus we live in a state of grace. The key to grace and mercy is confession and repentance, which requires us to honestly and humbly confront our sin nature.

Let me give an example we can understand; if you love your spouse with all your heart, no one has to convince you to express your love, it comes naturally. But there are things that are right and wrong in a good relationship. Obedience to these standards is not love, but love will motivate you to work towards fulfilling these standards. Like in our relationship with God any good marriage is maintained by grace and mercy. I have never meet a man or woman who is a perfect spouse. The danger comes when we pretend to be. In a true love relationship confession and repentance can resolve most problems in time. When

we forgive our spouse like we desire when God forgives us, it is to be remembered no more, but true repentance requires turning from our infirmity not simply looking for a reprieve. *(Just a side note most often we have to swing the bat several times before we hit the ball, but it doesn't mean we aren't trying.)*

I believe most of mankind innately knows he is responsible to a moral standard beyond himself; this is why we have a conscious awareness of right and wrong, no matter how sliding that standard might be. **(Rom 2:14-15; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, 15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them.)**

With the removal of the Christian faith people are without hope; **(1 Chron 29:15: Our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope.)** This is why depression, use of prescription and illegal drugs, alcoholism, and even suicide is so prevalent in this world. The world is crying out for a Savior they refuse to see, let alone accept as Lord of their life. This life is hopeless without Jesus. Consider how much fear the *Covid 19* has caused. Even many believers allow themselves to be shackled with fear. I am not saying anyone should be reckless, but nothing should prevent us from gathering for worship and/or doing the work of the Lord.

This is the conclusion of this chapter; **Gal 2:19-21;** "For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. **20** "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. **21** "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain." There must be a death before their can be a resurrection.

II Cor 3:6 makes it clear, it is the Spirit who gives life, we cannot be born again or live the Christian live outside the power of the Holy Spirit.