

STUDY THIRTEEN – THE NEW COMMANDMENT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Introduction

The law that governs the church, the law that displaced the Ten Commandments, the law that overrules all human law, is the law of love. If one walks in the Jesus kind of love, he will never break any law that was given to curb sin. When one walks in love, he actually walks in God, for God is love. When one walks in love, he is no longer negative or neutral. He is a positive element of blessing in the world. When one steps outside of the love law, he steps out of the environment of God, and into the environment of the adversary.

When one acts outside of love, he acts in harmony with the adversary; he puts himself in a place where he has no defence. The adversary has the mastery. As long as he walks in love, Satan has no dominion over him. When one acts outside of love, he weakens the faith element in him. We cannot walk by faith without walking in love. We cannot live the faith life without living the love life. It took me a long while to get this clear in my own spirit, but now I know it.

Our faith will unconsciously be measured by our love walk. We cannot talk outside of love nor act outside of love without weakening our faith. 1 Cor. 13 Love “seeks not its own.” Faith in the Father and selfishness do not mix. When we walk by faith, we become independent of circumstances. When we walk in love, we walk in the realm of the Father’s protection, and we walk in His wisdom. The Father is love, and He is light. He has made Jesus to be wisdom unto us. When we talk in fellowship with Him, we have wisdom; we have His ability. Faith becomes as natural to us as water is natural to a fish. It is a part of our being. God is to our strength, our life, our ability.

The Effect of Righteousness in the presence of Disease and Sickness

We have wondered why Jesus was so utterly fearless in the presence of Satan and of his works. We saw Him in the presence of death at Lazarus’ tomb, with a fearless confidence that thrilled us. Why was it? It was because He was Righteous. Sin makes cowards of men. Sin consciousness holds us in bondage. We know we are of God and we know we have God in us. We know we are the Righteousness of God. We can stand in the presence of Satan, of his works, as fearlessly as did Jesus.

Righteousness is really the ability of God taking possession of us. We stand in His presence utterly fearless, because of the consciousness that we are New Creations. We have been created by God himself, and Jesus has given to us the power of attorney to use His Name. He said, “In my name you will cast out demons.” If we cast out demons, we can undo anything that Satan has done. We can break in upon him with a fearless that will mean his destruction and our victory. We know that Satan has been conquered, that we are now masters where we have been slaves, we are strong where we have been weak.

We are identified with God; we can fearlessly take His place and act as Jesus acted when He walked the earth.

It was no meaningless sentence that dropped from the lips of the Master when He said, “*Greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*” That, we understand, is not prayer, not talking to the Father, but talking to demons. We put up a fearless, solid front, and face our adversary as conquerors.

Jesus said, “Come out of him.” We say, “In the Name of your Master, come out of him.” We are taking Jesus’ place. We are acting in His stead. His Righteousness that has been imparted to us gives us the

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ability to act in His stead and to take His place. This is a new day in the Divine Life. This is a new order in the realm of men. Satan reigned over the old order. Sin consciousness dominated us. We have come to know that the New Creation is the Righteousness of God in Christ. We know that this Righteousness is not theological or philosophical, but an actual Righteousness.

It is God changing our sin consciousness to Righteousness consciousness. It is God who had been at work within us, building His Word into our spirit until we have become God-like in our thinking, masterful in our works.

We are no longer timid and fearful. We stand as sons of God should stand in the presence of a defeated enemy. In 1 Cor. 2:6 it speaks of the dethroned powers in the world. (Moffat's Trans) We have recognised them as dethroned. We have recognized ourselves as enthroned. God is enthroned within us. We are the masters of the forces of darkness that have been destroying the human race. We are going to take our place and play the part.

The Relation of Righteousness to Faith

Faith grows out of continual fellowship with the Father. Righteousness is the ability to stand in the Father's presence without the sense of guilt or inferiority. It is the product of the finished work of Christ that culminates in the New Creation. When we know that the Father recreated us, with His own nature, taking out everything that was unlovely; putting His own life and nature in its place, and when we realize that He so satisfied with the New Created that He can make it His home, that He comes and dwells in us, we can realize how precious, how utterly priceless we are to Him. If He had sons and daughters with whom He could not fellowship on terms of equality, there would be no satisfaction in it; the work He wrought in Christ would be an utter failure. We are certain that man, at the beginning, had perfect fellowship with the Father, and when he fell that fellowship was broken.

A perfect Redemption must restore the lost fellowship. It must be restored on legal grounds. Man must know that he has a perfect right in his father's presence. He must lay the foundation to build a perfect love: out of this perfect love life will grow a faith life. Faith works by love. Faith and love are kindreds.

Love gives birth to faith and faith strengthens love. When one knows that God has recreated him, made him a new Creation, and that New Creation is the nature of the father imparted to him, then he knows that his normal place is in the Father's presence. Jesus said, "I am the vine; ye are the branches. That figure compels one to know that there is perfect fellowship since the branch and the vine are one.

The branch is as Righteous as the vine, for the vine has imparted its life and Righteousness to the branch.

This builds faith into the believer. We continually affirm that we are the righteousness of God in Christ.

We say it over and over again, until the reality of it becomes a part of our consciousness. We are as conscious of it as we are that four and four are eight, or that a fire gives off heat, or that the sun gives light.

We know that we are what God says we are. We do not try to be what He has made us. We enjoy the wealth and riches of what we are in Christ. When He says He becomes the Righteousness of him that has faith in Jesus, we know God has become our Righteousness, for we have faith in Jesus as a Saviour and Lord. We know we are Righteous. We don't try to be Righteousness, any more than a man has to try to be a man. He may try to be a good man, but he is what nature has made him.

We are what God has made us to be—His own Righteousness. The Spirit says through Paul that God made Jesus to be wisdom unto us. We know Jesus is our wisdom. When He says Jesus was made unto

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us sanctification, we know we are sanctified by His sanctification. When He declares He was made unto us Redemption, we know we are Redeemed, that He is our Redemption.

Consequently, our Redemption is a reality. By the same token He declares that He has become our Righteousness, then our standing with the Father is identical with His. This is ground for a real faith in the Son of God. Mark 11:22 (Authorized Version) “Have the faith of God.” (Revised Version) “Have faith in God.” We have both. We have God’s faith reproduced in us by His living Word, by His nature that is imparted to us. We have faith in God because it is a normal, natural thing for a child to have faith in its parent.

We have more faith in the ability of God to put us over, to heal, give ability and strength, to meet life’s problems, than we have in the adversary to thwart the purpose of God in us. In other words, we have more faith in God’s ability than we have in the ability of the adversary. We have more faith in the Father’s Word than we have in the circumstances that surround us or the environment that would attempt to hold us in bondage. God is bigger to us than any other thing in the world. We know that greater is He that is in us than the environment or the influences that surround us. We know that we are more than conquerors, that we have passed out of the realm of failure into the realm of success and victory.

The Effect of Sin Consciousness on Faith

Faith cannot grow in the atmosphere of condemnation. As long as we keep ourselves in the realm of sin consciousness, our faith will be weak and ineffectual. If we attend a church where sin is preached continually, it will develop a sin consciousness and destroy faith’s vigour. Faith, like love, demands continual confession. If we do not continually affirm our love for those about us, love will slowly congeal, become ineffective. There must be the continual affirmation of love. The husband and wife who cease to affirm their love for each other, slowly but surely lose the keen fellowship with each other. The same thing is true in faith. We constantly affirm our confidence, our faith, and it grows.

Some Affirmations to Make

“I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.” “God’s ability is in me.” “I have the life of God abiding in me.” “Whatsoever I ask of the Father in Jesus’ Name He gives it to me.” “God’s strength and God’s ability abide within me.” “I have His wisdom.” “I do not have to ask for wisdom, because wisdom is mine.” “I do not have to pray for faith, because His promises cannot be broken. No Word from God is void of Power.” Luke 1:37 “I have a standing invitation to come boldly into the throne room and sit in the presence of my Father.” “I am now a member of the divine household. God is my Father. I am His child. I am in the family.” “I am a partaker of His divine nature.” “I am constantly conscious of His indwelling presence.” “Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.” “I have His love life abiding in me.”

These affirmations build faith, health, life and strength into the believer’s life.

These affirmations are the Word or based on the Word. They are not the affirmations of Sense Knowledge.