

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"



Message: "The Law of Christ, Law of Liberty, and the Royal Law"

[Click/tap to hear the live recording](#)

Dr. Mary Craig

Live Tele-service, September 26, 2021

We're in our series "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God." We're now considering the Law of Christ, Law of Liberty, and the Royal Law. If we've entered into the kingdom of God, how do we live in that kingdom? What are the rules of that kingdom? How do we get along?

Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ."

Over in Romans 13:8 we read, "Owe no one anything but to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the Law." ESV

Present spiritual resurrection comes through identifying with Christ in His resurrection. We have life in Christ and resurrection power now. Sin still dwells within us because it is joined to our flesh. Our flesh is at war with the Spirit and the Law of God, written in our minds and on our hearts. The Holy Spirit empowers us for holy living and for effective ministry. Thus, there is an anointing within, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and an anointing without, when the Holy Spirit comes on us to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. Acts 1:8, for example.

True believers overcome through faith in vital spiritual union with Jesus Christ. Faith works by love. Love is the keeping of Christ's commandments. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." Evil is overcome within, without, and from above. If we have been delivered from both the penalty and the power of sin, that is, the Law of Sin and Death, set free by the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, we will overcome. We will persevere because of the preservation of the Holy Spirit. The preserving power of the Holy Spirit keeps us persevering. The One who calls us is faithful, who also will do it.

We want to consider "As within, so without." We are going to be working out what God has worked within.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. *Philippians 2:12-13*

Jesus told us that the Kingdom of God is within us. Romans 14:17 tells us "The Kingdom of God is peace, joy, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit." Peace because we are no longer at war with God and God is no longer at war with the new person in Christ. Joy because Jesus owns us. He possesses us. Righteousness because we have been saved by grace in order to obey through faith working by love.

Jesus made peace through the Cross. He enabled reconciliation with God through the offering of Himself for sin. This means God's wrath has been propitiated, His hostility against us has been borne by Christ in our place and on our behalf. We are called to terminate our hostility toward God. Jesus made the Peace. God initiated the action. Our proper response is to terminate our

hostility toward Him. We were once enmity toward God, by nature children of wrath, but in Christ we are called to love God in a demonstration of supreme loyalty and attachment to Jesus, having been saved by grace and given the gift of eternal life in Christ in order that we might obey through faith working by love.

We're going to consider the Kingdom of God within and we're going to think about that principle - "as within, so without." We will let the Word of God speak and pray that the Holy Spirit works in us to comprehend, perceive, and receive what the Lord has for us. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment. It is the Holy Spirit who convinces, who converts and brings change, who corrects, and who conforms us to the image of Jesus Christ.

First from Matthew 5:3-10 and verse 28. As I read, just keep thinking of that principle - "as within, so without" - that is, what God is working in us, we will work that out. In Matthew 5:3-10:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Then verse 28, "But I say to you that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Now remember our principle - "as within, so without."

Let's look at Matthew 6:22-23, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness." Verse 24, "No one can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Remember we've talked about "source determines seed and the fruit of that seed." We're talking about the principle - "as within, so without."

Let's listen to Matthew 12:33-37, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good or make the tree bad and its fruit bad. For the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man out of his good treasure brings forth what is good and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth what is evil. And I say to you that every careless word that men shall speak they shall render account for it in the day of judgement. For by your words you shall be justified and by your words you shall be condemned."

Then over in Matthew 15:16-20 we find, "Jesus said, 'Are you still lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is eliminated but the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, theft, false witness, slanders - these are the things which defile the man. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.'"

Proverbs 23:6-8 warns us, “Do not eat the bread of a selfish man or desire his delicacies. For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, “eat and drink!,” but his heart is not with you. You will vomit up the morsel you have eaten and waste your compliment.”

Now with these things in mind, let’s turn over to the book of James. James 1:21 we read this, “Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror, for once he’s looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, The Law of Liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer, but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.” Over in James 2:8 - “If however you are fulfilling the Royal Law according to the scripture, you shall love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he is become guilty of all. For He who said ‘do not commit adultery’ also said ‘do not commit murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the Law of Liberty. For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.” Moving to verse 17, “even so faith if it has no works is dead, being by itself.” And so we are going to find out that what God has worked in, will be worked out.

R. C. Sproul comments:

[In James 1:25 the Law was called “the “law of liberty,” (1:25) and we were exhorted to obey it in order to receive blessing. In 2:8, it is called the “royal law.” In these two titles, James refers to the whole of the law of God, revealed to Moses and then fulfilled in Christ. Christians do well only if they obey the essence of this Law ([Matt. 22:36–40](#)).” R. C. Sproul on the Royal Law <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/royal-law>

“When James speaks of the “law of liberty,” he is speaking of the whole law of God as interpreted by Jesus. Because the ceremonial law has been fulfilled by Christ, we are no longer bound to keep its ceremonies and rituals. However, the Law’s sum and essence — loving God with all our hearts and loving our neighbors as ourselves — still binds us today. Go to the Lord, and ask Him to enable you to live faithfully in obedience to His law in Christ.” R. C. Sproul devotional on James 2:10-13. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/law-liberty>

Over in James chapter 3:10-12, we read this, “From the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. Does the fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives or a vine produce figs? Neither can salt water produce fresh.” Then verse 14-18, “But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, sensual, and demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruit, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

I leave you with this thought, “As within, so without” because “source determines seed.” We cannot save ourselves. We cannot keep the Law of God with its standard of perfect, personal,

perpetual obedience. **God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten, unique Son; that those who believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)** Jesus fulfilled the Royal Law; our obedience gives evidence of our salvation and reconciliation with the Living God, who now is to the true believer, Father. Only Jesus saves. Salvation is by faith in the Promise, in the Promised One, the Messiah. (Romans 4) Remember, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

We are not as those who have no hope. **Romans 5:5 KJV: And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

Amen.

© 2021 Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved.

www.marycraig.org www.mcmtffr.org

Mary Craig, D. Min.



Thank you for giving to MCM! Donate: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 4610, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338-4610 or through PayPal® online at www.marycraig.org. Go to marycraig.org for the latest articles and words received. Take a look and see all that God is doing through this ministry, in world missions, in evangelism, the Barnabas Project, Craighthouse® Christian Fellowship, home visitation, Kinetic Koinonia, media, and more. Worship with us 4:30 p.m. Sundays via teleconference. Reach MCM at 954-491-7270. Send in your prayer requests. Follow MCM Bible teachings and Rev. Jim Craig's sermons; go to www.marycraig.org and click on "Audio Bible Studies" or "Divine Appointment" radio ministry; or go to www.mcmtffr.org for audio sermons, teachings, and handout sheets. Free. Go to www.marycraigverses.org for "Enjoying God for Life," daily encouragement and growing in your faith. Go to www.marycraig.smugmug.com for some pictures of MCM world missions.

See our new Mary Craig Ministries YouTube Channel here:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCs4c-InXmh2HKF36huJQTOA or www.mcmvideochannel.com. Subscribe for free.

Free books by Dr. Craig to download, print, or just open and use, here: <https://www.marycraig.org/Catalog.htm> .

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. is a USA 501 (C) (3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1993. Federal ID 65-0429517.