

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

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



Message: "The Law of Liberty, Law of Christ, Law of Victory and Triumph"

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Dr. Mary Craig

Live Tele-service, October 3, 2021

We're looking again today at the **Law of Liberty and the Law of Christ**. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed. The Law of Christ holds that love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-14; Galatians 5:14; 1 John 5:2ff; James 2:8. Love one another in the same way Christ has loved you; love one another. John 13:35.

<sup>u</sup>And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, <sup>v</sup>'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, <sup>w</sup>the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>x</sup>The second is this: <sup>y</sup>'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment <sup>z</sup>greater than these." Mark 12:28-31.

Love is the fulfillment of the Law. In Christ we are set free to love one another. God's perfect love casts out fear.

James told us in chapter 1, "if anyone's a hearer of the word and not a doer, he's like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror. For once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. The 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 is blessed in what he does."

In James 4, as we remember discussion "source determines seed" and the principle "as within, so without," we find out in James 4 "What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have so you commit murder and you're envious and cannot obtain so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and you don't receive because you ask with wrong motives so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." He goes on and you can read about it.

James says "friendship with the world is enmity with God" and whenever we're a friend of the world, we're an enemy of God. So we want to think about looking into the mirror. Who do we see in that mirror? What do we see? Do we see the natural man, what I call the First Adam Humanity, and do we forget what we heard in the word of God? Or do we look and see Jesus Christ? Are we covered with His righteousness? Are we clothed with Jesus Christ? Remember Jesus' name is Word of God. He is the Word made flesh.

So in 2 Corinthians 3:18 we learn that the Word of God is a mirror. When we look into the Word of God, we also see ourselves and God in that mirror. We look into that perfect Law of Liberty. As we look into the word of God, it shows us Christ's likeness. As we look at Christ's likeness, we do that in order that we may measure our character against His.

Remember “form follows function.” We were created by God to perform good works. John 3 says those of the light will come to God because their deeds are wrought in God. He is the source. Source determines seed. The Holy Spirit enables and empowers us to obey God and thus live. We want to obey God’s command to love Him and others. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of **the Lord is, there is liberty**. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:17,18

The Law of Liberty is a regulating power that enables us to put to death the deeds of the flesh, the deeds of darkness. Bondage to the flesh is broken by the Law of Liberty. We must know and believe that it is possible to put to death the works of the flesh. That first Adam self/identity was enslaved to sin, but those in whom the Spirit of God dwells, have a new self, a new identity. **If anyone is in Christ, he/she is become a new creation, a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.** 2 Corinthians 5:17.

We can be a Christian and have a serious sin problem and a serious world problem or a Satan problem. But the new self, born out of God, does not sin. **We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.** 1 John 5:18. KJV

The sin is in the members of our body which the Bible calls the Flesh. The Flesh is the inclination to operate independent of God. Our old self died but our flesh is like, well, it’s rather like a preprogrammed propensity for sin that needs to be deleted. Habitual patterns of sin must be replaced. Hit the delete button and replace the program. That’s what we need to do. The flesh has thought patterns and memory traces, responses, and habits that are alien to God and at enmity with God. These thoughts accord to the pattern of this world. By faith, Galatians 5 says, we receive the Holy Spirit as promised. He regenerated us. He keeps us. He purposes to make us holy as God is holy.

Thus what I’m talking about does not mean we have a license to do as we please, to sin as much as we want, to take no care about offending the Godhead and others. The Law of Liberty means that we have been set free to love. Freely we have received love and God first loves us. Freely we give this love, this God-kind of love. We are set free from the bondage and penalty of sin as Christ took the penalty and the Father forgives us our sin. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Perfect love casts out fear. We do or don’t do many things out of fear. There is no fear in love. We are free to forgive others, free to love one another. I’m talking about agape love. We also as Christians do not do many things out of love. Love does no harm. We put off those attitudes, actions, and behaviors that are not aligned to the Living God and put on Christ, putting on those attitudes, actions, and behaviors that we behold in Christ. Ephesians 4:17-32, for example. **God has not given us the spirit of fear/cowardice but of power, love, and a sound mind.** 2 Timothy 1:7.

Now let’s look at the **Law of Victory and Triumph** in connection with the Law of Liberty. For this we’re going to turn over to 2 Chronicles 20:17, you can read the whole story for yourself but here’s the crux of it. In verse 17 it says, **“You need not fight in this battle. Station yourselves, stand, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf. O Judah and Jerusalem, do not fear or be dismayed for tomorrow go out to face them for the Lord is with you.”** So here we have the

promise that God is with us but notice what the answer is. The answer is to take your position, stand firm, and you shall see the salvation of the Lord.

Now let's go back to Galatians 5:1 and here we see, **"It was for freedom that Christ set us free. Therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."** Here again we are told to take our position in Christ. We have a position in Christ; take your position in Christ. Stand firm and you shall see the salvation of the Lord. You are born of God, the source and sustainer of life. We stand in grace, in the grace of God, Romans 5:2. We walk in grace, Titus 2:11-14. We also grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, 2nd Peter 3:18. We are told in 2 Corinthians 12:9 that grace is sufficient. God gives grace to the humble, James 4:6. God makes all grace abound toward us, 2 Corinthians 9:8. You see, grace sets us free. Where sin abounded, grace did more abound. We are to stand fast to our position. So today, take your position. That position is in Christ. Stand firm, stand fast to your position in Christ.

We live through the Spirit by faith, Galatians 5:5, and that faith is working by love, Galatians 5:13. Flesh refers to that corrupted, sinful nature. It is humanity's nature apart from Jesus Christ.

What's the key? The key is continual communion with and obedience to the indwelling Holy Spirit. It's a daily process more than a crisis experience. Walk in the Spirit. That is, conduct your life daily, walking in the Holy Spirit. The flesh in scripture is personified, that is, as having mind, heart, and will. It's a matter of controlling power. Let the Holy Spirit guide and govern our spiritual nature and the holy inclination that God has wrought in us.

God's word is our rule of faith and life. What happens is that the Holy Spirit regenerates our hearts and as He does, He changes those hearts and we don't want the same things anymore. Any Christian has experienced this in his or her life. We might say our "wanter" has been changed. We just don't want the same things anymore and instead, we want to please God. We desire to know God and His ways and we want to follow Christ. God changes the inclination of the heart. That heart that was bent or inclined toward evil and to being independent of God and to rebel against God has now experienced the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. God makes crooked places straight. That heart is now inclined or bent towards God, towards wanting God, and wanting what pleases Him. We even find out what pleases the Lord.

In closing, Christ has redeemed us. The gift of liberty is bound to the Giver. As we are bonded in vital, spiritual union with Christ who has conquered His enemies, we are free from the powers which suppress true humanity, which suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Those powers are sin, Satan, the penalty and curse of the law, death, the old self. Romans 7 describes the struggle of sanctification until we physically die. We struggle, but the fact remains that in Christ we are free from the compulsion to sin. We are free from the compulsion to follow the dictates of the flesh, or Satan, or the world, or all three. We are free to serve God. We are free from the curse of the law, from its claim. Bonded with the Holy Spirit, the source and sustainer of life, we are free to obey God, doing the will of the Father, serving Him and His children, in His love. We love because He first loved us.

Now it is the love of Christ which constrains us. It is the love of Christ which controls us. I think it was back around 1520, Martin Luther said, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

Remember, with the heart of the Holy Spirit bonded to mine, with the mind of Christ whose love controls me, I do the will of the Father. By grace, I obey through faith working by love. I am free

from every other compulsion and claim as I am compelled by the claim of Christ, my Redeemer. And so can you be.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,<sup>a</sup> but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;<sup>b</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 ESV

Footnotes:

a 3 Some manuscripts *deliver up my body* [to death] *that I may boast*

b 5 Greek *irritable and does not count up wrongdoing*

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