

HC 114-115 – How To Obey God’s Law Better

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Why do false gods of false religions demand so little from their followers? Because these gods are actually evil spirits, their goal is to deceive and destroy. So they limit their demands to what their followers can do and fool them into thinking that that is sufficient. Eg. The Muslim god does not call “minor sins” sin. He calls them mistakes for which they will not be punished. So he tolerates 宽容 some sins. And if the Muslim commits a big sin, he is not punished by eternal death in hell as Jehovah demands. Hee must do a good deed to compensate for the bad deed. Even if he were punished a little after death, he would still go into Paradise. Their god minimizes sins by minimizing the consequences for sins. Other “gods” tell their followers to “do the best that they can and be sincere.” But not Jehovah!

Today you will hear from the one true God - how he demands perfect obedience - something you cannot do. But you will also hear how to obey God’s law better.

Our headings are:

Your obedience to God’s law is imperfect

How are you able to obey God more perfectly?

Our goals are: That you will see and be thankful that Christ obeyed God’s law for you so you get the credit, and that you strive 力图 to obey God’s law as you regularly hear faithful exposition of his law.

Your Obedience to God’s Law is Imperfect

114 Q. BUT CAN THOSE CONVERTED TO GOD OBEY THESE COMMANDMENTS PERFECTLY? A. No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience. Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God’s commandments.

1. As Creator of mankind, God gave 10 laws that all men throughout all ages are bound to obey.

His laws are incontrovertible 不容置疑 and cannot change.

Matthew 5: 48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

These 10 laws are holy because they come from a holy God. These laws reflect God’s nature.

2. But because of man’s fall into sin it is impossible for him to reach this perfect obedience. All men since Adam are guilty law-breakers before God. God could not accommodate 迁就 man by reducing his standard of holy demand. If God reduced his standard he would not be God.

3. But is it really true that man is unable to keep God’s law? Yes. You are not able to keep any of God’s law. If you break 1 law you are guilty of breaking all 10. God’s law come as a covenant

package, not as piecemeal 零碎. And if you look carefully, you will see that even so-called innocent children are unable to keep God's law.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For **there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.**

Romans 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; **There is none who does good, no, not one.** 13 **"Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips 他们嘴里有毒的毒";** 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

It is easier for a man to touch the stars or span the oceans than for a man to obey God.

This is why Islamic and other religious teaching which argue that you can meet the demand of God is so dangerous. This is why the Devil loves their teaching. The teaching of these false religions gives people comfort in their sins...making them think that their sins are less offensive to God, so they see no need to repent. Or if they do break God's law, they teach that the consequences for law breaking are relatively minor. This is a most deceptive 欺骗性的 act on the Devil's part. He makes people feel good, even in sin. Isn't he rightly called the Sneaky Snake.

4. Even Christians, born again believers, cannot keep God's law perfectly.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. **15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.**

1John 1:8 **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.** 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar,** and His word is not in us.

The Apostles Paul and John were speaking to Christian churches – and they both bluntly 坦率地 stated that Christians were unable to keep the law. They included their holy selves in the category of sinners. **Born again Christians are unable to keep the law because their motives are not perfectly pure.** You might obey a law but not purely for the glory of Christ and not purely from faith in Christ. Born again **Christians have other desires that crowd out their desire to keep the laws of God.** There are only glimmers 闪现 of obedience to God's laws in the life of Christians.

6. Because you are sinful, you must reject perfectionism that some Christians believe and teach. Paul, James, and John testified to their less than perfect lives and the impossibility of perfection.

Philippians 3:12 **Not that I have already attained or am already perfected;** but I

press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me这并不是说我已经得着了, 已经完全了, 而是竭力追求, 好使我可以得着基督耶稣要我得着的

James 3: 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body 也能够控制全身.

1 John 3: 1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed 赐给 on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.** **3** And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

How then are you able to Obey the Law more perfectly

115 Q. NO ONE IN THIS LIFE CAN OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PERFECTLY: WHY THEN DOES GOD WANT THEM PREACHED SO POINTEDLY? A. First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to **know our sinfulness and the more eagerly look to Christ for forgiveness** of sins and righteousness. Second, so that, while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, **we may never stop striving to be renewed** more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.

1. In order for you to obey God's law more perfectly as a Christian and to improve from that glimmer of obedience, God wants his Word to be preached frankly and regularly. He does not promise you "prophetic ecstasies," dreams, visions, visiting angels, or signs in the sky. What is the result when God's law is preached pointedly?

2. When God's Word is preached pointedly 深至最内心的 - without watering it down - you will better see your sinful nature—the source of your problems.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God 使全世界的人都伏在神的审判之下.

When you see your sinful nature you will strive to obey your Covenant Keeper. You can say that the law is a school master to teach you the way back to God.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness 贪心 unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." **22** **For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.** **23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am 我这个人真是苦啊 Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** I thank God—**through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God,** but with the flesh the law of sin.

When you see your sins you will not despair for life, but you will flee to the Lord for forgiveness. So when President Obama said that the Bible is blueprint to for social justice, and that Jesus came

to teach us the way of social justice, tell him: Mr. President you are wrong. You are bearing false witness. Jesus wasn't seeking social justice for all mankind. He was seeking spiritual reconciliation through the shedding of his blood. And you only see the need for spiritual reconciliation when you look at God's law. May his pastor preach this!

3. When God's Word is preached pointedly you become more aware of your duties. You will no

longer be ignorant of God's demands. Ignorance leads to death. If someone properly understood "honor your father and your mother" then he wouldn't let his children get away with disrespect or disobedience. If someone understood "you shall not take the name of the Lord in vain" he will not swear when someone says "swear that you will pick me up at 9." So desire knowledge of God's law more that you desire \$1,000,000.00.

4. When you hear God's law pointedly preached it humbles you. The man who brags 吹牛 of

perfection is humbled. The demands of God's law overwhelm you and make you look to him for help. You realize your obedience is like paddling against a hurricane 飓风. The humble man will then look for the Savior's help for daily sustenance. The humble man will submit to God's law.

5. When you hear God's law pointedly preached it leads you to love God and love your neighbor.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Romans 13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up 包括在 in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10 Love does no harm to a neighbor;** therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

This will be Christ's work – he will restore man's ability to keep his law by changing his heart.

Jeremiah 31:33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, **and write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

And love is fulfillment of the law.

6. When you hear the God's law pointedly preached you will be thankful that Christ obeyed for

you and you will then obey him better. Remember God's encouraging Word, dear Christians.

Psalm 1: 1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful 不坐讥笑的人的座位; 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Conclusion:

No Christian man, woman, boy, or girl, no matter how humble or holy is able to keep the law of God. No one can keep God's law in thought, word, or action, not even a born again Christian. You see, if you break one law, you are guilty of breaking all the others 全部其余的. God says so. You see, the commands come as a whole, not as 10 different laws, and you must obey them as a whole 整全. But man is too sinful to keep

God's law perfectly. And even when an act of obeying a law is outwardly good, the heart is never 100% in good spiritual position with the Lord to make it acceptable.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Think about the godliest men in the Bible how they sinned against God: Adam rebelled, Abraham endangered his wife, Moses murdered, Aaron led Israel into idolatry. David committed adultery, murdered, and failed to train his children, Solomon married many wives and worshipped idols 偶像, Peter denied Jesus, and Paul had more sins than he wanted to list. What's the point in all this? Given the fact that Christian sin in heinous 可憎的 ways, you need to daily **claim the righteousness of Christ – your covenant keeper.** And **rejoice and be glad that God counts his Son's righteousness.** **And listen to sound preaching,** not preaching that will tickle your ears. Listen to it. Learn from it. Let others know about it. Love it. **And ask for help to obey God's law better.**

Finally, if you are honest, you have to confess that you have sinned in thought, word, and action. You deceive yourself if you think you are not sinning every day. Self-deception 自欺 will destroy you. Ask Christ to set you free from all your sins. He obeyed all of God's laws for those who would choose him and he took the punishment that belonged to them.