



**James 2:10-13 Pt 2: Walking in the Law of Liberty**  
**Living Out a Christian Vision!**  
July 5, 2015

**Text: James 2:10-13**

**Reminders:**

1. Last week, we learned that, essentially, the Law of Liberty is the “law of love.”
  - James references the Ten Commandments, but also implies a judgment for Christians--his primary audience. This couldn't be for salvation, but must be for rewards.
  - Remember, the believer is not under the law, but **grace**. (Eph 2:8; Rom 6:14)
  - However, the Law's moral principles are repeated in the New Testament and are forever binding. Adultery is still wrong, as is murder, stealing, lying, idolatry, dishonoring parents, etc.
  - The difference is that believers don't strive to keep the Moral Law for **justification**; we are justified by grace and can therefore love one another biblically!
  - Christ has paid our penalty; the Moral Law for us is no longer about condemnation, or is the “ministry of death.” (2 Cor 3:7)
  - **In other words, the Law of Christ is to love one another; the Law of God (the Ten Commandments) gives us a basic, holy framework on how to do that.**
  - Friends, much of the fighting we do over grace vs. law or Old versus New Testament is unnecessary. Take biblical truths as is:
    - ✓ The Old has been superseded by the New...
    - ✓ Yet the moral standards remain!
    - ✓ We are saved by grace alone...
    - ✓ But are still called to walk in righteousness!
    - ✓ When we fail we are not condemned...
    - ✓ Yet we are still exhorted to “do” and not just “hear!”
    - ✓ We are commanded to love God and one another...
    - ✓ But that love must be tethered to Scripture; it must be “lawful.”
2. This leads me to conclude that both the Ten Commandments (the Law of God) and the command to love (the Law of Christ) is applicable.
3. **The Law of Liberty is “The Law of Love”, governed by the holiness of God Himself, who is love. In Christ, we are now free from the bondage of sin to love God and each other according to God's own standards.**
4. It is God's grace in Christ, His granting us freedom from sin through Jesus' sacrifice (otherwise known as **Liberty**), which enables us to walk in holiness!

**Digging a Bit Deeper: The “From-->To” Principle**

1. In order to walk in the Law of Liberty, or the law of love, the Christian must constantly be reminded that by God's grace in Christ, we have been set **free** from the power of sin, death, and hell!
2. Not only that, but we've been set free FROM these things TO something else!
3. Our freedom from sin-bondage by Christ blood produces a life lived FOR Someone else...a life lived TO that someone's **glory**!
4. It's not JUST that we are free to NOT die; we are free TO LIVE lives that please our Savior!
  - **Rom 6:4 ESV** *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*
  - **Rom 6:12-14 ESV** *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.*

*(13) Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. (14) For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

- *Rom 6:17-19 ESV Thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, (18) and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (19) I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.*
- *Col 3:3-6 ESV For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (5) Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (6) On account of these the wrath of God is coming.*
- *Gal 2:20 ESV I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
- *Gal 5:13-14 ESV For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (14) For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*
- *1Pe 4:1-5 ESV Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, (2) so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (3) For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. (4) With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; (5) but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

5. These passages, and many more, illustrate that because of what Christ has DONE (indicative), we are free to DO something wonderful with our lives (imperative).
6. This mindset is James' point thus far in this epistle; for the saved to act **saved**; for the redeemed to demonstrate **redemption**; for the free to not use their liberty for sin, but for **righteousness**!
7. To walk in the Law of Liberty is to understand that we can! To live out a Christian vision (a life pleasing to the Savior) one must first embrace that He calls us to do so!
8. This isn't moralism or perfectionism; this is an exhortation to respond lovingly to a God who has proven His love for us!
9. Oh, the glory of the cross! The honor that He alone is due! The majesty of our King! The mercy of God in Christ! The overwhelming, life-altering, perspective-shifting, there-is-no-way-you-should-ever-be-the-same nature of the Gospel! ☺
10. How can we NOT walk in the law of love and NOT attempt, by His grace, to live out godly lives?

### **So what does this "walk" and "living out" look like, Bishop?**

Glad you asked. Here are three beautiful pictures of the life I'm talking about from the Scriptures:

*Act 2:40-47 ESV With many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." (41) So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the*

breaking of bread and the prayers. (43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common. (45) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (46) And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**Rom 12:9-21 ESV** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (10) Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (11) Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (12) Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (13) Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. (15) Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (16) Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. (17) Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. (18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (19) Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." (20) To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." (21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Col 3:8-25 ESV** Now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices (10) and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (11) Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. (12) Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (13) bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (14) And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (15) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (17) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (18) Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (19) Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. (20) Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. (21) Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (22) Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (23) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (25) For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

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Saints, the world has gone stark, raving crazy--even the church. We've lost marriage. We've lost the definition of true, biblical love. We've lost two generations of children. We've lost worldview. Every sphere and area of life suffers from the loss of the fear of the Lord. Very large denominations have proven themselves to be reprobate. I take NO JOY in saying this, and neither should you. It's just the truth.

**And yet a remnant remains!**

Dear loved ones, LET US HOLD A STANDARD! LET US KEEP MARCHING ON THE BLACK GATES! **Let us preach the Gospel and make disciples. Let us also build strong Christian communities that we might be a light in a very dark land.**

**Now is not the time to quit. Now is the time to step outward...forward...boldly and in love.**

CRCC, walk in **hope** and **holiness**, and be *"prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."* (1 Pet 3:15)

Also this week, please read this for hope and encouragement:

[www.crcchesapeake.org/bishops-blog/2015/6/communities-versus-culture-some-hope-for-revival](http://www.crcchesapeake.org/bishops-blog/2015/6/communities-versus-culture-some-hope-for-revival)

And next Sunday, each of you will receive our new, CRCC Tract: *Imagine: Hope in a World of Hurt*, and some copies to give away. 😊

**Lord, please help us to live out the vision you've given us in your Word, especially now. In Jesus' Name...**

**Amen.**

