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The Immutable Laws of God

There are two natures of man: The "created nature," and the "Breathed-into nature." "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Gen. 2:7. God is the creator of our bodies and is the giver and Father of our spirits. The two natures blinded together, we call, "Life". In the course of time when these two natures separate, we call, "Death." "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Eccl. 12:7

From these two statements, we as human beings, can conclude that we are citizens of two worlds. We are linked with the natural world no one will deny. To those who are thoughtful or concerned, are partakers of the divine nature.

For the government and control of man in this dual nature two systems are necessary. One system adopted to the material relationship; the other system to the spiritual relationship. The laws of nature and laws of the spirit are not antagonistic to each other but operate in different fields. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Rom. 8:7. The reverse of this is equally true.

Assuming that most people or at least a large portion believe in the existence of God and that he is the same God that gave and governs the natural things as well as the spiritual and is the author of the Bible, the book of revelation, the guide for mankind.

Since man is governed by two laws, one of nature and one of spiritual; these questions are posed for your study and consideration. Does God have greater consideration and greater respect for natural laws or those with reference to our eternal destiny? What part of man does God look upon with the greatest interest, that part created of the dust or that part which is akin to him? Is He more interested in the body which He framed than in the spirit He has given us?

These two laws are quite distinct: the one from the other, Nature and Spirit. In the natural world man does not need God nor does he deserve special help therefrom. Man has learned to adjust himself to the laws of nature, as far as his ability and intelligence has let him progress. All the progress of our so called

civilization is only the discovery of God's spiritual law has not a thing to do with the material things of the earth, not that God could not have related them; He did not see fit in His infinite wisdom to do so. God could have answered thousands of questions that man has laboured years to find, but the Bible, the book of revelation, is to the part of man that is spiritual, eternal and that lives forever.

Concerning the natural laws, anyone that disregards and disrespects them always meets with defeat and no one has ever lived to prove an exception of this law.

This is just as true in regard to the spiritual natures. Disregard of God's spiritual laws has universally brought defeat to those who violate it. This fact can be, and is, proven by God's word, from the first pair in the paradise of Eden sixty centuries or more ago down through to the present. Adam and Eve violated God's law and thus the penalty of death was passed. Cain did not worship God by Faith and Defeat, disgrace, and punishment resulted. Abraham and Sarah attempted their own "ways and means committee," to assist God in his plan for the child of promise but were defeated.

In the opposite, you can look from the first of the book of Genesis through the sixty-six books of the Bible and not one exception can be found where man has been condemned or punished, except in violation or disregard of God's law. No man has ever been blessed except as a result of obedience to God's law. His laws in the spiritual realm are just as dependable, reliable, and as absolute as they are in the physical world. Another thought on this line is that God's immutable law, both in Grace and Nature are fixed - like produces like - everything brings forth after it's own kind. God repeated this nine times in Gen. 1. And all those in the world who have labored so hard to refute this law has met with utter failure. Hear the wise man Solomon, "The man that turneth away his ear from hearing God's law, even that man's prayers shall be an abomination unto God." God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35) so all of His creation is subject to His laws. All life is circumscribed and bounded by law.

As God is the author of spiritual and eternal life, where did God locate it?

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It Hurts

It hurts this writer to have to say the following, but it must be said if Christians stand distinct as Christians. The writer does not want to be a proverbial faultfinder or even an occasional one, but there are times when Christians must speak out. It has always been the writer's desire to replace problems with solutions, but he must humbly admit, at present, he has no absolute solution and this hurts him. He does not want to hurt anyone, the church does not want to hurt anyone, nor does the loving Father want to hurt anyone; but at the same time, the writer does not want to be hurt, the church does not want to be hurt, and God does not want to be hurt.

If one presumptuously sins he brings anathema to his soul, shame to the church, trods under foot the son of God; counts the blood of the covenant an unholy thing and does despite unto the Spirit of Grace. (Heb. 10:26-31)

Every year about this time many schools systems across the land, by the influence of worldly minded people, arrange for the juniors and seniors of the respectable high schools what is commonly called a prom. A prom is a dance. To get right to the point, the dance appeals to the sexual impulses of our youth and is the beginning of a tragic end. Dr. E. S. Sonners said, "I charge that modern social dancing is based on sex appeal. The basic spell of the dance is the spell of illicit physical contact." There is an old saying that is certainly true: "An ounce of preventions is worth a pound of cure." Mothers and fathers need to wake up to the permissiveness of the present worldly minded young people. To dance at the prom, or wherever, is to hurt "your" writer, but more than that it brings shame and disgrace upon the church purchased by the blood of Jesus, and also it places one's soul in eternal jeopardy. So, if one dances, he hurts this writer, the church, God and himself.

Further, one can never know the eternal damage he or she is doing to the dancing partner and any or all who might be there watching or participating. One influences others by his very presence. Question: Will that influence be for the eternal good of that person's soul or will it be for the eternal ruin of that person's soul?

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**Has My Daddy
Gone to Heaven**

Several years ago one of the ladies of a certain congregation came to the preacher with grief over the husband of a lifelong friend who was closer than a sister to her. The man was young, in his early thirties, and was killed in an accident, leaving his wife and daughter.

Because of the distraught and shocked condition of the young widow who was unable to attend the funeral, it fell the lot of the lady to take the 8-year-old daughter to see the body of her father at the funeral and to accompany her to the funeral service. The little girl kept asking, "Did my Daddy go to heaven? He never did go to worship with us." No answer given her seemed to satisfy. They explained that we cannot judge or say whether people have gone to heaven or not. But, before long, the little girl would be heard asking the same question of other members of the family.

Deep down in her innocent heart was the gnawing realization that her daddy's life had not been lived so that those who gave hope at death would take away its awful sting.

Will you think of the above article and ask yourself, "What would my children think if I should die?" Is your life dedicated to those things that give hope of life in heaven? Do you worship with your family? Do you pray with your family? Are you a christian? Do you serve God in a faithful manner?

Deep in your heart, you know whether God is well pleased with your life. IS HE?

— Borrowed —

IT HURTS (Con't.)

Surely, any honest person can understand from the above that dancing at the prom, etc., is sinful. However, many may not understand the above, so, the following viewpoint from the Bible is submitted.

1. A Christian is to "not do anything whereby thy brother stumbleth" (Rom. 14:21). Only Hell will manifest the influence of a dancing Christian.

2. A Christian is to "deny ungodliness and worldly lust" (Titus 2:12) Ungodliness and worldly lust are found in the dance.

3. A Christian is to "abstain from the very appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22). All that is connected with the dance is innately evil. "Evil companionships corrupt good morals" (I Cor. 15:33).

4. A Christian is to "Glorify God in his body" (I Cor. 6:20). The dance does not bring glory but shame to God.

5. A Christian is to "think on pure things" (Philp. 4:8). The dancer who can restrain his thoughts is made out of stone or is not psychologically responsible. This is extremely so for the male.

6. A Christian is not to engage in indecent bodily movements or unchaste handling of males and females. "Laseiviousness" (Gal. 5:19) is define as, "filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females" (Thayer's Lexicon, p. 79).

7. A Christian committs sin to dance. "Revellings" (Gal. 5:21) is define as, "a jovial feast with music and dancing" (Liddel and Scott Greek Lexicon). Paul says, "they who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God".

8. A Christian is not to committ "and such like" (Gal. 5:21a). If dancing, in explicit terms, is not condemned in the above terms, it certainly is condemned, implicitly, in these terms: "and such like."

Young people, Christians, it is not that this writer wants to hurt anyone by discouraging him from participating in the prom. The writer wants to keep youth from hurting him, others, Christ's church, God and youth themselves. The writer suggests that the parents of teenagers who plan to attend the prom have a first class party, invite dates and have a wonderful, wholesome time — a time that no one will ever regret, all for the kids. Parents HEED THE WARNING!! "If you don't want your teenagers hurt, then please do something constructive to help them." May God help his people to make the right decision.

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"BUSYBODIES"

"For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busy bodies", 2 Thess. 3:11.

"And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not" 1 Timothy 5:13.

(or as an evil doer)

"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as a busybody in other men's matters", 1 Peter 4:15.

Please note in 1 Peter, the busybody is classed with the "thief, evil doer and murderer", not very good company is it?

When the Lord established His church, there were elders ordained in each congregation (Acts 14:23), these were to be the "overseers" of that congregation only! They were to have no authority in any other congregation! They under God, according to the New Testament, are to govern all the affairs of the congregation over which they are bishops. The Lord knew that if the different congregations werenot tied together with a super bishop that if one went into error it would not influence another!

Therefore what happens in a local congregation is the affairs of said congregation only and no one else! As long as the elders of the local congregation understand this and fully oversee the work, the church grows and pleases God. In the 15 chapter of Acts, there were busybodies in the church, who came from Jerusalem to "Meddle" in the affairs of another congregation. The apostles had to issue laws governing such.

No person has any business meddling in the affairs of another congregation where he does not worship. He has no right to be a tattler any where, much less in another congregation! He has no business being an evil doer any where, much less in another congregation! He has no right to be a busybody any where, much less in another congregation! Any person whether preacher, elder, or just a member, if he will... work in his home congregation and tend to his own business he will not be "idle" enough to carry tales to other churches. It is time that all elders every where told these busybodies to take care of their own business, take their tattling, trouble making and evil doing some where else, that they are responsible for the congregation which they oversee. When this is done "The churches will have rest", Acts 9:31, and not before!

Pray Without Ceasing

Lewis Maiden

The prayer of the Christian is a privilege and a tremendous force for good. Paul acknowledges this fact in asking the Thessalonians to "pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:7). Paul and Silas had been shamefully treated at Thessalonica, and even after their departure persecutions against the church continued. Paul hastened to write them in order to establish them in the faith. Among other gems of admonition he urged them to "pray without ceasing." The surest way to "rejoice evermore" (verse 16) is to pray without ceasing (verse 17). We should keep in a mind of prayer at all time, and keep up stated seasons of prayer.

Prayer is the pulsation of the soul. Through it is not expressed in words, it is always in the souls as the pulse is in our veins day and night whether we wake or sleep. Thus we keep constant hold upon God, for in prayers we speak to him as child to parent.

"Pray without ceasing" was explained by a young Christian mother. "When I first wake in the morning I pray for the Lord to open the eyes of my understanding. When I am dressing, I asked to be clothed with robes of righteousness. As I wash, I ask for the washing of regeneration. Beginning my daily work, I pray for strength to equal to the day. While preparing breakfast, I desire to be fed with hidden manna and the milk of the word. When busy with my children, I pray to be a child of God. Everything I do furnishes me with a thought of prayer."

Unceasing prayer is the proper expression of the Christian heart. The tibetan Buddhists hang prayer wheels in the wind and continue their work. Their prayers are being continually offered as the wheels turn in the breeze. This principal Christians might emulate. Although a bird is not always in flight, it has its wings in readiness.

The numerous examples of prayer in the Bible show its power. Christians should pray for each other, because wonderful things have resulted from prayer. The prayers of the church released Peter from prison. (Act 12:5,7-9)

Prayer can obtain good for the Christian. It opened the iron gates of prisons, and closed the mouths of hungry lions. It quenched the violence of the furnace of fire, and from heaven brought fire to consume an offering. It has opened the gates of heaven and closed the gates of hell. Prayer put a holy restraint upon God, and detained an angel until he left a blessing. It opened the treasures of rain, and softened the ribs of the rocks till

Can God Depend On You In '72?

God is indeed depending on you. However, you are far more dependent upon God! There is nothing as dark and terrible as to be without God. (Eph. 2:12; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.) The hope of heaven is the sweetest and dearest hope ever entertained by man. If heaven is worth anything, it is worth everything. The life beyond the grave is a reality. (John 14:1-4) The nearer we approach the end of life, the more worthless are the theories of men with their suppositions and speculations. We urge us all to take our stand on the Bible.

GOD NEEDS FAITHFUL SERVANTS

God needs servants who are willing to serve in any capacity. The man who is not above doing a simple ordinary task well and with a good attitude is a man of real character. It was just as necessary that the man with one talent use his talent as it was that the man with five talents use his. It was just as necessary that the one talent man use his ability as it was for the five talent man to use his ability. The responsibility to use what he had was as necessary for one as the other. The failure of the one talent man was due to his failure to use what he had. Every Christian needs to learn the lesson of making his life count for Christ.

WHOLEHEARTED DEDICATION NECESSARY

It is essential that there be a wholehearted dedication to the high and noble purposes of truth is our Christian lives are to count for the most. Paul learned and practiced wholehearted dedication. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me." (Gal. 2:20.) He also triumphantly declared, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21.) The life of our Lord and his dedication to truth show the application of this truth to the perfect degree: "To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."

they melted into a flowing river for the thirsting people. Prayer arrested the sun in his course, and gave righteous Joshua the victory. The sum total is expressed by James: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16.)

God's Five Spiritual Laws To Become a Christian

LAW NO. 1

One must hear the word of God. (Rom. 10:17). One does not become a Christian because he achieves some sentimental feeling or merely has a desire to find God. Only the word of God is the seed of the Kingdom — the begetting power. God's way (law) to become a Christian does not vary from church to church, nor is it determined by the whims of man, but His revealed way is binding upon all who would become His children. (Acts 10:34, 35)

LAW NO. 2

You must believe in God and in Jesus as the Son of God. (Heb. 11:6; Acts 16:31). The existence of God may be reasoned by logic. (Hebrews 3:4). His power may be observed in nature. (Rom. 1:20). But He is revealed in the Scripture. The Bible written by the Holy Spirit, reveals Jesus and declares Him to be the Son of God. (1 Cor. 12:3). The same testimony of the Scripture which reveals Jesus reveals sin — its nature, its curse, and its cure. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:22).

LAW NO. 3

You must repent of your sins. (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30, etc.) The heart that loves God strives to hate sin, and in search of deliverance turns from his sin(s). A change life will follow the change of heart accomplished in repentance.

LAW NO. 4

You must confess your faith in Jesus. (Matt. 10:32; 1 John 4:15) This is a confession of life that accompanies the Christian the remainder of his life. It is initiated by a confession with the mouth to the Sonship and Lordship of Jesus. (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37).

LAW NO. 5

You must be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 1:3; 1 Peter 3:21). This baptism is a "burial" in water. (Romans 6:9) Inasmuch as it is the completing act of man's response to God's offer to be saved (Mk. 16:16), he who obeys it is saved and automatically added to God's church. (Romans 6:14; Acts 2:47).

These laws have no merit in and of themselves. They are meaningful only because of the grace of God and of the love and blood of Jesus. They are not works of merit, but a work of faith; not works of man, but a work of God. (Titus 3:5).

You and Today's Teenager

Teen agers are a fact of life. They are here to stay. They can be the most exasperating, disconcerting, frustrating, trying individuals on earth. But, they can also be the most wonderful, precious and loving persons at the same time. Rumor has it that even though they may not remember it, all parents used to be teen agers at one time!!

Today's so called "generation gap" is nothing new essentially. The gap, in one form or another, has always existed. Parents have always criticized the younger generation and the younger generation has always strained for recognition and self expression, to the exasperation and concern of their elders. There are a few things however in our own times that have accentuated the differences and have added to a new element to the problem.

First, our young people today have more leisure time than most of us had when we were young. Most of them don't have to work as hard, not having the time consuming chores and responsibilities that were often laid upon our shoulders thirty or forty years ago. The excess of leisure hours is thus a detriment at times when not properly channeled to constructive purposes. An overabundance of physical energy and strong developing emotions must find an outlet: This is where the dangers and pitfalls begin to present themselves. But, let us keep in mind at all times the unalterable fact that this is not primarily the teen ager's fault!

Second, the average teen ager from the average middle class home today has a lot more money in his pocket than did the teen of yester years. Many of us used to have to work hard all week and struggle for a little change to be used for recreation on Saturday night. We grew up realizing that "money doesn't grow on trees" for if it had, we surely would have found it. The money didn't come easy and sometimes it didn't come at all. This is why some teens in this day and time are cynical about the "system". This is why some of them preach to us about being "materialistic". They never had to scratch for a dime and they don't savvy. But again, it is not primarily their fault.

In the third place, a moral revolution has been taking place in religious, educational and philosophical circles for many years that has as its basis the premise that man is no more than a highly educated and developed animal. As this "new" philosophy has grown it has permeated our society, infiltrated our schools and even had a strong influence on national leaders. Our entertainment media and advertising has sold out to the lust of the flesh and the baser emotions

of man. Uncleaness and sexual perversion is the order of the day. Permissiveness in every area goes unchallenged and unchecked. With a few years of this kind of teaching which encourages the renunciation and overthrow of established values, such as faith in God and belief of the Bible as His inspired word, it is no wonder that the threat of political revolution is the most popular idea going on many campuses. It is immoral to defend the freedom of South Viet Nam, but it is a highly moral act to employ violence and profanity in the disruption of our courts! It is wrong to invest one's capital and work for a fair profit but it is right to plan to blow up Washington, D.C. How far can such insanity go until it reaches the end point? And in the meantime, what effect is it having on our children who are exposed to its siren call day and night, week after week and month after month? If such had been the case in our own day, would we have fared any better?

In view of the terrible pressures exerted today upon our youth and the almost hostile environment about them, it would seem to this writer that we could take a new look at the situation and be a bit less critical and derogatory and somewhat more sympathetic and understanding. Perhaps in our self righteous stance we are more rigid than we have right to be. Why can we not show a little compassion and attempt at least to "sit where they sit" and try to look at things through their eyes? We must, above all, try to set an example of sincerity before them and act like Christians that we profess to be so that they will desire to emulate our conduct and follow our advice so freely given. Let us not be small and mean and petty before them. If we expect our children to look up to us, then we must make sure that we stand tall so they can! May God bless us and ours.

W.P. Jolly

LAWS OF GOD (Con't.)

There are only two places. It is either in the devil's kingdom or in God's Kingdom. The answer of course is in the family of God, in heavens family, the church of the first born. Yet there are people that say, "I don't think you have to become a member of God's church in order to enjoy spiritual life." If that be true, the laws of God have been rendered mutable. The Christian, without fear of successful contradiction from any source believes that spiritual like and eternal life are found only in the family and in the Kingdom of God, not in the kingdom of the devil. If we of the human race ever expect to be partakers of the kingdom of God, we will do so by conforming to God's law and will be added to his kingdom.

Someone may say, "I thought we were saved by grace and not by law." We are saved by grace which is extended to all by the mercy of God. Eph. 2:8 "By grace are ye saved through faith." That is the law by which we are saved, is a law that acts through the system we call faith. Can anyone be saved without faith? "Without faith it is impossible to please God" Heb. 11:6. Also in Rom. 5:21 we find, that grace reigns, runs or rules, through righteousness. Since grace is free and the gift of God and reigns through righteousness, what is righteousness? "All thy (God's) commandments are righteousness." Psm. 119:172.

What is the purpose of the law of the spirit? To free humanity from the law of sin and eternal death. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death? Rom. 8:2

Isn't it strange that mankind, made in the image of God, given the power to think, to reason; will obey the laws of nature, respect them knowing they will pass away with all temporal things, but does not have the will, courage, nor intelligence to obey God's spiritual law to save his soul, the eternal part of man from everlasting punishment in the place called Hell.

Jason Frizzell
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