

Fueling Station 7:
The Law of Christ



“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:1-2

The Law of Christ is clearly accountability to each other as members of the body of Christ. We have a entire generation of Christians that play the “don’t judge me” card and your a “hypocrite” card all the time without any understanding about the law of Christ. Without the understanding of the “race to the kingdom”, and only an understanding that Christ died for us to forgive us and take us to heaven, it is no wonder this has happened. The list of sins to the Galatians in chapter 5 and the instruction to not use our “freedom” in Christ as an opportunity for the flesh helps us define what a brother caught in “any” transgression mean. The way in which we “bear one another’s burdens” is clearly to try and restore a brother back to Gods will. The hope of restoration is to help one another to prepare for the judgment of God:

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Galatians 6:7-10 ESV

*We were just told the “the good” we should do, “bearing one another’s burdens”.

supporting sin:

“And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,”

Luke 17:1-3 ESV

“Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

Romans 1:32 ESV

“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”

Ephesians 5:11 ESV

*Accountability is key to fulfilling the law of Christ!

How to treat a brother refusing to repent:

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?”

1 Corinthians 5:1-12 ESV

*The theme of separation is undeniable for members of the body of Christ refusing to repent an unleavened life.

“Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

2Thessalonians 3:6

“If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.”

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 ESV

Am I my brother's keeper:?

“Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?””

Genesis 4:9 ESV

““If your brother sins , go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

Matthew 18:15-17 NASB1995

*Are we our brothers keeper? YES!!!

We are to judge every word:

““Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Matthew 7:15-23 ESV

*Protecting ourselves and one another from false teaching is also a key to judging one another.

“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”
Acts 17:11 ESV

“The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”
John 12:48 ESV

*The very reason why God gave us His written word was for the purpose of holding each other to Gods standard!

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”
Matthew 7:21 ESV

*If we care about the final destination of a brother in the last day, we better help to judge one another!

This is the duty of every Brother not just the Clergy and not just once a week in a building called “church”:

(that would be like saying all the commands and the warnings to the church are only for when you are gathered together in fellowship not when you're at home alone or in your every day life!)

“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:”
1 Corinthians 1:2 ESV

“Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”
Galatians 1:1-5 ESV

*Paul wrote to every church member not just to elders, bishops, or deacons!

Every brother will be judged individually not as a corporate church only.

“Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.”

Revelation 3:4-5 ESV

What's the cost of following Christ?

““If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?”

Luke 14:26-28 ESV

“While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.””

Matthew 12:46, 48-50 ESV

““I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.””

Luke 12:49-53 ESV

*Never did it make sense to Christs teachings or the Scriptures that this was a division between people going to heaven or hell for all eternity. This warning can be understood in all of the warnings to Gods people throughout the Bible, a separation from Gods blessing of future inheritance to rule a reign in the age to come!

What not to judge a member of the body of Christ for:

“Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.”

Romans 14:1-4 NASB1995

*I cannot tell you how often this verse has been taken out of context to be used as a “don’t judge” me trump card. I highlighted in bold the most important phrase that sets up Pauls whole argument in this chapter. We are not to judge matters of “ritual” opinion in the way someone

wants to “worship” God! Everything listed as a reference for this is superficial and not the consistent lists of sin given to the church as being offensive to God!

“For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God. Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.”

1 Corinthians 4:4-6 NASB1995

*Again I’ve only highlighted in bold the key point that Paul is making to the church. We are not the judge the hidden things of the heart but only the visible sins that violated “what is written”!

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say. Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.”

1 Corinthians 10:12-15, 31-33 NASB1995

*The context of this entire chapter is the wilderness wondering of the Israelites that didn’t please God so He had to bring judgment upon them. Pauls next point is that God is faithful never to give you more than you can handle or be tempted beyond your ability. Why? Because that would allow for the law of accountability in the final judgment. Paul then goes on to say that he and we should not give offense in matters of food or drink. Think about it, its hard enough dealing with actual sins, let alone silly food restrictions that have no power over the flesh. Pauls final point is extremely important not to take out of context, the “church” and the “beloved” are still trying to be “saved”. If you have followed “race to the kingdom” at all, you will know that a once saved person is racing for the glorified inheritance called salvation in the coming age. So once again this makes perfect sense to Pauls argument about the Israelites trying to make it to the promise land!

Questions for contemplation:

1. How often have you been accused of being judgmental? Is there a difference between judging rightly and being judgmental?
2. How would you rightly divide this verse understanding the law of Christ now:

“Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

Matthew 7:1-5 NASB1995

3. Have you every wondered how we could fulfill certain passages of scripture without judging?

In what way? Use this example:

“My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

James 5:19-20 NASB1995

4. Can we even define what it truly means to love our neighbor as our selves without trying to help one another out of sin? Explain.

“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Romans 13:8-10 NASB1995

*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!