

# Keeping the Commandments of God

**TEXT: 1 Corinthians 7:19**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. THE IDEA OF "COMMANDMENT KEEPING" IS NOT POPULAR.
  - 1. Some equate it with what they call "legalism" or "patternism."
  - 2. Others look at keeping any kind of commandment as an unpleasant task.
    - a. Perhaps a carry-over from childhood where they were constantly told what to do.
    - b. The commands of God are not what they want.
- B. OBEYING GOD SHOULDN'T BE LOOKED UPON THIS WAY( **1 Cor. 7:19** ).
- C. WE NEED TO CONSIDER SOME THINGS ABOUT OBEDIENCE THAT WILL CHANGE ANY ADVERSE FEELINGS WE MAY HAVE.

## **I. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE?**

- A. IT SHOULD NOT BE ONE OF "**LEGALISM**."
  - 1. Legalism is that idea that one earns or merits salvation by their obedience.
  - 2. Such an attitude would be wrong on the part of Christians( **Titus 3:3-7** ).
  - 3. Unfortunately, many equate legalism with simply adhering to the pattern.
  - 4. Yet Paul penned the words of our text! Was he a legalist? Then I am, too.
- B. THINK OF IT AS **FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE**.
  - 1. Compare **1 Cor. 7:19** with **Gal. 5:6**.
  - 2. Isn't keeping the commandments of God "**faith working through love**"?
    - a. Keeping the commandments I **demonstrate my FAITH**( **Jas. 2:14-18** ).
    - b. By keeping the commandments I **show my LOVE**:
      - 1) To Jesus( **John 14:15; 15:14** ).
      - 2) To God( **1 John 5:3** ).
      - 3) To the children of God( **1 John 5:2** ).
  - 3. Suddenly, keeping the commandments of God is very important!
- C. THINK OF IT AS **PRODUCING "A NEW CREATION"**.
  - 1. Compare **1 Cor. 7:19** with **Gal. 6:15**.
  - 2. Isn't obeying God **helping to produce a "new creation"**?
    - a. Becoming a new creation we enjoy by being in Christ( **2 Cor. 5:17** ).
    - b. But to enjoy this blessing involves keeping certain commandments...
      - 1) For example, baptism to receive Christ( **Gal. 3:27** ).
      - 2) Also, putting off and putting on certain qualities to become like Christ( **Col. 3:5-17** ).
  - 3. Keeping the commandments is necessary to become a new creation in Christ.

## **II. IS "COMMANDMENT-KEEPING" A DIFFICULT TASK?**

- A. NOT ACCORDING TO THOSE WHO HAVE DONE IT LONGEST!
  - 1. Like the apostle John( **1 John 5:3** ).
  - 2. David( **Psa. 119:129-136** ).
- B. THE HARDEST PART IS **DECIDING TO DO IT!**
  - 1. There is a cost to serving( **Luke 14:27-30; Matt. 10:34-38** ).
  - 2. **The cost is offset by the reward**( **Matt. 10:39; 16:25-26** ).
  - 3. Laboring over whether to make a decision is often harder than carrying it out.
  - 4. The same is true with keeping the commandments of God (e.g., baptism).

- C. IT IS MADE EASIER FOR US WITH THE HELP OF GOD AND CHRIST!
1. God is on our side as we try to keep His commandments( **Rom. 8:31-39** ).
  2. He is conscious of our struggle( **1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 1:5** ).
  3. He directs and enables( **Phil. 2:12-13; 4:13** ).
  3. Even if we are forsaken by all others, **God is still there!**( **2 Tim. 4:16-18** ).

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. BLESSING FROM GOD AND ASSURANCE OF FAITH IS FOR THOSE WHO LIVE AS THOUGH KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS IS MOST IMPORTANT.
- B. HOW IMPORTANT IS KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS?
1. It is essential to receiving MERCY( **Psa. 103:15-18; Matt. 7:21-23** ).
  2. It is essential to receiving the LOVE & ABIDING PRESENCE of God ( **John 14:21, 23** ).
  3. It is essential to having our PRAYERS ANSWERED( **1 John 3:22** ).
- C. **Matt. 7:21.** ARE YOU KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS?