

8. Commitment

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. (Romans 7:4 NKJV)

In the United States of America we seem to have progressed to a place where every facet of human behavior has a medical diagnosis. Unhealthy thought patterns such as depression and compulsive behavior are the result of a chemical imbalance. Homosexual desires are genetic and therefore accepted as normal. Drug and alcohol addictions are simply a disease. These deductions have caused us to conclude that there is little or nothing we can do about them. Consequently, we must learn to live with them. That being the case, we will be on medication for the rest of our lives or destined to accept our identity as a flawed individual.

On the other hand, we are told by Jesus Christ on the pages of Scripture that we can know the truth and the truth will set us free. And the truth in this case is that we have free will when it comes to what we ingest into our bodies. That being the case to continue in destructive behaviors is sin. ***Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin (James 4:17 NKJV).***

For those of us who have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, we are now in a covenant relationship with Him. This is not a matter to be taken lightly. ***Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God (Romans 7:4 NKJV).***

While in the past we may have excused ourselves and our behavior casually, we can no longer afford to do so. Before we were married to Christ, life dominating sin was wrong. But now if we give control of ourselves over to another, we are committing spiritual adultery! We are called to a higher standard by virtue of this relationship and must make every effort to remain faithful to our husband, the Lord Jesus Christ. Failure to do so may have dire consequences.

8. Commitment

Meditation Passage for the week – Romans 7

Commitment – What does being born again mean?

1. Requirements

- A. Complete understanding (Romans 10:1-2)
- B. Knowledge of Jesus Christ (John 3:14-15)
- C. Faith In Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9)

2. Heartfelt Dedication;

- A. Wholehearted love (Mark 12:30)
- B. Passionate desire (Luke 14:26-27)
- C. Marriage covenant (Romans 7:4)

3. Change of Allegiance

- A. We cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24)
- B. We can no longer be slaves of sin (Romans 6:11-12)
- C. We can no longer live to please men (Galatians 1:10)

4. Glorifying or Pleasing Self

- A. Is easy at first (Matthew 7:13)
- B. Is a prerogative of our free will (Romans 1:24-25)
- C. Will become hard (Proverbs 13:15, Galatians 6:7-9)

5. Glorifying or Pleasing God;

- A. Is hard at first (Matthew 7:13-14)
- B. Is our primary goal (Proverbs 16:7)
- C. Will become easier (Matthew 11:28-30)

Questions for Discussion

- 1. What do we need to have in order to be truly born again?
- 2. What earthly commitment best illustrates our level of commitment to God? How?
- 3. What is meant by the statement, “You cannot serve two masters”?
- 4. What are the results of attempting to please self or other human beings?
- 5. What will be the results of living to please God?