

The Law and the Gospel

John Colquhoun (1815)

Chapter 10c (Lesson 15)

The Believer's Privilege of Being Dead to the Law as a Covenant of Works, with a Highly Important Consequence of it

"Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ...But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive..."-Romans 7:4, 6

-Section 3-The means of becoming dead to the law as a covenant of works

Paul says in Galatians 2:19 *"I through the law am dead to the law"* ...what does this mean?

"The law indeed is not the cause, but it is the occasion of a man's becoming dead to it as a covenant; for it accuses, condemns, and terrifies the awakened sinner, and so it urges him to flee speedily for refuge to Jesus Christ, who is the real cause of one's becoming dead to the law."

The Holy Spirit uses the law to work on the conscience of the awakened sinner to:

1. Be made aware of the infinite _____, justice, and majesty of the Lord

Holiness-*"The law is not only a declaration of the will of God but a transcript of His moral image...he (the awakened sinner) begins to discern the spotless holiness of God."*

Justice-*"Perceiving that God requires nothing but what is just and reasonable and the He prohibits nothing but what is unjust and unreasonable, the sinner now sees that the strictest equity is displayed in all the precepts of the law."*

Majesty-*"The law of the King eternal, immortal, and invisible is a royal law. The greatness and dignity of it deserve that it should be honored with perfect and perpetual obedience."*

2. Be made aware of the divine _____ and majesty of the law itself

"Regarding it as the law of the infinite Majesty of heaven, he in the light of the Spirit, begins to see that it bears immutable impressions not only of truth and rectitude but of divine authority and supreme majesty."

3. Be made aware of the holiness, _____, vast extent, and perfection of the law in its covenant form

"When he sees that the commandment extends to all his inclinations, affections, and designs and to all his thoughts, words, and actions, he begins to be convinced that he has no righteousness answerable to the requirements of the holy law."

4. Be made aware of the _____ of sin

"He sees that while it is a transgression of the law of God, it is directly opposite to the holy nature and will of God. Sin now appears sin and, by the commandment, becomes in his view exceedingly sinful (Rom. 7:13)."

5. Be made aware of the _____ of the Lord against sinners

"Now when the convinced sinner thus begins to see that 'the wages of sin is death' (Rom. 6:23) and that he in particular is justly condemned to endure the fierceness of Jehovah's wrath, the fury of His Almighty indignation not for an age or millions of ages but forever and ever, his hope of salvation by the works of the law will perish. He now sees clearly that the penalty of the violated law is not to be satisfied by doing but by suffering."

6. Be made aware of the justice of God in _____ sinners

“He is persuaded that the Lord is righteous in executing vengeance, adequate to the infinite evil of presuming to sin against His infinitely glorious majesty...The sinner now sees, in the glass of the law, that it is highly proper and even necessary that divine justice should be honored by a complete satisfaction.”

7. Be made aware of his great _____ of the gospel of Jesus Christ

“He perceives his extreme need of the righteousness of Jesus Christ to answer for him the high demands of the law as a covenant.”

-Section 4-The important consequence of a believer’s being dead to the law as a covenant of works

When the believer dies to the law as covenant, he is now _____ to be covenanted with another.

“As long as the law, their first husband, continued to have dominion over them, they could not justly or honorably be married to another; but when that husband is dead to them, or when they are set free from the dominion of the law as a covenant, they are at liberty to be honorably espoused to another, even to Him who is raised from the dead...He continues always to be a living husband to His saints. And therefore, as they can never be loosed from the bond of their union with Christ, so they shall never be released from the law of this husband.”

The union of this covenant will then lead to the production of _____ fruit. Before union with Christ all obedience to the law was seen by God as illegitimate and an abomination (as filthy rags). However, after our union with Christ our obedience to the law is now seen as acceptable and is pronounced by the Lord to be “good fruit”.

“As children begotten and born in marriage are legitimate and all before marriage are illegitimate, so those works only that are the fruits of union with Christ, that are performed in faith and to the glory of God, are genuine fruits of righteousness; whereas all that are done before union with Christ are spurious.”

One must be _____ to the law before they can be _____ unto God. Death comes before life.

“As long as a man continues alive to the law, he is dead to God; but when he becomes dead to the law in point of justification, he begins to live unto God in respect to sanctification...Living unto God, as a consequence of being dead to the law in its covenant form, is moreover styled a holy, humble, and heavenly life”

To be alive unto the Lord includes:

- 1. Having a new _____ to God in Christ**-God in now Father, Redeemer, Head, Husband, and is now the object of our love and admiration.
- 2. Living in a way that _____ with our salvation**-Walking by faith, striving for holiness in the fear of the Lord.

“To live to Him is to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called. He has brought them into a state of grace and reconciliation to Himself; they therefore live to Him when they live not as persons in a state of nature but in a state of grace.”

- 3. Living at peace with God in a state of _____ with Him**-“They also live to God when they live in comfortable enjoyment of Him as all their portion and felicity, all their salvation and desire, renouncing all in heaven and on earth as a portion but Him alone.”
- 4. Living in light of the _____ covenant that we are in**-“God’s way of living is a holy just, good, merciful, gracious, and faithful way. His way is to have a general goodwill to all men and a special goodwill to some.”