

# 9.

## We believe in holiness of life and conduct in obedience to the command of God.

Sin and the punishment for sin is an area I believe is often misunderstood within the church as a whole and many traditions are brought in and taught as though they are the doctrines of God, when they are in fact the doctrines of men.

There are two Greek words for holiness in Scripture, hageeos, which is something which is made sacred by association to God and hagnos something which is morally pure and blameless.

Christ was both Holy by association and morally pure and blameless, we are not. We are only Holy by association to Christ and made righteous by that connection to Him. Romans chapters 1 through to 8 teaches us that our salvation is through Faith that Christ will save us, a fact that sin cannot stop. These chapter, particularly 7, tell us that the old husband of the law must be dead to us, that we may dwell with our new husband of Grace. Galatians is a book predicated on teaching that the law has no purpose to us other than to show us we cannot save ourselves, we are condemned and we need a saviour. Finally Romans also teaches us that if we try and make people return to living under the law then we will actually cause them to sin more, for it is the law, which is good and Godly, which causes our flesh to rebel and for sin to have dominion over us.

We know from such scriptures as Ezekiel 11:19-20, that the Lord always intended for the letter of the law to be replaced with a different one, and by that I don't mean different laws, but a different method. Namely that is the law of the Spirit. Paradoxically, Ezekiel shows us that it is only when the law of the Spirit is present that the people will willingly come under the law of God. Why? because the difference is between being told to do something, and doing something because of love.

Jesus told us in John 13:34-35 that the commandment of the church is to love one another as the Lord loves us. In the gospels, both he and a lawyer confirm that Loving the Lord and your neighbour were actually the summing up of all the laws. so we come to realise that we live under this law of love, something which we can only do, because we are holy by association, or made Holy and righteous by our salvation and relationship with Christ. Yet John 13 tells us it is when we live in this Holy conduct that others will know we are Christs disciples. This is only possible because of the Holy spirit, given through salvation, and it is through the Holy Spirit that we develop a Holy character, as described in the fruits of the Spirit, in Galatians 5, something we only exhibit when we walk in the Spirit. Yet we only walk in the Spirit, when we take up our cross, meaning to forfeit our own will, and follow Christ. this is the holiness we walk in, through obedience to Christ.