

**Praxis
Commands
09/09/23
Newport News**

Opening

Participation: **Name a sport or a hobby and give me one or two fundamentals.**

If someone were to ask, "What does it mean to be a Christian?" Would you know how to respond? And equally important, how are you answering that question for yourself? Are there fundamentals for Christian living?

Introduction

Fundamentals

- 1. Devotion to Jesus**
- 2. Intimacy with God**
- 3. Care for Others**
- 4. Courage to Change**
- 5. Diligence in Mission**
- 6. Empowered by the Holy Spirit**

Restated as The Commands of Jesus

- 1. Follow Jesus (John 1:43)**
- 2. Love God (Matthew 22:37)**
- 3. Love People (John 13:34)**
- 4. Be Perfect (Matthew 5:48)**
- 5. Go Everywhere (Matthew 28:19)**
- 6. Be Filled (Acts 1:8)**

Follow Jesus

-Jesus was building His team and Philip was one of the first chosen. This encounter between Jesus and Philip is recorded for us.

-John 1:43 (NLT)

-Listen to what John MacArthur writes in his must read book "Twelve Ordinary Men."

Notice something interesting about the expression Philip used with Nathanael: "We have found Him." As far as Philip was concerned, he had found the Messiah rather than being found by Him. Here we see the classic tension between sovereign election and human choice. Philip's call is a perfect illustration of how both exist in perfect harmony. The Lord found Philip, but Philip felt he found the Lord. Both things were true from the human perspective. But from a Biblical perspective, we know that God's choice is the determinative one. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you" (John 15:16).

-John 21:19,22...why does Jesus use the command to follow here again?

-How would you explain the difference between an initial decision to follow and living a life of following Jesus? (preach here)

-This first Command is best understood as devotion to Jesus.

Love God

-Jesus was approaching the last days of His life when a group of religious leaders engaged Him in a discussion with the hopes of tricking Him into saying something that would violate their laws and give them cause to arrest Him. What transpires next gives one of the most famous commands known to the world.

>Deuteronomy 6:5

>Matthew 22:37

>(Deuteronomy uses "strength" instead of "mind" which is why this verse in Matthew is often quoted including both words as found in Mark 12:30).

-Isaiah 29:13...has this ever described you?

-Are the ideas of rules and relationship compatible?

-If love never matures beyond a decision, it never becomes the fullness of love...s it mustn't JUST be about rules!

-With God, following the right rules for the right reasons leads to the right kind of intimacy!

-This second Command is best understood as intimacy with God.

Love People

-Now some of you who have experience with the Bible might be asking, "Shouldn't that be love your neighbor?" That is a great question! You are correct in that Jesus told us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. In the same conversation Jesus was having with those stubborn religious leaders recorded in Matthew 22, He gave the world a second commandment. In fact, just like His command of loving God was a quote from the Old Testament, so too was His second commandment.

-Leviticus 19:18

>But what people often overlook is that Jesus a few days later gives the world a third commandment. And this third commandment gives us our third Command.

>John 13:34 (NLT)

-What is "the chronology of the Bible?"

-John 13 occurred just days after the conversation from Matthew 22.

-When my efforts to care for others are dependent on the degree to which I love myself, I may not be giving them the kind of attention they need.

-This third Command is best understood as care for others.

Be perfect

-Perfect is not a word that should ever feel left out in American vernacular. You've been texting back and forth for days trying to catch up with an old friend and someone finally suggests a date and time that works...you reply, "perfect." You are having dinner at your favorite steak restaurant, the food has been served, the server stops by the table to ask how your steak was prepared...you reply, "perfect." The fundraising banquet for a local charity requires formal business attire. You come down the stairs and ask your wife about your ensemble...she replies, "perfect." We could keep going! We all

understand what this word means. The question is do we understand what Jesus means when He said "perfect?"

-Matthew 5:48

>This word "perfect" literally means for something to be fully grown. An example would be a grown adult in contrast with a still maturing child.

>Every virtue is fully present in God and because He is our Father we should keep working towards whatever changes necessary to look more and more like Him.

-For many of us, our patterns of behavior and attitudes are deeply entrenched through years of life. Lasting change does not come without great effort.

-This fourth Command is best understood as courage for change.

Go Everywhere

-There is work to be done and God has planned for you to be part of that labor!

-When I was a teenager and trying to sleep late on Saturday mornings, my father would often begin mowing the portion of the lawn that just happened to be outside of my window. That was his way of saying, "There is work to be done and your father has planned for you to be part of that labor!"

Are you sleeping late? Are you postponing your labor? Is God getting ready to make some noise outside the window of your life?

Because Matthew 28:19 (NLT)

-Luke 5:1-11

-Peter refers to Jesus as "Master" and then in verse eight he calls Jesus "Lord." This declaration in verse eight is Peter submitting his every day to Jesus. The Greek here for "Lord" means that one has power over another to control their life.

-Can you name one activity in which you are presently involved that is a fulfillment of Matthew 28:19?

-This fifth Command is best understood as diligence in mission.

Receive power

-My potential necessitates power. And because my Christian potential surpasses my human ability, that power must come from on high!

- Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

-Jesus was born both fully God and fully man.

-The Holy Spirit “rested” upon Jesus at His baptism.

-Jesus is lead by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness.

-Jesus returned “filled with the Holy Spirit’s power.”

-John 2:16 (Paul Maconochie) (1 John 2:16-17)

- 1. Bread to stone = appetite/of the flesh**
- 2. Cast yourself down = approval (boastful)/pride of life**
- 3. The Kingdoms of the world = ambition/lust of the eyes**

-Supernatural encounters are undoubtedly central to being empowered by the Holy Spirit but we will never move in the power of the Holy Spirit until face down our humanity’s appetite, approval, and ambition!

-Disciples and the Holy Spirit

-Jesus breathes on them to receive the Holy Spirit.

-Jesus commands them to wait for the Holy Spirit before ascending.

-The Holy Spirit descends of them in Upper Room.

-The disciples minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.

****** 40 DAYS ******

-The of Jesus appearing to people after His resurrection and before His ascension was the disciples’ collective wilderness experience. During this time they faced down their human desires: appetites, approval, and ambition...getting them ready to “return” filled with the Holy Spirit’s power!

-Acts 1:8...it takes power to seek diversity when the world wants sameness!

-As they learned how to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit within them, they impacted the world far beyond any assessment their human potential would have predicted.

Band

-Commands >> Pathways >> Virtues >> Godly deeds

Close

-the dove vs. the flames explained...

>The dove represents purity, meaning Jesus needed nothing in order for the Holy Spirit to descend upon Him, He needed nothing for the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of Him. The flames remind us that we need to be made pure by the shedding of blood for the remission of sin, before the Holy Spirit can abide in His "temple." (talk about when the temple in the OT was dedicated)