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The Flesh, Sin, Priests and Christ God's Perfect High Priest.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Flesh, Sin, Priests

And

Christ God's Perfect High Priest.

Topics.

- The weakness of the flesh in Old Testament priests.
 - Jesus Christ understands human weakness.
 - There is something wrong with humanity.
 - We are always a sinner, but we are not always sinning.
 - The spirit of the law and the spirit of the Gospel.
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THE WEAKNESS OF THE FLESH IN OLD TESTAMENT PRIESTS

- **Hebrews 5:1-3:** Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness (Infirmities in KJV). ³Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.

Weakness (infirmities in KJV) from Strong's Concordance carries the idea of feebleness of body or mind, by implication it embraces an ailment, affection, a moral frailty, a disease or an infirmity or sickness.

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The wayward and ignorant embraces those who:

- Have not been shown the right way and therefore commit sins of ignorance.
 - Err from God's commandments and knowingly sin because of weakness of the flesh.
 - Are in error and are therefore wandering from what is right.
 - Have turned to their-own way and transgressed the law of God.
 - Are dull of understanding of the way of truth and therefore guilty of sins of ignorance.
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HUMAN NATURE

Human nature is contaminated with selfishness, pride, ego, greed, lustful thoughts jealousies, anger and such like things, they are like a cancerous virus that has infected our hearts, minds and body with an entity that limits all of us from attaining to the perfection of the law and the Holiness of God. Paul calls this entity sin in the flesh and the devil. Today some describe this entity as that proneness or leaning toward sin that separates mankind from God. This entity will be with us all until we die, not one of us is free from the power of this entity to influence us to sin at various stages of life and given the right circumstances. This means that no one can ever be united with God by their own self-effort because God's character and nature is such that that there is no darkness in it, God is pure light and perfect Holiness there is no inclination, no entity and no

influence in God's character that entices Him to any form of wrong. God cannot be enticed to sin nor will He entice anyone to sin. This is why the corrupted nature of humanity falls so far short of the absolute glory and Holiness of God's perfect character and nature. Even the high priests and the priests who served in the temple of God were not without weakness in their nature that is common to us all that is why they (the honest and faithful of heart) were able to deal gently with the unenlightened, the ill-informed and those who had gone astray. The high priest was a man of our nature, bone of our bones, flesh of our flesh and spirit of our spirits and a partaker of our nature and therefore was:

- Compassed about with infirmity and subject to temptation as we are.
- Of like passions and weaknesses in mind and heart as we all are.
- Experienced in person the infirmities, frailties, sicknesses, disabilities common to the human race.

Being of our nature the high priest was:

- Better able to enter into the feelings and emotions of those who were aware of sin and conscious of guilt.
- Better able to consider with compassion and pity the offenses those that they interceded for and understand the unfavourable circumstances they maybe in.
- If discipline was needed, they would be better able to administer it in the gentlest of manners and with tenderness, patience and compassion lead them back from the paths of error into the right way.

The vast majority of the human race sin through weakness and ignorance this is because the principle of the flesh (self, ego and pride) is strong and the occasions of sin are many, but this is no excuse, nevertheless in all these circumstances the high priest took these into consideration, as does the Lord Jesus Christ the perfect High Priest of our faith. If God had taken from an order of beings superior to us to be our high priest, they would be less qualified to sympathize with those who felt that they were sinners and who knew they needed pardon. This is why God chose human men to be high priest they are far better qualified to minister in behalf of guilty and dying people. This is also why Christ our perfect High Priest was born of a woman so that he would have a fellow-feeling for those on whose behalf he ministers, being aware of our ignorance, weaknesses, infirmities and temptations he is fully able to consider our frame, and to sympathize with us.

Throughout the Old Testament sinful men and woman came to God through the high priest who made atonement for them, though this principal has not changed in that no sinner can come to God alone without a high priest who that high priest is has changed. No one today needs a human high priest since the death and resurrection of Christ entirely abolished the Levitical religious system of appointing human high priests. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only High Priest anyone needs today and the only High Priest God recognises. Jesus is God's perfect and eternal High Priest for all who belong to His Kingdom and for all who seek after Him. Today any human priest that stands in the place of Christ is an imposter since the only priest God has given power to forgive sins and grant eternal life is the Lord Jesus Christ.

JESUS CHRIST UNDERSTANDS HUMAN WEAKNESS

- **Hebrews 4:14-16:** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses (Infirmities in KJV), but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Some argue that we only sin when we outwardly break the law they claim that wrong thoughts that dwell within (i.e., coveting, malicious and lustful thoughts and passions that dwell in the body do not count as sin, but at the end of all debate this idea is simply semantics and matters little since sinful outward actions that separate humanity from God are a result of an inward problem dwelling within. It is a truth that all sin involves harming another human being and, in this sense, it could be said that sin only applies to outward actions, but outward actions are a symptom of inward corruptions (i.e., sin). Jesus said:

- You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery, but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart (Matt 5:27-28).
- For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness and slander (Matt 15:19).
- For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder and adultery (Mark 7:21).

The religious leaders of Jesus generation believed they were righteous because they outwardly adhered to ceremonial rites, holy days and strictly kept religious customs and traditions etc., Jesus in these verses is shining a spotlight on the truth that a person cannot be made righteous by outward religious works because sin dwells within our minds our hearts and the members of our body.

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HUMANITY

Humanity is broken sin has infected it like a virus cancer in the mind, heart and body it manifests itself in selfishness, pride, ego, greed, dishonesty, perverted justice, jealousies, anger, lustful and malicious thoughts, depression violence, quarrels, arguments wars and such like things. Sin has broken and confused, messed and infected people, families, communities, churches and nations. Sin is ugly and it is deep, laws are made to control it, counsellors and the Police have jobs because of it and musicians write songs and sing about it. We could be likened to a petrol engine running on diesel, we have an amazing body, but it is corrupted with an infection that cannot be cured and the perfect quality of life it contains is broken and corrupted. People say the problems of the world today is global debt, climate change, population growth, food and water shortage and weapons of mass destruction it is true these are all major problems for the world but the underlying and spiritual problem is:

- Self-addiction and self-importance.
- Self-absorption and self-centeredness.

The underlying problem running through modern culture today is that people are given value based upon how attractive, beautiful or handsome they are, how rich or famous they might be and how much money and possessions they might have rather than upon what they are doing to aid and benefit others and society.

WE ARE ALWAYS A SINNER, BUT WE ARE NOT ALWAYS SINNING

- **1 John 3:4:** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

This verse is about outward actions and behaviour John is saying whoever lives a lifestyle of sin is also living a lifestyle of breaking the law, this is because sin manifests itself in breaking the law. A person can be a sinner, but not sinning. We are always a sinner it is the nature of the flesh, but this does not mean we are always outwardly sinning. The nature of the flesh makes us all a sinner by nature, but until we actually break the law

we are not sinning. The Law in its widest sense not only embraces outward actions and behaviour, but also the will, the affections, the inclinations and desires of the mind. Coveting, envy and powerful feelings of physical desire or lust are just as much a violation of the law as is wrongful outward behaviour. Mankind is separated from God and exposed to condemnation and death because sinning in heart, mind, speech and life is a continued transgression of the law which we are all guilty of. What John is saying in this verse is true of any sin great or small, but the central and primary focus here is upon a wilful, obstinate persisting in sin. The words, "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning means everyone who deliberately wilfully and persistently continues to act or behave in sin.

The law determines:

- What is right and what is wrong.
- When our passions and appetites should be restrained and to what extent they may be indulged.
- What we are to love and what we are not to love.
- How we should act toward God and how we should act toward people.
- What our motives and aims in living should be.

The law is the expression of God's will it measures what we do according to God's will and measures the degree of guilt when it is not obeyed. When the requirements of the Law are not complied with there is always sin. God has given the law to regulate human conduct and whenever there is a departure from the law in any way it is held to be sin. When the law commands us to do a thing and we do not do it we are as guilty of breaking the law as when we do something the law positively forbids.

From these words of John, we learn:

- There is a rule of law by which the conduct of mankind is to be regulated and governed and to which we are all to conform to.
- There is sin in all cases where that law is not complied with.
- All who do not comply with the law are guilty before God.
- Departure from law determines the guilt of sin.
- There is no practice or act of sin where there is no departure from the law.
- Sin derives its character and aggravation from the fact the law has not been respected or obeyed.

THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW AND THE SPIRIT OF THE GOSPEL

The law John has in focus is the law of God and every precept of it which regards love to God and love to our neighbour and not the ceremonial law (as some believe) since that has been abolished and therefore to neglect it or go contrary to it was not sinful. The Spirit of the law as well as of the Spirit of the Gospel is that "We should love God with all our powers, and our neighbour as ourselves." All disobedience is contrary to love therefore sin is the transgression of the law whether the act refers immediately to God or to our neighbour (Matt. 22:37-39) (Mark 12:28-31) (James 2:8). This law of love can be transgressed in thought, word and deed and whoever commits sin transgresses it in one or all of these ways and the law accuses, convicts and pronounces the transgressor guilty before God and condemns because it is against the law of God which is holy, just and good and is also against the perfect will of God and against the law of love and therefore ultimately against God Himself, because God is love (1 John 4:8) (1 John 4:16).

Paul wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

CONCLUSION

We are all descendants of our earthly father Adam and have therefore inherited a fallen corrupted body with sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that hinder us from attaining to the perfection the law demands and to God's perfect Holiness and God's perfect love, because of this we are all separated from God and have no hope without a redeemer since God not only sees our sinful outward behaviour, but the darkness of the mind, the thoughts and the motives of our heart.

We all have a sin nature though it may not look exactly like the religious fundamentalists say it does because there are a lot of people that do great and self-sacrificing things for others nevertheless though we may not always be sinning we are by nature sinners since not one of us is free from some degree of self, ego and pride and everything that flows from these. It is only when a person humbles themselves before God's Holiness and God's perfect love that a brilliant light shines on all darkness dwelling in the mind and heart and they see the depth and ugliness of sin. Without understanding how far we have fallen from God we are limited in perceiving and understanding the amazing grace and love God has granted to those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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