

Alright. Strangely, again enough. I had never noticed that there's very little in chapters 1 and 2 on the new man. Oh, if you want to spiritualize it, you can find it in every verse of the Bible, but once you get past chapter 3, that's all it's about. Here's the book. We'll start with verse 1:15. *But when he had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, He was pleased to reveal His Son in me that I might preach Him among the Gentiles...* that He might cause the revelation of His Son in me. That He might show me the Son in me. That the curtain might drop, and Christ might be seen inside me. That He might reveal His Son, not to me, not for me, not through me, but *in* me. He has revealed the Lord Jesus in Paul, and if in Paul, He's revealed the Lord in you. Okay, let's go on.

He gave us one of the most beautiful understandings of these two lives we have. Actually, we have three, but I'm going to concentrate on the two. I cannot, or my flesh cannot, obey anything that's either religious or spiritual. Therefore, if I am to be justified in the sight of God, I must be justified in Christ and no other way. Concerning the law, through the law, I died to the law, or through the law, I died to the law. Now, what that means is very difficult to explain, but I believe it means this: by seeking to obey the law, to understand it, and to fulfill it...I failed. Now, that could be one meaning: I failed to the point that I gave up. Or it may be that's one possibility. It may be that Paul is saying that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the law, and the law itself had promised the death of Christ, and therefore it was by means of the law that I died to the law. That's the only understanding that I can give of that verse. For through the law, I died to the law. But whatever it means, whatever its meaning, this point is obvious that by something, by some means, there is death between me and the law. It does not matter which one of you is dead. If the law dies, I'm free from the law. It is dead. If the law is alive and I am dead, I am breaking the law because I am dead. Because it ends all obligations to all rules.

I do not care what theology you espouse. I do not care if you're Mormon or Methodist, Baptist or Buddhist...Muhammad or Mormon. I do not care what you believe. If you are dead, you're free. God has reckoned you dead, and whether I put the law on you or you put the law on you or some group puts the law on you, the fact of the matter is you're the freest creatures in all the universe that doesn't even reckon dip. You believe that for one hour while you're sitting here, and then you walk outside, and you go right back and follow the law, when in fact, you're dead. I'll tell you: the freest people in this city are the people in the graveyard. Not one law in this city pertains to them. The Catholics can't touch them. The Baptists can't touch them. The Mormons can't touch them. The Muslims can't touch them. You have not seen anybody walking through the graveyard preaching, and you know you will not. *You are reckoned as dead as those people are.*

Don't let anybody put you under the law. If a man says that's true, it doesn't mean a thing. And if a man says it's not true, it doesn't mean a thing. It's God's view that matters, and God says you are dead. So, the law is, and the laws do not hold you. That's right. Mother doesn't hold you. Daddy doesn't hold you. Baptists don't hold you. Religion doesn't hold you. Gene doesn't hold you. Nothing holds you. Not even nothing. Just name it. It doesn't hold you. You are reckoned free. And isn't that great? I tell you, the Lord's concept of finishing the problem of sin, the flesh, and

the law was incredible. What a powerful Gospel brother Paul preached. How total was his gospel. But here was a group of Christians who would have packed up and gone back to it as if it were the greatest thing in the world. That only means one thing. There's a natural inclination inside the old species to wish that they were... In fact, it shows the pride of the old man because the new man within doesn't like that. The new man is absolutely certain that all power to do all things rests in Christ. The old man still believes he can do it.

Anytime you fall under the condemnation of the law, you're simply admitting your pride and that you believe that you could perform the commandments of God. Those commandments were not cast for you to be able to fulfill. They were meant to drive you to Jesus Christ, and you are still being driven, day after day, until one day, you shall glorify Him. I believe I should quit working and begin believing what is true: that I'm dead and the law has no obligation to me. Okay. God has said Joe is dead. Now that's only part of the story, but still, even though you say I'm dead, boy, I have a few problems. Can't quite get all this stuff done.

So, God reckoned Joe dead, that's number one. Now then, number two, if that be true, God has reckoned again. According to God's reckoning, the resurrected Christ is all there is. I have a hard time believing I was righteous, sanctified, and glorified. Well, then, could you believe this? That you're dead, and that your name has been erased, and it has been replaced; there is only the resurrected Lord. That's all that the Lord sees. The Father sees so unusually. Well, you think, "Why would God see such a thing as that?" Because your God is not...you know, you begin to wonder about God. It is because God is free of time and space, and He sees what really is. I'm telling you, there will be a day in this universe when you will see that there is nothing left but Jesus Christ. But God sees, right now, that in this universe there is nothing left but the Lord. In the new creation, God only reckons Christ, and that's all.

I've been crucified with Christ. I no longer live. I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. Everything that is not Christ is reckoned as dead. Why? Everything that is not Jesus Christ in that body is reckoned as dead, and everything else is alive. Now, Jim, consider that tomorrow, when you're walking around, everything here that is not the Lord is reckoned dead. Everything that is being carried around right now, the Lord is carried around, and it's dead. And there is only here in the eyes of God Christ. The only thing now left in me that's alive is the Lord. Well, my spirit has been made one with the Lord's spirit, and the Lord's Spirit is in my spirit. The two spirits have become one spirit, and His Spirit and my spirit are now eternally one. I have the eternal life of the Lord, and that is reckoned as Life, and everything that is not that is reckoned as dead.

When the Lord gains ground in my soul, it's reckoned as resurrected life. The Lord puts to death the soul; you go through agony, and one day you come out alive, and that's reckoned. One day, your body, this outward tabernacle, shall dissolve, and the Lord shall give you a new body, and that will be reckoned to Christ. There is living in you, even on the day you're saved, when you're hanging by a thread, from that second on, nothing in you is reckoned as alive except Christ; and

as the Lord grows and takes over you, that's reckoned as alive. Everything else is reckoned as dead. When He gets to your body, it's reckoned dead until the Lord takes over the body and it's reckoned alive. Then one day, you will be all alive and all the rest of you dead, and there is no judgment held against a dead man. There is no condemnation of a dead man. There is no law that holds a dead man. Everything else is the Lord. What's your problem? You don't have the law; the pot is dead. The old great pot is dead. Everybody else is dead. The only thing that lives is Christ, and we will no longer know any man according to the flesh. I think that would be a good place for church life to begin.

Well, I can believe it about everybody in the room except me. Billy, that's not exactly true. You go home...I'm going to say it to you again...you go home and try not to believe this. Now, you've heard; you go home and try not to believe it. You'll find it very difficult not to believe, because your spirit is a believer. Your spirit has already seen this. Your spirit knows this to be true. Your spirit put up a sign, saying, "Amen. I've been trying to tell you this for years." It's okay. Your spirit is sitting there and saying, "Well, sure. This has been true. This has been true ever since the crucifixion."

I've been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. When I was 19 years old in the summer of 1952, I was memorizing verses and living in Rome, Italy. I knew that this was probably the outstanding verse in the New Testament, and it finally came to me. Galatians 2:20. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. And I walked all around that end, all the streets that day, saying that, knowing that it was very important, the key to all things; I was repeating it, hoping that I would understand what it meant, and there was no way on earth for me to understand what that meant, because I would not take it at face value.

I am dead, and it is no longer I who lives but is Christ who lives in me. And as long as I live in the flesh, I live by faith...I live by the faith of the Son of God. I live by the faith *of* the Son of God. Now, that simply means that the flesh part is walking around; insofar as my flesh is alive, insofar as the "I" is alive, insofar as the old man is alive, I live by the faith of the Son of God. Now, what does that mean? That means two things. One of them means I don't have to have faith, and in fact, I don't have faith; Jesus Christ has faith. I live by the faith of the Son of God, and that's the way the verse is written. I live by the faith of the Son of God.

Now, what does the Son of God believe? Now, Jesus Christ believes He's alive, and He believes I'm dead. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And as far as I live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me. And the translation says, I am living in faith that is of...it's got "is of" in italics. I am living in faith that is of the Son of God. I am living in the faith that is of the Son of God. I believe this is what I was trying to say. We will take this. This, by the way, is probably the most literal translation ever put into the English language. It's called a concordance. I live by the faith

that is of the Son of God. It is His faith, and I'm living by it. You know that I rarely talk about you having faith. As far as that goes, I believe that in all the time I've ever spoken, I've never told any of you to have faith. You don't need to have faith. Jesus Christ has faith. If you're saved, you have faith.

Now that it may be that as the old man, as the other man, as the lost man, the un-regenerated man, you need to make that one great leap of believing in Jesus Christ. But saints, from that moment on, you have the faith that is of the Son of God. His faith says these things are true, and I'm not going to argue with the Almighty Living God. I simply cannot obey the Lord; that's why He put grace before the law. Abraham's covenant preceded Moses' covenant. One covenant began and ended, and the other one was eternal. I could not live according to these things, so God put me to death on the cross. Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ. I have been put away. Now I am free." And then he asked this question. If I have begun this new life in the Spirit, shall I protect it by the law? Did the law save you? No. Then shall the law deliver you after having been saved by grace? Does the Lord say, "Obey the law till you cannot obey it anymore, come crying, oh, wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death, get saved, have the Lord's Spirit in you, and then take up the law again?" Then how come you do it? You're all just really "amening" me. Then why do you do this?

Brother Lawrence made the most beautiful statement in his little book, *Practicing His Presence*. He said, "And so when I sin, I just say to the Lord, 'Lord, that's the way I am, and then I go back...to Him.'" Brother Lawrence knew how to make Christ his Life: "Lord, that's just the way I am." If you just said that to God, you know, "That's just the way I am," that would be bad. But if you say, "Lord, that's the way I am"... Eventually He will get you. Eventually He will get your unbelief. Even the unbelief will be swallowed up by His faith...His glory. You who were forgiven by the Spirit, shall you obtain the Christian life by works? You who've been set free for life by death. shall you in the graveyard now be put back into the bondage of being under the law, and coming back to that life?

Saints, listen here. Here is a life, and here is a tomb, and here is a life, and those two lives are separated by a tomb, and you do not go into the tomb to return to that life. You are now cut off from that life. If there's anything beyond that tomb, it is in another life. You were human. You are now reckoned a Son of God. You have moved up on the species scale.

Have you noticed the flesh drawing you closer and closer to the Lord? No. Oh, you haven't noticed? Should you perhaps look closer? No. And perhaps there's a little of the Lord, working down there in your flesh, no? No. Then I think you should return to the Lord's view: that your flesh is dead. Return to your spirit. Return to your spirit, where dwells the new man, the new species, and accept the fact that the old one's dead, and the law went to the man whose spirit was dead, but when that man, unable to obey the law and fulfill it, came to Christ, that man was reckoned dead and put in the grave and came out of the grave into a new creation where all of this was put away. But if you

put Him on the biological scale, then you put him at the top, for He is a Son of the living God. He is a divine creature; within Him is the very being of God, and He is not under law.

He has the spirit of liberty, and the only law that holds Him is Christ. And Christ Himself said, "That law shall not pass away till every bit of it is fulfilled." Hallelujah. In 33 and one-half years, it was fulfilled for the first time and only time to the letter. Fulfilled it. He won it. W O N. He won it, carried it to the grave, and buried it, along with the old creation. He came out with a promise of the Spirit, and then He began putting that promise in men; He put divine Life in them. Everything is the heavens, except earth, and God created the earth for a habitation of sons. It would be here that he would spawn His race.

And I told you once about the spaceship flying past Earth. The little Martian steps up to the portal window and says, "Daddy, what's that?" That's Earth. That's the place for the sons of God. One day, that will be true. This is the place for the sons of God. A new species. For if any man be in Christ, he is a new species. Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

For all of you, Chapter 3, verse 27, who were baptized into Christ, have clothed yourself with Christ. Brother Jim: Inside of him, what is there? Christ. And this thing right here, what's that? That's an old pot. That's dead. Whatever it is, it's dead. Did you keep a record of all the sins he committed today? It's reckoned dead. Okay. This is dead. The biggest problem you've got has been reckoned dead, and inside here is the Lord. So that inside of him is Christ. Everything else is reckoned dead, but praise the Lord, there's something outside of him, too. This clothing is Christ. Inside is Christ, and outside is Christ, and everything between the Christ within and Christ about is dead. So that he is surrounded by the Lord, and within him is Christ.

We have been immersed into Christ. Be have been baptized into Christ. All that's on the outside is Christ, and all that's on the inside is Christ, and all that's in between is dead. So that there is only Christ, and that is all you see, and that's all, and He is clothed in righteousness. Christ is our Life. One of the major themes of all scripture is the new man; *If any man be in Christ, he is a new man, the old things have passed away, behold all are made new. For you have been made new in Christ Jesus.* Why then do you obey seasons and times and days when you have been made Christ's? You and I were adopted by the Lord from the law.

Now that's really interesting because there are two races of people on the earth. One's the old man; one's the new man. And the old man that we think of so much as being fallen, he's the self-nature, his flesh, all of these things; he actually is a child of the law. He's a child of the law. Jesus has come along to make you a new creature. He first redeems you from the law, then He adopts you from the law, puts you under grace, and then He makes you genetically His. Does that make sense? You are now as though you were born from God. In fact, you are now born. You were a soul creature, a human thing; an earth creature, and you were genetically of the earth. He's a heavenly creature, and you are under law, and He comes, and He takes out adoption papers on you, and He says, "No longer under the law: you're free. Now, then, you're under grace, that is, freedom from everything, and now He puts His spirit in you, which is, as the scripture says, a birth; it is a birth,

so that I am the adopted son of God. And after I'm adopted son of God, I am a "birthed" son of God. And now I am no longer dominantly soul, earthly, human, but I am dominantly spirit, heavenly, and divine.

At the moment that I am born spiritually, if you look in the Greek, it says in John 3, not "born again," and not "born anew," but "born from above." So that you are "birthed" twice. You are "birthed" through your mother and father under the law. You're "birthed" again in the heavenlies, in God. Just as surely as your mother and daddy birthed you into the human race, God births you into the divine race, and you are truly a new man, a new species, a new creature. You are the race, the divine sons of God.

People will keep accepting that on some kind of spiritualistic plateau, and that's not to be accepted that way. God decided to have a family. God decided to have a family. Everybody else had a family. The cattle had a family. Fish had families. Then he created Adam, and He looked at Adam and said, "You run around in that garden a while, Adam, and see what it's like to be a bachelor for a while." God and Adam were the only two male species in the universe who had no mate. Then God said, "It's not good to be alone, is it, Adam?" And Adam said, "No, sir!" Then God said, "I will put you to death, and I'll bring out of you a woman, put you in a deep sleep, and God fashioned her. Adam woke up and said, 'Wow, bone of my bone, not one of them elephants or lions, or those cows or horses. This bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh. Now there's only one male left in the universe, and He came into human flesh to start a new species, that He too might have a wife, that there might be a divine race upon the earth, and we are the sons of God, we are a new race, and by the way, we aren't under law anymore. We are not under law anymore. Isn't that remarkable? We're not human beings. You don't see elephants going around under the law of a pig. You don't see fish going around under the law of a tree. You don't see a horse under the law of a bird. And you don't see the sons of God under the rules and principles of man.

That human being was born inside of you, only he wasn't you. I don't know what you call him. You say a divine being? I don't know, but somebody was born inside of you. A baby was born inside of you, and as soon as he was born, he said, "Daddy. Daddy." You've got a new Father. First adopted while still a human, adopted out of the law, and then inseminated with the divine nature, and the child is born and cries, "Daddy, daddy, daddy." That was a natural thing of your spirit, and it's going on inside of you right now. Let your spirit cry out, 'Abba... Father.'" It's good for you to get somewhere and say, "Abba," let your spirit cry out, "Father...Daddy" ...to the Lord. He has put His Spirit in you, and you're divinely created now, and you're a son of God, and that spirit cries out, "Abba Father." You cry out to the Lord as your Father.

Now we're no longer slaves, neither under the law nor are we children, as good as slaves, but now you have become not an heir, not an inheritor, not a child, but you are now a son. If you're a son, you are an heir. I wonder what that says. I bet that says an heir of God. Did anybody bring another one of those translations? Heir of God. I'm sure it's an heir of God. You inherit God. However, at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are no gods. But

now you have come to know God. He makes a reference back to the time before you were converted. I think He's speaking here to the Gentiles. And He makes this statement. "And now that you have come to know God," and He stops, and he says, "Eraser." He looks around for an eraser. That's not good enough; he can't erase it. They haven't invented erasers, and he says, "No, you haven't come to know God. Something more important than that has happened. God has come to know you."

Well, Bob, where are you from? If I invite you to the graveyard in Santa Barbara, is there anyone you know out there? I didn't think so. Well, I want you to know that one day God got to know you because you suddenly appeared in His universe. You suddenly appeared in His realm. In His realm, because you're now a heavenly creature. You're born from above. You're going to find out in just a moment how heavenly you are. I didn't write this book; if I were writing it, I would have put it in there. You now belong to the heavenlies, and you appeared, and God knew you. You are known by God, and that's far better, far more important than you knowing God. For you to know God, there could always be the possibility of an error. That could get to be dangerous. You might have had a miscalculation in judgment, but boy, for God to know you... I told someone at the dinner table today that, some years ago, my wife was reading a newspaper article about some movie stars who were something... She was so disgusted. She threw that down, and she said, "God doesn't even know those people exist." And there was more truth in that than she realized. They are reckoned dead. They are reckoned dead, and you don't go around getting to know dead people. But now, through the spirit, you have been made alive in Christ, and God knows you. Or rather, now that you have become known by God, and now, brother Paul really goes back to the problem.

*How is it that you would turn back again to the weak and worthless rudimentary things to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? Why would a child of God, born of the heavenlies, free from the law, adopted out from under law, made an heir, and now actually having the divine nature put in him, and the divine nature far excelling the human nature to the point he's no longer reckoned the human creature, but a divine creature, no longer an earthly creature, but a heavenly creature... why would you want to go back to slavery? Why would you return to the law? Why do you do that? Well, you'll stop. Why go back to the old creation? Why go back to what's worthless and, at best, weak? Listen to this next verse. Where then is that sense of blessing you had? *Where then is that sense of blessing you had?**

Do you recall when you got experientially saved? Do you? If you were an adult, and you had anything like a good, solid conversion experience, you remember the season in there when it was blessed, do you not? I believe that most of you, having begun in the spirit, have at some time in your life reverted to the law. Is that not true? You have gone back to trying to merit your position with the Lord, which has got to be one of the greatest studies in futility ever launched on by any creature to try in any way to merit brownie points with God. I'm not going to get into that again, but that's the last thing on earth God ever expected you to do. God gave you up. That's why He invented grace because you were hopeless. Did you notice that the blessing was less when you went back to the law? Let me tell you how to get that blessing back. Very simple, give up that law.

Go back and rejoice in your freedom. Why don't you go back and enjoy grace? Go back and enjoy the freedom, and I will really want to make this clear. I don't care if I get misunderstood. I'm not saying...Galatians is not the end of the Bible. You are absolutely free from everything. All law, all rule. That means that you can smoke all you smoke. You can drink all you want to drink, and you can cuss all you want to cuss.

Now, yeah, I know there would probably be at least one or two preachers in the world who wouldn't agree with that, and they would really get up on their horses. But listen, my dear brother and sister, you've got to begin there. You have to begin with absolute freedom. You work out from that point. If there are any limitations, you work out from that point, but you start with liberty. You start with freedom. You are free from all laws. Isn't that wonderful? Look, and you ought to have the privilege of basking in that for a while.

Maybe we should all drive home at 90 miles an hour, and you'll pull out that driver's license and say, "There you go." You've got to start there, brother. You've got to start there, sister. What? But Gene, I'm going to repeat what I said in the...Gene, you preach a gospel like that, and people start doing all sorts of terrible things. Hey, let me tell you something. That's not true. I know a group of people we taught that doctrine, and sure enough, everybody went out and started getting drunk. I'm an eyewitness to that. And I'm going to tell you why. I'll tell you exactly why, because the vessels that preached it were flawed. The man who preached that gospel was above reproach. They sensed his liberty. They still found no reproach in him. He was an imitator of Lord Jesus Christ and preached the same gospel of liberty, but His life was above reproach.

I am not afraid to preach to you the gospel of liberty. I am, as far as that goes...I sometimes get bolder. Won't you go out and do exactly what you want? And when you get caught, say, "Gene said..." (laughter) You're free from all law. Gene, there's got to be a hook in here somewhere. There's no hook. Dwight L. Moody was once talked to about this. He was saying something about grace, and there are those who do not believe in grace, who are Christians, or at least believe it in little bitty doses. And someone rebuked him for something; they said it would lead to sin; his converts were going to go out and get drunk. And he said, "Let me tell you something. I go out and get drunk every time I want, and cuss every time I feel like it. I want you to know I go out and get drunk every time, and I go out, and I swear every time I talk...I'd better stop. (laughter)

You have to start from the point of liberty, and you work out from there. You're free. Get your blessing back, saints. Accept your freedom in the Lord. You're free. You're free. You're like Cindy Edwards (Gene's daughter), who went to Europe. And she called and said, "I want to go. I want to go back. I want to go see Europe." And I said, "You got any money?" She said, "I got a little bit." And I said, "Go do it." And she wrote to me, and she said, "I go down the street." It's the first time she was in Europe, you know. Oh, she was in Europe, you know, looking around. Nobody's around. She's in cities all by herself. She had this little pack on her, and she said she should start jumping on the street. She'd say, "I'm free!" That's wonderful. I thought that was glorious. She'd jump up and down on the streets, saying, "I'm free...free from the law!" Let me tell you. How do we raise

kids, you uptight parents? I'm not talking about the ones who raise your kids lawlessly. You uptight parents. You try grace on your kids sometime. The next time one of your kids starts to do something wrong, I always want you to say, "Let's do it. Is that as well as you can do that? Do it twice..." I tried this on my kids, and it worked miracles... (Laughter)

I'll tell this story; I haven't told this before. I'm not ashamed of it. I went through one of the blackest periods of my life, blacker than anything that any of you could ever imagine. And it was really hard on me. It was hard on Helen. It got blacker every month and every year. There was no problem, as far as I recall. There was no problem between Helen and me, but it got blacker and worse, and you know it wasn't like...what she said that day was not unusual. It was not a surprise... things build gradually. It was an unbearable situation; you could not ever comprehend how unbearable it was, and the pressure was so great. The atmosphere was so charred, and my wife, my sweet little Helen, said to me one day, "I want to go home, I want to go back home to Texas." And I'm...you know, you read books about the wife and says, "I want to go home," and you know then you have this big family row and all that, and I had somewhere where in all of my problems, I had the recollection of grace.

Hey, can you believe this? I had the presence of mind to say to her, "Well, honey, let's go home. Let's pack up." She crumbled; that ended it totally. There was never another word; she just couldn't believe it. She wanted to stay right there and fight it out with me. She just wanted to argue with that. You know, she just needed to fence some hostilities. Next time your kids really want to do a bad one, just go ahead and let them. You might be surprised. Saints, you're free. You are absolutely free. You're not under the laws, and nobody's looking over your shoulder; at least God's not. Get your blessing back. (Chapter 4:15-17) *For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth? They...He doesn't know who they are. They eagerly seek you, but they're not doing it commendably. But they wish to shut you out in order that you may seek them. That they wish to shut them out of the blessing of grace, so that there will be no more grace, and there will be no more joy and no more freedom. Therefore, you have to go and seek men.*

I don't know if you understand that, because I don't know if you've ever sold yourself the law that badly, but you lose the Lord in going back to the law. You will need to report to somebody who will read the riot act to you and tell you what you can and cannot do. When your liberty is lost, you have to go back to the lawgivers. Don't do that, brothers. Keep your freedom. I am free as a preacher, and you ought to be free from being...this is going to sound strange...you ought to be free from being a Christian. You understand what I mean by that? Does that make sense to you? Because there is a Christian image, and you don't have to conform to it. You do not have to conform to that. And by the way, if you would dress up real pretty and come in here, I wish you would, because some saints have said, "Do y'all wear blue jeans or corduroys as a test of fellowship?" (laughter) If I could say anything to you, you are a heavenly creature, and the law did not pertain to you. You know, you're going to be weak towards sin as long as you're afraid of sin. As long as you're afraid of sin, it's going to have a grip on you. When it really soaks into you that you are free

from the law, and sins that made us...the law, but sin had no power over you until the law came along, and now you're free from the law. Therefore, you're free from sin.

Brother Steve, when you realize that you really are...It's going to be wonderful when you realize you're free. Like the man who sat there for years in prison, and then one day he walked up and pushed on the door, and it was not locked. He had been free all his life and did not know. You are free; the door is unlocked. Can you understand that God gave us the law because of His own liberty? He gave the law to get us out of bondage; that is, to bring us to Christ. When the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth, He came to share with you His incredible liberty. There is One within you who is totally free from all things. I will even say He only does what He wishes to do and He does absolutely nothing else. There are two things about the Lord that never come across very clearly. One is that He is young, and the other is that He is free. He is free. Your Lord is young, and He is free, and He's a lover.

Now that's really breaking the stereotype of what God is like, does it not? A lover who's young and free. Now that's exciting, isn't it? That's the kind of person you like to be with. A young lover who's completely free. Well, that's great. I'm prepared to bring the most extreme message that's ever been brought on liberty, and step on an airplane or whatever, and leave here without qualifications. I'm ready to leave here, I really am, for one simple reason. If you're saved, I believe in the Lord. I do not believe this is going to bring license. I expect it to bring liberty and freedom.

A sister said it beautifully today. A sister said to me, "Gene, when you talk about the Lord that way and about how free I am, it just makes me love the Lord more." Have you ever heard of the law making someone love the Lord? Man, I have heard it does everything on earth, but I've never heard it make you love the Lord. He has set you free. I don't particularly trust you, but I trust the Lord. You are a new species, and you may have to train a lion not to eat a human being. You may have to put a lost man under the law, but you are a new species, and freedom...freedom from the law with your species...does something it doesn't do to the other species. It is for freedom that you have been set free. You are free from the law.

Behold, I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I will tell you something. If you go back under the stranglehold of the law, being a Christian is going to benefit you absolutely nothing. To be a believer under the law, you might as well be a Jew or a religious person who has never known the Lord. You might as well be a Muslim. The Lord will not benefit you. You can only be benefited by the Lord when you're free. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision that he is under obligation to keep the whole law. And I want you, brothers and sisters, to know that if you turn to the law and live under it, you'll have to live under it to fulfill the Christian experience, because you have no hope or help from God under the law. The law nullifies the Lord in you just like the Lord in you nullifies the law. You're going to have to choose whether you're going to be free...or under the law. The two don't mix. Okay, that's wonderful. I'm glad we're forced to do this.

Sister Judy, get ready to make it a choice. You don't go to the Webster dictionary to find out what baptism means, and you don't go to a Baptist interpretation of falling from grace to find out what it means to fall from grace. For a Baptist to talk about falling from grace means you were saved and are now lost. That is not what Paul said. If you go back to living under the law, you have stepped out of living under grace. If you step out of living under the law and you turn to Christ, then you have stepped into grace. That's so obvious and so simple, I am not going to comment on it. I'm going to the next verse. Faith got to you through the love of God. The love of God is what won you to Christ. It was the love of God that stirred up faith in you to say, "Lord, I believe."

Now, I am not here to get you so paranoid about the law that you start putting people under the law to be free, forcing them to be free in areas they don't really have any urge to be free in. I've watched groups that have become legalistic, and it takes two people to make a group of Christians legalistic. It takes the youngest and the dumbest, the most immature, listening to it, reacting extremely to the message, and it takes the one who is speaking that message to allow it to take root. Saints, I'm going to say it for the umpteenth time: You ought never to put your convictions on another saint in the church. You are hard on yourself; don't be hard on anybody else. You will destroy the Lord's work in them; you will take away our liberty. That's for sure, and it always began with the youngest and newest and the most immature. You're either putting someone under the law or opening all the doors because you think someone shouldn't be under the law.

Preaching the law is accepted in religious circles; preaching the cross will cause you to be persecuted by those who preach the law. That's remarkable. Why is it? Would you not think that the law is a worse thing to happen to you than the cross? Would you not? But the cross that Paul refers to here is the cross that destroyed the law and made you free. And that gospel, that gospel of a cross that has annihilated the law, is persecuted. It has been from the beginning and will be until the end, that men are accepted when they preach the law, and they are persecuted when they preach the annihilation of the law. Very amazing and very true.

Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished. When you preach the law, you no longer stumble over this incredible thing of the cross. A lot of the Lord's people are afraid of hearing the message that the cross has done away with the law. It is a stumbling block. Praise the Lord for that stumbling block and praise the Lord for the cross, for we would have nothing in Christ without that cross. We would just be a Moslem under another name. We would be a monk who fasts four days a week without that cross. We would be a religion instead of the Lord's people. Christ has called all of His followers, all saints throughout all ages, to be free through the work of the cross.

Let's just put it this way. The flesh and the law hurt other people. You have really been hurt by people serving you, is that not true? It is the natural inclination of the new man to serve others. The antidote for grace is the law. The antidote for law is to love and to serve your brothers and sisters. The way to cure the law is to love and to serve. Or to put it another way, would you like a good substitute for the law? Love one another, for the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself, but if you bite and devour one another, take

care lest you be consumed by one another. The little church groups that meet in homes all over America end up under the law and devouring one another. That's why they don't exist very long.

The issue is settled between the flesh and the spirit. There is one thing they agree on. You are going to get to do what you want to do. You are neither as strong as your spirit nor your flesh. There is no way. You are number three on the totem pole. And here you all go for three or four days without talking to the Lord or losing your temper, but you're in transition. You're either going to be talking to the Lord or losing your temper very, very soon, because you're going to go one way or the other. I do believe that it happens to you maybe 10 or 15 times a day. In fact, you are probably the most schizophrenic...a schizophrenic person is one who has two natures. Well, a Christian has three, and this is why a Christian is such an unstable person. And that's why God invented the church. That is the definition of church, isn't it?

The fruit of the Spirit is...listen, there is another realm within you, and it is your spirit. You do not go to your spirit in order to love. You do not go to your spirit so that you might rejoice and therefore fulfill all the demands God has put on you. God has demanded of you nothing. He has given you His Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit. You live in your spirit until the whole trunk is full; then the trunk is full, and, praise the Lord, the branches are full. And then the earlobes get full, and the eyeballs get full, and the tongue gets full, and the fingers get full, and the fingernails get full, and then you cannot bear it any longer. You've stored it everywhere it is to store, and you have to get rid of it. And you say, "Hallelujah, Praise the Lord."

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, and self-control. Against such, there is no law. So, get the sap until it pours out in the overabundance of divine Life, and that's all you're obligated to do. Be in your spirit, and it will take care of the rest. Saint, you are now alive, and you have the sense that you're alive. Is this not true? You were made alive by what? By the fact that the implanted spirit has been put in you. Then he says, "Alright, if one is true and one is true, then put one plus one together and get two. If you live by the spirit, if the spirit has made you alive, if you have been resurrected from the dead, if your sins are forgiven, if you are justified, if you are truly sanctified and the Spirit has done this and the Spirit has made you alive, if you live by the Spirit, then why not just go one little step further and live in this? Not only live by the Spirit, but live in the Spirit? Not only do you live by the spirit, but why not follow the spirit, walk in the spirit? You will live by the Spirit; you are alive by means of the Spirit. Therefore, let us go an inch further and follow the Spirit wherever He goes. Let us walk in the Spirit.

Restore... don't throw him out, but let us restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness. When someone has to be dealt with for trespasses, go to him gently. Go in a spirit of gentleness, and don't go until you can't. Go for restoration, but most of all, as you go, you look for yourself. And saints, I can only speak from personal experience. When it comes to correcting a brother, I look at myself, and there will be brothers here today who can witness to this, but I believe it's more or less true, and it always has been. I have always said, quite spontaneously, that there's no difference between you and me; you have not out-sinned me. We need that sense. There is no place for self-

righteousness or boasting in the house of God, but you bear one another's burdens. You fulfill the only law that you need to ever worry about. And that's twice that Paul has said, "The only law you ever need to worry about is taking care of other people." Those who have fallen, pick them up. Those who are burdened, shoulder the burden with them, and serve the saints in love. And then you fulfill the law. I don't know why, but that seems to cover all the sins. Here you are in the two verses; we're back and forth, and you're what's getting stomped on them, and neither seems very compassionate. Have you ever thought about that, that your spirit isn't very compassionate? Have you noticed that your flesh...you knew this...is not compassionate? Your spirit is also not compassionate. They're fighting a battle that has to do with eternity.

Now, each of you has a problem with the flesh. Do you not? And sometimes you feed the flesh, is that not true? You also have a spirit, and you sometimes feed your spirit; is this not true? And out of it the spirit comes. Okay, brothers, I am telling you that this whole thing of being a Christian, in some large measure, comes down to which you feed the most. If you nourish your spirit enough, the spirit will come up in your soul. If you nourish your flesh enough, your flesh will grow up in the soul. One of the two is going to whittle away. Little by little, the battlefield will be gained by one force or the other. It depends on which one you sow to. And you take that home with you, would you? There's no law; there's only sowing. They are not preaching circumcision because they think it's taught by the Bible, or that God wants it. They are preaching circumcision so that they will not have to deal with the cross and the old law. Now, why he says that and what that fully means, I honestly do not know. All I can tell you is that the law is always substituted for suffering. You always take out suffering and replace it with the law. These men were afraid of the cross of Jesus Christ. They were afraid of what it would do to their lives, and they were afraid of what it would do to their religion. They were afraid of what it would do to the other people. They were afraid. They were afraid of the cross. They did not want the persecution that would come from declaring the cross. I said to you the other night that to preach the cross will eventually get you persecuted.