

Lecture 6 – The Standards of the Christian Life (Part II)

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-10 (NIV)

Key Terms

Disposition (*habitus*), Word of God, instruction, example of Christ, leading of the Holy Spirit, virtue

Objectives

- *Identify the means through which we know the will of God.
- *Explain the ways in which Scripture operates in giving direction.
- *Explain the importance of the biblical emphasis on disposition.

The Standards (Direction) of the Christian Life (Part II)

I. The Direction of Grace (cont.)

A. The Word of God

3. Permission

- a. I Corinthians 10:25

4. Counsel

- a. I Corinthians 7:25-28
- b. Example: Calling

5. Precedent

- a. Matthew 12:7

6. Commendation

- a. II Samuel 23—David’s men
- b. Mary

B. The Example of Christ

1. John 13

2. Person of Christ

- a. Normative for persons we ought to be

3. Cross of Christ

- a. Normative for traits we ought to demonstrate
 - 1) Love: Ephesians 5:1-2
 - 2) Service: Mark 10:45
 - 3) Humility: Philippians 2:1-11
 - 4) Obedience: Philippians 2:1-11
 - 5) Endurance: I Peter 2:21-25

4. Christ and the formation of our character

5. Virtue of Christ

- a. Normative for virtues we ought to have

C. Cardinal virtues and cardinal sins

1. Humility / Pride (Ezekiel 16:49)
2. _____ / Envy (James 3:16)
3. _____ / Anger (Ephesians 4:31)
4. _____ / Sloth (Hebrews 6:12)
5. _____ / Avarice (I Timothy 6:10)
6. _____ / Gluttony (Philippians 3:19)
7. _____ / Lust (Ephesians 4:19)