

## **Be not conformed to this world**

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Good morning everyone. The broken record speaks once again. Kingdom Conference 2021! is now just a mere 164 days away - Lord willing. I realize that in the volatile environment that we are in just now - much can and probably will happen between now and then. But we had such an overwhelming response to Kingdom Conference 2020 - we booked the Conference Center the very next day after 2020 ended. Then, when I sent out the email that we had booked the event and asked for early registrations - we started getting them. There's only about half the rooms remaining right now - so if you are even thinking about coming and you want to stay on the campus - which is fantastic - by the way - please let us know.

We had several young people there. We went on and rented the basement facility of the main hall - which had all kinds of games - pool tables, ping pong, several others, and the young people that were there had a great time during the free time of the Conference. We need more young people to attend. Young people - you have to begin right now - in trying to reach your generation for the Kingdom of God. You don't have time to lose. Even though our generation - my generation - has failed miserably - while we are trying to salvage what's left of our generation - we can still provide valuable information to you that can equip you in your responsibility to turn your generation - your world - upside down for Christ and His Kingdom.

From the comments I received, this past Kingdom Conference 2020 was very beneficial for the young people that were there.

Alright, let's get right into this morning's message. We have been in Romans 12 laying the groundwork for some things that I wanted to discuss from Romans 13.

The current mini-series of messages was not intended to be another Romans 13 message per se - but it's vital - in my opinion - that we equip ourselves with these Bible truths as we try to change the minds of those around us.

I had a man tell me this past week in so many words - that it really wasn't our responsibility to change people's minds. He referred to the Words of Christ where Christ said not to call man Rabbi - then he included the word teacher - as if Christ were saying not to be teachers.

I asked him to go back and look at the text and see if the word teacher was there. And, it is not. I have a feeling he was thinking that since the quote “Rabbis” were quote “teachers” that's what Christ meant.

But that isn't at all what Christ meant. In fact, if it was what Christ was saying, then we'd have to throw out literally hundreds of passages of Scripture - and - Romans 12:7 would be one such passage. In the Government of God - which is clearly laid out in Romans 12 and 13, one of the Offices of Administration is

...ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

In what has been called The Great Commission - and arguably one could make a case that the Commission expired at AD70 - though I do not ascribe to that - I believe the facts, the time, the place, the generation to which that command was given was clearly the people of the first century - and - the Words of Christ even had an ending time - which was “the end of the world” - well, wait a minute, maybe we should turn there.

Turn to Matthew 28 please. As we often do, let's begin in verse 1.

[1] In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Now, let's just stop here for a second. This is totally, well, maybe not totally off the subject for this morning - but a lot of people point to certain passages in the Gospels - to try to make cases for certain elements of the Old Covenant World passing into the New World. And again, now, it's not my purpose this morning to make a case for or against - there's not enough time this morning to do so - but I ask you - in reference to people saying, “Aha, there's the Sabbath in the New Testament, or, there's a feast in the New Testament.” I ask you - is Matthew 28 in the Old Covenant World - or is it in the New Covenant World?

The answer is clear. The Old Covenant World was still in existence at this time. You cannot point to this passage of Scripture - or any others in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John and find the Feast of Passover, or the Feast of Tabernacles - and say, “See, Christ did it, so we are supposed to, also.” You can't do that. Christ came to the Old Covenant World. One of His greatest responsibilities was to fulfill the Law - He came to fulfill the Law and bring an end to the ceremonial system of the Old Covenant World. Of course, during the days of Christ, of course during the Last Days of the Old Covenant World - Israelites were continuing to observe the elements of the ceremonial system of the Old Covenant

World. Remember what we read about John the Baptist's dad. He was devout. He was a sincere, devout, follower of the Old Covenant system - of course - he was living in the last days of the Old Covenant World - and until that Old Covenant World officially ended - it was still the Biblical mandate for those followers of Yahweh - to follow the letter and the spirit of the Old Covenant. So, indeed, there were some, not many, but some, in Israel who were still trying to obey that system. But we have to be careful in failing to recognize that those people of the first century - until the temple was destroyed - were still in the Old Covenant World.

Now, when we get into the writings of the Apostles, beginning in the book of Acts and then into the epistles - we see teaching and preaching - that even before the Old World officially expired - those first century saints were being called to Come Out of that Old Covenant World - even before Christ was officially revealed as King of kings - which occurred at AD70 - but with the understanding that the Davidic Covenant was fulfilled at the resurrection - it was perfectly fine to come out of the Old World system and into the New One - before it officially ended and officially began at AD70 with the destruction of the temple.

If that wasn't a clear explanation - then by all means - let me know and we can continue talking about it. Get the transcript of this message and read it again - or listen again - the first century was the Last Days of the Old Covenant World - at the same time being the first days of the New Covenant World. Just as Hebrews 8:13 says

In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

There was a transition period between the Old and the New. The Old started its vanishing act - with the introduction of the story about the birth of John the Baptist. The vanishing act continued with the birth of Christ. Accelerated with the ministries of John the Baptist and Christ - took a major leap forward with the resurrection of Christ - continued with the lives and teaching of the Apostles - then finally came to a complete and final end - when some of the most dramatic history ever recorded took place with the account of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple at AD70.

In the year 2020 - there is absolutely no understanding - it's beyond description to me - that someone who has quote "gone to church" all their lives has never heard of the indescribable events that took place at AD70.

I'm telling you that I was one of those. I was a "churchian" - a "churchian of churchians"

- from the time I was born until the time I left the "church" I could count on one hand - how many times I missed a quote "church service." In fact, I can tell you exactly how many times I missed a quote "church service" from the time I first went as a baby - until I left for good in my twenties. Once. Exactly ONE time.

I was around the age of 10 or 11 and we had had some type of quote "church outing" on a Saturdays evening. And we were kind of rough housing it a bit in the quote "church bus." And we did, what I'm sure about every one knows - we did something called "piling on." Well, if you recall, I have told you in the past how that when I was young, I was very small. Usually one of the smallest in my age group. During that incident of "piling on" I found myself at the bottom of the pile - but that wasn't the worst of it - someone had sat on my head very awkwardly and it wrenched my neck. When I woke up the next morning to quote "go to church" I was in excruciating pain.

So, I was left at home. Even with intense pain, couldn't turn my neck, couldn't lay down, couldn't sit up - just could not get comfortable - I felt extreme guilt because I was missing quote "Sunday school" (and in my notes I spelled Sunday with a 'u') I felt extreme guilt because I was missing "Sunday school" and the following message that morning.

I was the "churchian" of "churchians." Two Bible colleges. Several quote "church ministries." But it was not until AFTER I left the organized quote "church" did I ever hear that Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed at AD70. Yeah, in Bible college, they made me buy the Works of Josephus. Fifteen bucks in 1981 - that was a lot of money - but not once - not one time - ever - was the Works of Josephus required reading for me in either of the quote "Bible colleges" that I attended.

When you read the things that Josephus said about the events surrounding the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem at AD70 - it's simply mind-blowing. It's extra-Biblical, yes, written by a jew who was considered to be a traitor to the Romans - but what he wrote was incredible in describing the end of the Old Covenant World.

In my book, The Religion of the New World Order, I discuss some the things he wrote and provide you with page numbers so you can go see for yourself. It's quite amazing - and to think that this information is - in my opinion - clearly hidden from the quote "churchians" is beyond coincidence.

The Old Covenant World was vanishing from the time of John the Baptist and the life of Christ through the lives and teachings of the Apostles - and came to a fiery, dramatic

final end - in AD70 - exactly as Christ said it would. Verse 2, Matthew 28.

[2] And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Occurring three days after the execution of Christ - another earthquake took place. These, in themselves, were some of the most dramatic days that ever occurred in the history of Israel. Another earthquake - then the angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and rolled back the stone that had covered the grave where our Lord was placed after His - what looked like - His death.

[3] [This angel's] countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

[4] And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

[5] And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

[6] He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Read this all again. Was Christ already out of the grave when the angel rolled the stone away? It certainly seems that way. The angel rolled the stone away so those that were there could look in and see that He was gone. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. He's not here.

[7] And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

Sure. He was already on His way to Galilee when the angel rolled the stone away.

[8] And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

How fast do you think you'd be running? Put yourself in the shoes - if you can catch them - of these men who had seen their Lord executed by the state. They were eye-witnesses. They saw Him taken, arrested in the middle of the night. They heard the witnesses against Him. Yeah, they knew that He was accused of forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself was Christ a King. They knew He was guilty of those accusations and they knew what was coming - because - indeed He had preached

that men ought not to give tribute to Caesar - and they knew that He taught that He was the King. They knew these things. They saw Him beaten. They saw the crown of thorns. They saw the purple robe. They heard the cruel mockings. They saw the results of the scourging. They saw Him as the Roman soldiers - at the urging of the quote "preachers" - they saw Him as He was nailed to the cross. They were there when He said He was thirsty - only for the Roman soldiers to give Him vinegar. They saw, they were there when the Roman soldier thrust the spear into His side - because He was a man above men and He was proving how difficult it was for mere men to kill Him.

They took His seemingly dead body and wrapped it and put in the grave. Their hopes for a King and His Kingdom - dashed into pieces with the death of the One they believed was the fulfillment of all the prophecies - from Creation - through Moses - through the prophets - through John the Baptist and through His Own teaching. Now, He was dead. What was to become of His life, His teachings, the prophecies. Had they all been wrong?

Now - He was out of the grave. The angel had rolled the stone away so they could see an empty tomb. Their hearts now pounding, raging out of their chests - their hopes renewed. He had risen from the dead. Everything He had said, everything He had told them - quite possibly - more than possibly - it was true. So, yeah, off they went running as fast as they possibly could. Verse 9.

[9] And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Absolutely. You have to put yourself in the shoes of these people in order to fully grasp the situation. When Jesus met them, the very first Words out of His mouth were regal, royal Words, Words due to Kings - "All hail." And they immediately fell at Jesus' feet and worshipped Him.

Of course those men had their lives changed by living with Christ during His ministry. By seeing His many miracles, by hearing his many messages - but nothing could compare with seeing Him after His resurrection. This was the greatest event in the history of mankind and they were eye-witnesses.

[10] Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

[11] Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

Now I want you to watch this very closely. The word of Christ's resurrection came to the chief priests. These were the top dogs of the synagogue. These were the top men of religion. They had agreements with the governments of men. They had status with the Romans. They had an open door to Pilate's seat. They had an open door to the white house, so to speak. Watch what they did.

[12] And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

[13] Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

[14] And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

Are you serious? The chief priests - the chief priests - conspired with the government of that day - to continue to lie against Christ. That is amazing. Even with the evidence brought to them that Christ had risen from the dead - just like He said He would - they still felt like they could conspire to create a lie - perpetuate that lie - and then convince others - even the governor - that their lie was true.

I'm telling you today - the same goes on today. Look, the truths about 501(c)(3) government corporations has been out of the bag for a long, long time in this country. There is NO excuse for anyone claiming to be a follower of Jesus Christ NOT to know the abomination of being unequally yoked together with unbelievers as a government created, creature of the state - corporation. I'm telling you that the high priests of our day - have conspired against the truth of King Jesus - in exactly the same way as the high priests of Christ's day did it. It's the same thing.

Even if the governor himself suspicions that Christ was risen from the dead, we'll fix it with him. We'll persuade him that it isn't the truth. Even though the truth is out of the bag today - the high priests and the high quote "preachers" in the corporate world of quote "church" are continuing to persuade people that Jesus was not the Messiah prophesied to come - and everyone is to continue looking for a messiah to come. Verse 15.

[15] So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

And to this day - 10/4/2020 - it's still commonly reported. The truth is still being hidden and kept away from anyone who is truly seeking the Kingdom of God - right now. Verse

16.

[16] Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

[17] And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

I wish the text here said who they were that doubted. I believe we know that Thomas was one of them. The text says there were eleven of them. The comparable John 20 passage lets us know that Thomas was cured out of His doubting issue. Then, in Acts 1, there were 11 names listed there - so they must all have been cured out of the doubt. Verse 18.

[18] And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Now, I've asked you before - after all that has been done and seen here in these last several days riding up to this text - did these men believe that Christ had all power in heaven and in earth? Absolutely. Especially if we go to the John 20 passage and see that all doubt was removed. Then, it was commanded to the disciples in verse 19

[19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

[20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

And, they obeyed. They did what they were told. They did so even though their message was the same message that condemned Christ their Lord. Even knowing that if they preached what Christ preached - their fate could and possibly would be the same. But they obeyed because they saw that death itself could not prevent the Gospel of the Kingdom from being preached to the entire Roman empire.

Now, verse 20 again -

and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

There is a time limit placed on this text. Unto the end of the Old Covenant World. Yes. The word world here is "aion." The end of the Old Covenant World. But this is one of those passages where the principle remains. Clearly it is the responsibility of each of us to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom - to every generation - to our generation - and He



will be with us - just like He was with His disciples - until the end of our generation.

The fact that what looked like “death” could not hold back His disciples from preaching to the world - is the same for us - just like it was for them. And until we understand this - until we believe this just like they did - we are going to be among the doubters - whoever they were in verse 17. Death can't hold us anymore than it held Him. We serve the same Lord and King they did and it is still our responsibility to preach the same things He told His disciples when He saw them face to face after His resurrection from the dead.

Be not called Rabbi - is not Christ telling His disciples not to be teachers. Christ was telling His followers to not be like those who esteem one man greater than another.

The word Rabbi, at least according to Strong's means:

*my great one, my honourable sir*

*a title used by the Jews to address their teachers (and also honour them when not addressing them)*

Christ wasn't telling His followers not to teach, He was telling them the same thing that Paul was reaffirming in Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Teach? Preach? Absolutely. Call a man “reverend” or “master” or “lord” - not a chance.

Real quickly, turn back to Hebrews 8 again. Let me try to explain something else - that when combined with the misunderstanding from the Rabbi text, also makes some people think they don't have a responsibility to teach and preach.

Hebrews 8. We'll begin in verse 1 but I'm going to read quickly.

[1] Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

[2] A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

[3] For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of

necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

[4] For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:

[5] Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

[6] But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

[7] For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

[8] For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

[9] Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

[10] For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

[11] And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

[12] For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

[13] In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Remember, now, time, place and people. Not one single word of this book was written to you and me. We weren't alive when a single word was written. This was said to those people - in the first century - to whom the original New Covenant was made. And you can rest assured - that everyone who received that Covenant - knew the Lord - from the least to the greatest - they ALL knew Him. The Gospel - according to Colossians 1 - at the time of Paul's writing - the Gospel had spread into all the world - and - it had been preached - past tense - to every creature under Heaven. That's what the text says.

But we have to remember that the Kingdom of God is from generation to generation. It is the responsibility of every generation to keep the Kingdom going. It doesn't happen by osmosis. It doesn't happen because our fathers did or in many cases - did not - keep

the Kingdom going.

It is the responsibility of each of us - in our generation - to make sure the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached and lived.

Instead, many times, we find ourselves handcuffed by twisted teachings of Scriptures designed - with the ultimate purpose - of doing everything that can be done - to prevent the Gospel of the Kingdom from being preached.

To the point, where people look at a passage, like the one in Hebrews 8, and because they do not understand the importance of time and place, and who the Word were actually written to - they'll look at a passage of Scripture like that and use it as an excuse not to tell someone the Gospel.

Who did that? Who told us that in our generation - there is no need to preach the Kingdom? The ones who told us that the Kingdom is future. They are the ones who told us this. And those voices are not the voices of the Good Shepherd.

We have a mandate to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, to live the Gospel of the Kingdom - right now - and it's every bit a real mandate for us - as it was to the men it was first spoken to. The principles from Matthew 28 are still valid today and they will be from generation to generation.

Alright. Finally now, to today's message.

We left off last week with Romans 13:9.

I had been telling you how that a man wrote to me and said that the U.S. CONstitution was not based on the 10 commandments - to which I responded, "that is most true." The CONstitution is not based on the 10 commandments, it's not based on any commandment, because it's not based on the Bible.

To me, it is incomprehensible - and again - if that's not it's just going to have to be because it is very easy for me to say - but it is unbelievable for me that men who would call themselves Christians would adopt a man-made document to themselves and call it the quote "supreme law of the land."

I can't imagine for one second, when Christ told His disciples after His resurrection - as described in Matthew 28 - "now in addition to whatsoever I have commanded you" - as if that wasn't enough - "go out and build yourselves nations and when you do that, create your own set of laws, statutes and judgements and make no mention whatsoever of the things I have commanded you." No way. Not a chance. It could not happen with true followers of Christ.

So, I showed you last week how the God ordained Government - clearly laid out and taught in Romans 12 and Romans 13 - is built on at the very least - some of the 10

commandments. I want you to turn with me back to Romans 13 again, and let's take another, closer look.

Verse 1.

[1] Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Christ told His disciples in Matthew 28 - ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and in earth. He has ALL THE POWER. All the power is His. It's ALL His and it's ALL His Father's. They are the higher powers. And there is no power but God's. Those powers - the powers of Christ and the powers of His Father's - they are the Ones ordained of God. No one else. Nothing else - if it is not the powers of Christ or the powers of His Father - can be what this text is talking about.

This is not talking about man's little g governments. Verse 2.

[2] Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Again, the word "ordinance." It's God's ordinances. It is not man's ordinances. Just because a man says his words are "ordinance" does not make what is talked about in this passage. Man does not have the power - man does not have the authority - in the New Covenant World - to make an ordinance. If he does so, or tries to do so, it's a dead give-away that he is an impostor. He is a usurper. He is trying to circumvent the power of God. Verse 3.

[3] For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

[4] For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Once again, this ruler is the same exact ruler that is an office in the Administration of the Kingdom of God found in Romans 12:8. This is a judge that is ruling - measuring - the actions of the people according to the Perfect Will of God. The tickmarks on the measuring stick are the definitions of good and evil pre-defined by God and by God alone - found in the Scriptures - found in the history of Israel and as God clearly spoke concerning, for instance, "and he did that which was evil in the sight of God."

It is evil as defined in the 10 commandments - though not all the 10 commandments - as we shall see - deal with good and evil, necessarily - as in the way Godly Government

is established in Romans 13. Verse 5.

[5] Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

[6] For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

[7] Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

[8] Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

[9] For this,

Now wait a minute. For this, what? What is he talking about? For this, what?

For this Government. For the administration of the Government of God. The Kingdom of God. The Ecclesian form of Government.

Paul is saying, in the Government of God, the Government that is ordained of God - base it on this:

Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

I want you to see how simplistic the Laws of God are in the Ecclesian way.

You don't adulterate. You don't commit murder. You don't steal. You don't bear false witness and you don't covet your neighbor's stuff.

What are these things? These are physical sins and trespasses that can be legislated. This is the extent of it. You don't need a stack of quote "laws" that reaches to the moon and back. This is it. This is the extent of what you are allowed to - for lack of a better word "prosecute" in a God-ordained Government.

These are sins committed man against man. There are victims here. In each one of these sins - there is an actual victim. In the Government of God - "prosecutions" again - simply for lack of a better word - occur when one man victimizes another.

Now, a long discussion could be entered on the sin of adulteration - but I don't have time to go into it right now - but generally speaking - if we apply this to the sexual sins of adultery - then one man definitely victimizes another.

I find it very interesting that these specific sins are the ones listed by Paul in the establishing of God ordained Government.

When we were at the Conference, I was lamenting the fact that one of the reasons men who call themselves Israel - do not seem to want to unite - as in a community where they actually live fairly close to one another - is because each seem to have - and I specifically brought up the issue of the Sabbath.

One man believes the Sabbath is a 24 hour period of time that goes from what the world calls Friday evening to Saturday evening. One man believes that Sabbath is on what the world calls Sunday. What man believes the Sabbath is on what the world calls Saturday. Another man believes the Sabbath is according to the moon - which - and I'll just throw this in for free - if a Biblical argument could be made for a 24 hour Sabbath - that's probably the best one - and another man believes the Sabbath is every single day, 24 hours a day, 360 days a year. And each holds to their belief so strongly that "If you don't believe the Sabbath the way I do, then we just can't fellowship, let alone be in community."

And all the while doctrinal fights continue over things like this - we will continue to be separated from those who have far more in common with each other - than with those we should truly be separated from. While we fight over issues like the Sabbath - we're joined at the hip with the sodomites, the freaks, the queers and the perverts.

This week, one of the things that just hit me like a ton of bricks in our study of this Romans 13:9 verse is - at least what I say - a clear omission of the 4th commandment as it relates to the God ordained Government of Romans 12 and 13.

You absolutely can legislate issues relating to the victimization between man and man. But you can't legislate issues of the heart between God and man.

If we were to continue even further into the Government of God, I believe Paul goes on to address some of these issues again and just he did in Romans 12 - where he started out by telling his listeners not to conform to the Old Covenant World - then he talked about the Administrative Offices of God's Government - then - he went into greater detail concerning the Office of Ruler in the next chapter - when he gets to verse 9 in chapter 13 - he then goes into greater detail in chapter 14.

As I said a minute ago, noticeably absent from Romans 13:9 is the issue of the Sabbath. Noticeably absent also are the food laws. Look at Romans 14 verse 1.

And before anyone misunderstands me - I want to say this - I'm going to say it briefly - if a man has not entered into Sabbath rest - he's not in the Kingdom. And, Charlie is not saying it's okay to eat unclean meat. It's not. But before we go to Romans 14, go back to 13:8 real quick.

[8] Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another

hath fulfilled the law.

Stop there for a second. A question was asked of me this week about the release of debt Laws in the Old Covenant World. Read verse 8 again and again and again. Now, verse 9.

[9] For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

[10] Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

[11] And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

[12] The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

[13] Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

[14] But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

[1] Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

[2] For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

[3] Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

[4] Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

[5] One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

[6] He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

[7] For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

[8] For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

[9] For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

[10] But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

[11] For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

[12] So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

[13] Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Now listen to me, I'm not using this text to say in the New Covenant World we are free to throw away the Old Covenant Food Laws. Not saying that at all. Lobster, catfish, armadillos, possums, pigs were all unclean - that were not to be eaten - and they still are not to be eaten. And, I actually believe that this passage is addressing - probably more accurately those who claim that all meat is not to be eaten - even that which was clearly allowed in the Old Covenant World - these things are not to be legislated in the God ordained Government of Romans 12-13.

[5] One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Paul is addressing why he didn't list specifically legislated sins from Romans 13:9.

Should we seek unity? Absolutely we should seek unity. Should we have common faith - systems of belief - in our communities? Absolutely we should. But the problem is - we don't even have a community. We so busy fussing and arguing about things like the Sabbath - we've allowed those things to keep us step 1 - which is Christian community.

Am I talking about compromise for the sake of community? Not at all. I'm not saying anything of the sort. There are absolutely some things that I will not compromise for the sake of community. But I believe the starting point is in the faith - the system of belief that says that Christ is King right now. When I find men that will start at that point - that Christ is King right now - His Kingdom is right now - and it is our responsibility to Come out of the little g governments of men and into the big G Government / Kingdom of God - that's the starting point for me.

And, in all my years of trying to walk in the Kingdom of God, when I have found men who will agree on that point - I have found it to not be very difficult to come to agreement on these other issues - or at the very least extend grace to one another while we seek answers.

One of the problems we face - is - sadly - many of us are still playing "church." Instead of trying to build community.

The reason there are a million different types of quote "churches" is because of all the schisms related to issues discussed in Romans 12 through 14.

These are the things that can be quote "prosecuted" - these are the things that cannot be. I'm hearing from people who want to know how stoning takes place in the Christian



community for people who refuse to obey the 24 hour Sabbath the way they believe it should be done. Wow. We're missing it badly.

We will never be in community when people are asking how we can start stoning each other before we even come together.

“Well, we have finally come together as believers in the Kingdom of God and our first act of business is a stoning. That's a winner. That's a sure fire way to get started. We have to legislate our beliefs on others - first act of business - let's stone everyone who doesn't believe exactly the way we do.”

To me, brethren, it's so simple.

I get this asked of me a lot. What carries over from the Old World to the New World? I believe the answer is simple.

If it involves a sacrifice - it's not for the New Covenant World. Go back to the writings of Moses. If your belief system - your faith - if you look at something that God told Moses to write to tell His people to do in the Old World - if a sacrifice of an animal is involved - then it's not for today. It's simple.

We are now entering quote “feast season.” If you are one who believes that we are to quote “keep the feasts” in the Old Covenant World - then you better go back to Leviticus 24 and find out how God told Moses the feast was to be done. And, if you can do it - EXACTLY THE WAY GOD TOLD MOSES it was to be done - then by all means - you better obey. But if you can't do it exactly the way God told Moses it was supposed to be done - well - again - it's not difficult - it's not for today.

God will never tell His people to do something that can't be done. If you think the feast of tabernacles is for today - then you better do it the way it was prescribed to be done.

Passover? Well, the argument was said, “Christ kept the Passover.” Absolutely He did. Christ lived in the Old Covenant World. He kept the Passover - and He oversaw the sacrificing of a lamb. Because the Feast of Passover required the sacrificing of a lamb.

I don't know where we ever came up with the idea that we can change the feasts, we can take this and leave that - where did we get the Authority to do that?

I want to close with Isaiah 65:17 and then another passage in Philippians. Turn there with me quickly. Isaiah 65:17

[17] For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Then, Philippians 3:

[1] Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

- [2] Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.
- [3] For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.
- [4] Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:
- [5] Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;
- [6] Concerning zeal, persecuting the ecclesia; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
- [7] But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.
- [8] Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,
- [9] And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:
- [10] That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
- [11] If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.
- [12] Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.
- [13] Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
- [14] I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Am I saying the first 39 books have no value? Of course not, I've said hundreds of times that in the first 39 books of the Bible we find the Will of God for His people more than what we see in the last 27. The principles we learn from the history of Israel are invaluable. But going back to the ceremonies from the times well before the physical coming of Christ? For what? For what purpose? Every single one of the feast involves the physical sacrificing of a lamb. That is Old World technology. We have and are to move way beyond those things. Is that a valuable part of Israelite history? Well - yeah - if we were actually applying the principles from those stories.

But we aren't. Most people who call themselves Israelites today are doing absolutely nothing in their lives to establish a testimony before men - that they are Israelites. As I've said a thousand times before - let's open our billfolds and lay the contents on the

table - just like Habakkuk 2

And Yahweh answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Let's take our billfolds and open the contents and lay them on the table so that we can read it. What identifies us as Israel?

The history of Israel is not what is to be celebrated - and mainly because you know it and I know it - for the most part - it's not particularly a great history lesson in obedience. What is to be taken from the history of Israel are the principles that God has shown - the importance of obedience to His voice.

We are not Israel because we say we keep a Sabbath. We are not Israel because we say we keep the feasts. We are Israel because we believe in the Kingship of Christ and His present-day Kingdom. Israelites believe and understand that we are to come out of the Old Covenant World and into the New Covenant World where there is One King, One Lawgiver and One Lord - and beside Him there is no other.