

Chapter 12

WRITTEN WITH THE FINGER OF GOD

*“And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”
Exodus 31:18*

Contained in the Two Tables of Testimony, tables of stone, are the popular Ten Commandments of God. (Exodus 20:2-17):

FIRST PART OR STEP 1 – ON IDENTIFYING GOD

- *“I am the Lord thy God...” (Exodus 20:2)
“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:3)*
- *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God...” (Exodus 20:4-5)*

SECOND PART OR STEP 2 – LOVE OF GOD

- *“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7)*
- *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work...” (Exodus 20:8-10)*

THIRD PART OR STEP 3 – LOVE OF “NEIGHBOR”

- *“Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” (Exodus 20:12)*
- *“Thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13)*
- *“Thou shalt not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:14)*
- *“Thou shalt not steal.” (Exodus 20:15)*
- *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16)*
- *“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, or his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor’s.” (Exodus 20:17)*

Jesus Christ sum up the Ten Commandments into:

First Part or Step 1 – ON IDENTIFYING GOD

- *Mark 12:29 “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.”*

Second Part or Step 2 – LOVE OF GOD

- *Mark 12:30 “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”*

Third Part or Step 3 – LOVE OF “NEIGHBOR”

- *Mark 12:31 “And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”*

Christianity Today, composed of “1001” religious sects, preaches these as the foundation of Godliness and salvation. God revealed His love to man who would become His eternal companion.

1 John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

1 John 4:16 "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

The three (3) parts or steps are sequential and can never be interchanged. This is a basic truth that perhaps "many" people have overlooked. To *know* before *loving* is a basic principle. Chapter 5 compared, or in contrast, with Chapter 6 deals with the *first step* of identifying God.

"I AM THE LORD THY GOD"

Unknown to many people, the first commandment is the introduction by God of Himself!

- "I am the Lord thy God"¹
- "Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord."²

During the time of Christ, how many among the Jews recognized the God of Abraham?

John 8:54 "Jesus answered... it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: ⁵⁵Yet ye have not known him..."

Today, how many people recognize the one true God of the Holy Bible? Many people while believing in one God keep in their hearts the mystery of His identity. Chapter 5 is devoted to the clear recognition of the God who handed down the two tables of stone where, with His finger, wrote down the Ten Commandments. A hazy recognition of Him is already a violation of the first commandment. Who can now boast of following the commandments when "an offense in one" makes a person guilty of all?³

"THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE"

Physical idolatry – The common form

Popularly understood, idolatry refers to the worship of idols in the form of statues or images. Some of the many verses point to this belief.

¹ Exodus 20:2

² Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29

³ James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

Isaiah 44:13-20 "The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. ¹⁴He heweth him down ... among the trees of the forest...¹⁵Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. ¹⁶He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: ¹⁷And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. ¹⁸They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand. ¹⁹And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?²⁰He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?"

Isaiah 46:5-7 "To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me...?⁶They lavish gold ...and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship. ⁷They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove...."

Jeremiah 10:8 "But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities. ⁹Silver spread into plates ...and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men."

Psalms 115:4-8 "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ⁵They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not. ⁶They have ears, but they hear

not: noses have they, but they smell not. ⁷They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. ⁸They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them."

In the Old Testament, idolatry was manifested by the worship of false gods like Baal,⁴ Ashtaroth and Baalim,⁵ Ashtoreth, Apis, Dagon, and other gods. Even in our day's physical idolatry remains. In spite of the warning given, many people still fall prey to physical idolatry. As in the Old Testament, idols are also known by different names. Under the guise of representing the true God and "in memory of Him," idols are rationalized by philosophy and founded on emotional grounds. Bible characters are idolized under the same consideration. Old Testament idolatry takes the same form today, only the names have changed.

Romans 1:22 "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man..."

Romans 1:25 "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator..."

Man is indeed spiritually blind. He seems to be deaf as well, for he cannot hear what God is telling him:

Deuteronomy 7:25 "The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire... ²⁶Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing."

⁴Judges 2:13 "And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth."

Jeremiah 2:8 "The priests said not, Where *is* the LORD? and *they that handle the law knew me not*:...and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after *things that* do not profit.

Jeremiah 23:13 "And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err."

⁵1 Samuel 12:10 "And they cried unto the LORD, and said, We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtaroth: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee."

Jeremiah 5:2 "And though they say, The Lord liveth; surely they swear falsely."

God commands the people but they are as hard as a rock:

Jeremiah 5:3 "...they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return."

With the use of the senses, the sense of sight, touch, and the sense of smell, man resorts to physical idolatrous worship. This is idolatry relating to *physical life*.

"Soulish" Idolatry

Idolatry extends beyond the physical life (body and soul), and "strokes" the *spiritual life* (soul or spirit of man and Spirit of God). Paul wrote about preserving these two kinds of life:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

If idolatry for the *Body* with the use of statues and images robs God of the attention due Him, idolatry for the *Soul* deprives God of even higher degree where it is directed to fellowmen. In this case, people are the object of idolatry. Jesus Christ saw this in the Scribes and Pharisees:

Matthew 23:6 "And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, ⁷And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi."

He therefore warned His Disciples:

Matthew 23:8-10 "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. ⁹And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. ¹⁰Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ."

"Rabbi" means Master, Teacher, Pastor, or Shepherd. Nowhere in the Bible can we read any of the Apostles having been called, "Pastor or Teacher." Function should be distinguished from honorific titles. In *Spiritual* matters, it is a sin to respect a person:

James 2:9 "But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."

In other human endeavors like, politics, social, economic, and scientific, God even directs the people to render due respect

1 Peter 2:13-15 "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; ¹⁴Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. ¹⁵for so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

Nicolaitanism or "soulsh" idolatry

Unknown to many, Jesus Christ warned against idolatry for the *Soul*:

Revelation 2:6 "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."

(The word *Nicolaitans* comes from the *me.*, OFr. Nicolas; L. Nicolaus; Gr. Nikolaos <nike, victory + laos, the people. Thus, victory over the people.⁶)

Unwittingly, man enjoys "victory" over his fellowmen in religious matters. With the kind of organizational set-up in religious sects, the leaders cannot help but occupy a position of esteem over the laity or people. The practice sets a favorable atmosphere for idolizing the leaders of the organization that the subjects equally enjoy. Unknowingly, both the subject and the object become victims of the sin of idolatry of the higher order. This time, people are the objects of idolatrous worship. In the book of Revelation, Jesus Christ condemns the "deeds of the Nicolaitans" as He condemned Lucifer, the first to rob God of this glory exclusively belonging to Him. Peter, the apostle believed to head a certain sect and whose position the leaders imagine to assume, warns of the malpractice, which in essence is Nicolaitanism:

1 Peter 5:3 "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock."

⁶ College Edition - Webster's New World Dictionary of the English Language.

The spiritual Church representing pure Christianity in the first century should not be confused with religious sects that make up *Christianity today*. Jesus Christ gave the revelation in:

Revelation 17:5 "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

For emphasis the following, which was discussed in previous chapter, is repeated.

Christianity we have today evolved over many centuries. It was started by the biggest religious sect and its origin can be traced back to the 3rd century during the reign of Constantine I. Constantine I is also known as Constantine the Great. His full name is Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus, a Roman emperor who was born on February 27, 280 and died on May 22, 337. He was the son of Flavia Helena, popularly known as Saint Helena. Constantine I was the emperor of Rome who befriended the Christians. Here is an account of how Christianity was "adulterated" with strange pagan practices and unscriptural doctrines:

Excerpts from Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. 7, Page 555, 1967 Edition:

"...Constantine saw a flaming cross in the heavens beneath the sun, bearing the Latin inscription Hoc Vinces (in this sign thou wilt conquer) or according to other sources, in Greek, En Touto Nika."

"In 325 A.D., Constantine became sole emperor of East and West. In the same year he summoned a council at Nicaea (now Iznik, Turkey), known as the Nicean Council, in an effort to bring the followers of Arius and Athanasius to agreement to a common creed."

"On May 11, 330 A.D., the new capital, rebuilt, enlarged, and renamed Constantinopolis for the emperor, was dedicated with half-Christian, half-pagan ceremonies."

"In religious matters, since he himself was not baptized until he lay on his deathbed, Constantine was probably attracted to Christianity, whose advance had been so remarkable, as much by the political use he could make of it to restore unity to the empire, as by personal conviction."

The act of Constantine gave way to the establishment of the most popular religious sect that was to become the “mother” of all sects. Nicolaitanism, a practice of the “mother sect,” is adopted by the “daughter denominations.” Leaders of each religious organization distinguish themselves from the laity with colorful titles. Theologian, Bible scholar, Pope, Cardinal, Archbishop, Bishop, Pastor, Minister, Evangelist, Monsignor, Reverend, Father, Holiness, and Highness are some of the honorific titles that command respect, honor, and adulation from the members. These “1001” religious sects are what make up *Christianity today*.

Nicolaitanism is the practice that promotes “soulsh idolatry” among “Christians.” No wonder Jesus Christ repeated His condemnation of the practice in:

Revelation 2:15 “So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

The doctrine of the Nicolaitans makes men glorify men. God has a contrary doctrine:

2 Corinthians 10:17 “But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 3:21 “...let no man glory in men...”

James 2:9 “But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.”

The objects of idolatry here are people who are looked up and revered. This refers to self-exaltation and self-glorification in religious matters. Lucifer was the first to practice this form of idolatry. It is a case of self-worship. God gave the reminder in 2 Corinthians 10:17, and God’s way of glorifying Him is to lift up His word:

Psalms 56:10 “In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.”

Psalms 56:11-13 “In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. ¹²Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee. ¹³For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?”

“Materialism”

Idolatry is broad in scope. Aside from the several forms already discussed, it also includes covetousness. This is what God says in:

Colossians 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection...and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Judas Iscariot is guilty of the sin of idolatry in selling our Lord for coveting 30 pieces of silver.

Physical idolatry – In “concealed” form

Many people see only physical idolatry. In the Old Testament, God warned His people of the gods of the heathen. Among them were:

Baal, the god of the Canaanites and the Phoenicians. Jezebel championed worship of this god.

Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Canaanites, later known as Ashtaroth, Venus, Diana, the goddess of beauty.

Dagon, the god of the Philistines, with the head and hands of a man and the body of a fish.

Apis, the god of the Egyptians with a head and hands of a man and the body of a lion.

Can anyone expect people to worship these false gods today? How can the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob compare to these gods of the heathen? Nevertheless, sad to say, truly the word of God has not passed away, for many people still have images and statues only with different names.

Can man see beyond the literal and the physical? Did not Jesus say, “The words are spirit?” Paul echoing this truth state, “For we know that the laws are spiritual.” The word of God should not be treated like any story that only pertains to the past.

In Chapter 6, we saw how people worship different “Jesus Christs” preached by the different religious sects. Among them are the “God” of Sabellius, the “God” of Arius, the “God” of Athanasius, and their derivative “Gods.” But let all people reading the Holy Bible be forewarned of what Jesus told John the

apostle as he was exiled in the island of Patmos: Revelation 13:8, 13:11, and 17:8.⁷ After the revelation of these truth, can people confidently present themselves before God and profess that they have truly followed the *First Commandment*?

God through His words revealed three (3) types of idolatrous worship:

1. "Physical" idolatry for images and statues
2. "Soulish" idolatry for adulation of religious leaders
3. "Materialism" for covetousness and avarice

"THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN"

To take this literally would mean making fun of God's name, or mentioning it without due respect and reverence. In the Old Testament, God promised to give His name to His chosen in due time:

Isaiah 52:6 "Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I."

After God "manifested Himself in the flesh,"⁸ He revealed His physical name. It is JESUS CHRIST.⁹ This physical name of God was made known after He

⁷ Revelation 13:8 "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship *him* whose names are not written in the book of life..."

Revelation 13:11 "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

Revelation 17:8 "...and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

⁸ 1 Timothy 3:16 [KJV] "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit..."

⁹ Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach...*baptizing* them in the *name* of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them...and be *baptized*...in the *name* of *Jesus Christ*..."

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a *son* is given...and his name shall be called...*counselor* (or Comforter), The mighty God, The Everlasting Father (1 Corinthians 8:6)..."

Isaiah 45:23 "I have sworn by myself...that unto me *every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear*."

introduced Himself in Chapter 5. The general notion for this commandment is to make fun or to be disrespectful to this literal name.

The spiritual name of God

Aside from God's literal name, *Jesus Christ*, He has His spiritual name as revealed to John in the island of Patmos:

Revelation 19:13 "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."

Perhaps no one would malign God's literal name, Jesus Christ. It is His spiritual name, the Word of God, that He directs this commandment:

Exodus 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

This is where we will hear Him rebuke many people using His *name* when actually they do not know Him.¹⁰

Matthew 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?¹¹ and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity...."

The "wonderful works" that these people are professing refer to "casting out devils, prophesying in the name of 'Jesus Christ,' and social and civic works that benefit many people." Christ would remind them of the following:

Philippians 2:10-11 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Colossians 2:9 "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

¹⁰ Chapter 5 and 6 as reference

¹¹ Matthew 24:23-24 "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe it not. ²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

John 8:19 "...Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also."

John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

Jesus would rebuke them of the "iniquities they have done" in the following. This is directed to people who did not recognize Jesus "by the revelation of the Father" as Simon Peter did (Matthew 16:16-17).

Matthew 23:5 "But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, ⁶And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, ⁷And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.: ⁸But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. ⁹And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."

Look how two different kinds of people value God's spiritual name which is the *Truth* in the Word of God:

Micah 4:5 "For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever."

Thus, to "walk in the *name* of the Lord" is to live according to the *Way* or example He showed.¹² This is the truth, shown by Jesus Christ as model.¹³ The power in His *Name* is the *Truth* in His word!

Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..."

¹² 1 Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

¹³ Romans 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Now God clearly revealed that, "taking the name of the Lord in vain" is not simply making fun of or being disrespectful to His literal name, but more so, with His spiritual name which is the *Truth*.

"Taking the name of the Lord in vain" is professing to use His Word, but rejecting the truth. Thus:

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Jeremiah 23:29 "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"

Ephesians 6:17 "...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God..."

Here is the penalty for violating this commandment:

Exodus 20:7 "...the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

Leviticus 24:16 "And he that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death..."

After the revelation of the real meaning of this sin, the *Third Commandment* written with the finger of God now directs this to His chosen. For those who did not overcome as Esau who exchanged his blessing for a cup of soup and bread, King Saul who did not follow the way of humility, and Judas Iscariot, all were spiritually "put to death."

"REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY"

God gave His commandments to the Israelites and commanded them to follow everything:

Deuteronomy 28:58 "If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD."

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

How did God expect His people to follow His word: Literally-physically or spiritually? God knows the heart of man. He knew that man would try to understand the laws according to the dictate of his intellect, follow some to the letter, and then brag about following the law and claim love of God. That was what Jesus found in the Jews, especially the Scribes and Pharisees, during His time. The term *Pharisaism* was derived from this belief and practice. God has this to say on the work of the "letter of the law:"

Romans 3:20 "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

They kept the Sabbath literally by not working on that day. They did not see the same thing in Jesus and therefore accused Him of violating the Sabbath law.¹⁴

The literal Sabbath was for the rest of the *Body*. Jesus indicated He valued the *Soul* over the *Body*.¹⁵ He, therefore, confirmed His statement in John 6:63¹⁶ and Romans 7:1¹⁷ that the laws are spiritual. In fact, one reason why God manifested Himself in the flesh is to show the way through the "spiritual word."

2 Corinthians 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

¹⁴ John 9:16 "Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day..."

¹⁵ Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

¹⁶ John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; *the flesh profiteth nothing*: the words that I speak unto you, *they are spirit*, and *they are life*."

¹⁷ Romans 7:14 "For we know that the *law is spiritual*..."

The Jews obeyed the literal Sabbath because that was all they could comprehend. Jesus showed the spiritual Sabbath, which is the rest of the *Soul*. He expressed it this way:

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

If literal Sabbath is rest for the *Body*, spiritual Sabbath is peace for the *Soul* for that means eternal life with God!

Man was created on the 6th day,¹⁸ and God rested on the 7th.¹⁹ God allows man "to work for 6 days"²⁰ and requires him to rest on the 7th day,²¹ and called this the *Sabbath* rest.²²

The "6-day work" of man must be referring to his "own effort working for salvation." This is really a heavy burden for him that Jesus now invites him to "come unto Him."

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The "yoke" that is carried on the shoulder symbolizes the "cross" which is the symbol for salvation.²³ Salvation through *Jesus*, the *Truth*, is made easy by

¹⁸ Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them... ³¹ And God saw every thing that he had made...were the sixth day."

¹⁹ Genesis 2:2 "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. ³ And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."

²⁰ Exodus 20:9 "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work."

²¹ Exodus 20:10 "But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant."

God explains spiritual "son, daughter..." in Deuteronomy 13:6 as referring to the soul.

²² Exodus 20:8 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."

truly humbling oneself before Him. Thus, "Sabbath rest" is salvation, which is the "rest for the soul." Let us take note that *Christ* is referring to the "rest for the soul," and not for the body.

Since "rest" refers to salvation, now it is clear what Jesus said, "I am Lord even of the Sabbath."²⁴ By demonstration, God shows He created Sabbath for man and not man for the Sabbath.

Jesus' Illustration of a sheep in a pit is the great message of *Sabbath*. The sheep²⁵ symbolizes the chosen that Jesus needs to rescue from the teachings of the Scribes and Pharisees (false apostles) that are blind and both falling into a ditch.

Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Matthew 12:11 "And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?"

Sabbath or salvation must indeed be the eternal sign for God's chosen:

Exodus 31:16 "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. ¹⁷It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."

The "children of Israel" are not necessarily the physical descendants of Jacob but:

²³ Philippians 4:3 "And I intreat thee also, true *yokefellow*, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel...and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

2 Corinthians 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

²⁴ Matthew 12:8 "For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day."

²⁵ Matthew 25:32 "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a *shepherd divideth his sheep* from the goats."

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Violation of Sabbath refers to "man's way and efforts for salvation." Thus, the "death" penalty as the man caught gathering sticks on the Sabbath:

Numbers 15:32-36 "And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. ³³And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. ³⁴And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. ³⁵And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. ³⁶And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses."

Revelation 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death."

Moreover, to those who have been enlightened and have tasted the heavenly gift, like Esau, King Saul, and Judas Iscariot, this is their end:

Hebrews 6:4-6 "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

Indeed, Christ had not destroyed the law but He came to fulfill it.²⁶ God requires His chosen to keep the Sabbath law for this is His plan for salvation.

²⁶ Matthew 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. ¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Psalms 95:11 "Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest."

Hebrews 4:2-11 "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them... ³For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. ⁵And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. ⁶Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: ⁷Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. ⁸For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. ⁹There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God... ¹¹Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

"HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER"

"Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Everybody including those who reject the Bible appreciate this command. This is one good example of moral lessons derived from the Bible, taking its literal meaning. However, moral lessons are not all in the inspired word of God. More than the moral are the spiritual lessons. Man should be able to distinguish the two.

Morals are what constitute man's standard of righteousness; spiritual, that of God's standard. These two do not always go together in the eyes of men; neither do they in the eyes of our Lord when He rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees:

Matthew 23:26 "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

In taking the literal meaning of the commandment, why do people who zealously follow the "letter" of the law not equally prescribe the corresponding punishment for its violation?

Exodus 21:17 "And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death."

Who are my father and my mother? Man could be thinking of his physical parents, whose relationship with him is purely social in nature in the eyes of God. There is a need to distinguish the social from spiritual relationship. God's word extends beyond the realm of the physical and social. "The things of God are spirit."²⁷ Jesus Christ, through the Bible, defines the spiritual.

Spiritual Father

People have different fathers. For Christ's disciples, the real believers, the spiritual Father is God.

Matthew 23:8 "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. ⁹And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."

For the rest of the people, sorry to state, the "other father" is Satan.

John 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

God is the teacher whose name is holy and revered.

Psalms 111:9 "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name."

He is a jealous God. This is something to think. Jesus Christ in His first role as "Father"²⁸ cannot share His glory to anyone else. Anybody usurping this role as teacher and taking His honorific titles is condemned. Jesus Christ in His second role as "Son of God" is all humility before the Father.

²⁷ 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

²⁸ 1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..."

John 5:19 "... Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself..."

God's chosen people follow the example of our Lord in His second role as "Son" that no one among them ever takes the role of the Father. Therefore, God forbids His chosen to respect each other for they all are "brethren." Is this not repulsive using human wisdom?

James 2:9 "But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."

Spiritual mother

In like manner, the physical mother is differentiated from the spiritual mother. The wife of Christ is the Church that is composed of real believers.²⁹ The Church should be distinguished from the religious sect. A sect is a group of "religious" rather than "spiritual" people. A religious sect, like the sect of the Pharisees during the time of Christ, uses the law or the Bible as basis for religious beliefs. A religious sect is an organization composed of members bound by a common religious belief, under the supervision of the religious leaders. Men train and appoint leaders of religious sects.

This fact alone exposes the religious sect as not representing the Church because it is tainted with human precepts and religious traditions that are condemned.³⁰ Through the word of God, the Church or the spiritual mother is clearly distinguished from human organizations popular known as "church" founded by Christ.

An organization tainted with extraneous human doctrines can never be the spiritual Church. Christ leads His wife, the Church, and never by any man or group of men. Christ, the spiritual husband, is the truth. Truth, as head, leads the spiritual Church and human doctrines and religious traditions do not govern it.

It is our Lord's explanation of the laws or word of God given to His Disciples that distinguishes them from the Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees. In

²⁹ Ephesians 5:23-25 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body... ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."

³⁰ Colossians 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

addition, it is the spiritual understanding and application of the word of God that distinguish the Church from the religious sects and denominations. God gave His commandments to the Israelites, and Christ expounds them to His Disciples.

Mark 4:11 "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: ¹²That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them."

Those "within" should be clearly distinguished from those "without," as the "spiritual man"³¹ is distinguished from the "natural man."³² The natural man understands only the literal-physical meaning of the Word; the spiritual man sees beyond that.

The spiritual parents

The spiritual parents are God and the Church (or fellow real believers):

Ephesians 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

The Father, the spiritual husband, heads the Church, the spiritual mother composed of real believers. How can the natural man understand that the real believer who is a part of the Church is a spiritual son at the same time? This must be foolishness to him.

To honor the physical father and mother is only for the *Physical Life*. This is what our Lord told the Scribes and Pharisees pertaining to the "outside of the cup."

³¹ 1 Corinthians 2:15 "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶ For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

³² 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the *natural man* receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

Matthew 23:26 "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

The physical is but a shadow of the spiritual. The spiritual refers to the "inside or "within." To honor the spiritual father and the mother means more than giving due respect to the physical parents. It means pleasing God by obeying His word, and at the same time aspiring for the perfection of the Church of which the believer is a part. This is the real respect and honor for the spiritual father and mother. Now, the admonition of Paul to the Christians of Ephesus finds deeper meaning than the literal connotation it conveys:

Ephesians 6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ²Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise:)³That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

What the real believer looks for in the preceding exhortation is the promise of eternal life not only physical blessing.

Death for dishonoring parents

After knowing the spiritual meaning of the word, the more now we are convinced that it will never pass away. The death penalty for disgracing the spiritual parents is explicitly stated in the following:

Hebrews 6:4-6 "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

"THOU SHALT NOT KILL"

The natural man only sees the physical application of the commandment "thou shalt not kill." If that is all that could be followed in the law, like the rich young ruler who met our Lord,³³ then Jesus is not justified in saying he

³³ Luke 18:20 "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. ²¹ And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up."

was not yet worthy of the heavenly kingdom. Beyond the letter of the law is the spiritual meaning. Jesus Christ expressed the application of the commandment not only for *Physical Life* but for *Spiritual Life* as well. The Natural Man does not even have *Spiritual Life*, mixing it up with *Religious Life*.

Matthew 5:21 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: ²²But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment..."

To be "angry with his brother" is like the sin of King Saul against David. Pride, the cause of jealousy, is the downfall of Lucifer. This was very clear to John when he wrote:

1 John 3:15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

Our Lord emphasized hating without a cause. He demonstrated hating with a spiritual cause when He cast out the merchants in the temple,³⁴ and rebuking the Scribes and Pharisees calling them serpents and a generation of vipers and hypocrite.³⁵ This is "open rebuke."

Proverbs 27:5 "Open rebuke is better than secret love."

Spiritual murderers receive greater punishment. The Scribes, who taught the people a false sense of salvation, are examples of spiritual murderers.

Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Aside of course the rich young Ruler is ignorant of:

James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

³⁴ John 2:14 "And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: ¹⁵ And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables."

³⁵ Matthew 23:33 "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

Luke 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

"THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY"

The commandments of God have two aspects: moral and spiritual. Moral refers to *Physical Life*, while spiritual to the *Spiritual Life*. The natural man only sees the moral aspect of the commandment. It is quite easy to follow monogamous practice, and to maintain fidelity to a spouse. Celibacy may even be practiced to seal obedience to the commandment. That is why it is easy for any man to claim obedience to this commandment. The rich young ruler in Luke 18:20-21 is a good example. This is proof that man only sees the "letter of the law."

2 Corinthians 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

More than the "letter of the law" is the spiritual that refers to *Spiritual Life*. Spiritually speaking, God is the *Husband* and the chosen, both male and female,³⁶ are the spiritual *Wife*.

Jeremiah 3:14 "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you..."

Isaiah 54:5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name..."

The Church, or the real believers, is the *bride* of Christ.³⁷ Spiritual adultery involves receiving "seeds" other than the "seeds of God"³⁸ and this is the *Truth* in His word. Thus, human doctrines and religious traditions are "strange seeds" condemned by God.³⁹ Let us now look at the following under the two aspects of adultery:

³⁶ Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek...there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

³⁷ John 3:29 "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled."

³⁸ Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."

³⁹ Isaiah 29:13 "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and *their fear toward me*

Matthew 5:27 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: ²⁸But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Morally, this is to have sexual intercourse with another other than the spouse. Christ extends this with mere desire. Spiritually since God is the *Husband*, taking His role of planting His "seeds" in the Church, or formulating own doctrines and teaching them to fellow believers is spiritual adultery, both to the giver and receiver of such doctrines.

The mere desire to take the place of God teaching the Church or fellow believers is what is, "looking on a woman with lust." The Church consisting of real believers, both male and female, is the spiritual woman.

Where now is the standing of the Scribes and Pharisees who only take the "letter" of the word? No wonder our Lord called them hypocrites.

"THOU SHALT NOT STEAL"

As the other commandments previously discussed, "thou shalt not steal" is intended to keep both the *Physical Life* and *Spiritual Life* blameless.⁴⁰ For the blamelessness of the former, physical-material stealing should be avoided, as everybody understands. For the latter, it takes two kinds:

Not passing through the door of the sheepfold, the truth.

John 10:1 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."

And this also involves "stealing souls" of men:

Matthew 23:13 "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against

is taught by the precept of men: ¹⁴ Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

⁴⁰ 1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

Matthew 5:20 "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Of all people, not to the murderers, physical thieves, adulterers, corrupt, kidnapers, did Jesus Christ say this thing but to the Scribes and Pharisees:

"Matthew 23:33 "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

Matthew 23:15 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

"THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR"

As in the other commandments, this has two aspects: one is for *Physical Life*. This involves false testimonies indicting a person commonly seen in the courts of law sending innocent people to prison. The other aspect, pertaining to a real believer for *Spiritual Life* is the following:

1 John 1:6 "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not have the truth."

Knowing the truth and not walking by it is a spiritual lie for a real Christian.

James 3:14 "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."

"Neighbor" refers to a fellow believer as distinguished from "fellowmen." Christ expounded on this in:

Mark 12:31 "...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself..."

Jesus Christ revealed who the "neighbor" is in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The victim is leaving Jerusalem and going to Jericho.

Luke 10:29 "But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?" ³⁰And Jesus answering

said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead."

Chapter 16: THOSE IN JUDEA, FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS, discusses the two places of Jerusalem and Jericho. "Who is my neighbor?" will be taken up in Volume 2.

A much differ meaning for this commandment is when a real believer who found the truth now testifies something contrary to what God previously revealed to him. This is backsliding in its real sense that leads to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit has no forgiveness for this involves denial of *Truth*.⁴¹

Hebrews 6:4-6 "For is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

"THOU SHALT NOT COVET..."

The commandments are interrelated to one another as the whole Bible is, for everything constitutes the word of God. We have seen the relationship of adultery to idolatry, and vice versa, and stealing and covetousness, among others.

As in the other commandments keeping both the *Physical* and *Spiritual Life* blameless, this serves as guide in fully comprehending what God "has written with His finger."

Exodus 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

⁴¹ Matthew 12:31 "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men."

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house”

Aside from being envious of material things, another reference for spiritual house is what belongs to a “neighbor” (brethren in Christ) regarding God’s approval or blessings.

Psalms 23:6 “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

Psalms 27:4 “One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.”

On one hand, it is religious proselyting where members of one sect try to win members of other sects, like the Pharisees trying to win the Sadducees, and vice versa, during the time of Christ. True evangelism is sharing the truth as Christ did and later continued by the apostles. The motive for real evangelism is the salvation of the soul and never tainted with material, financial, social, or egotistical consideration.

Luke 16:14 “And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. ¹⁵And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”

More than the physical-material are the things unseen or “within.”

Luke 12:15 “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife”

Everybody understands the literal application of this commandment. Example is the following incident:

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 “It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father’s wife. ²And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be

taken away from among you. ³For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, ⁴In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

Behind the "letter" is the spiritual message in the Word of God. The spiritual Father is God.⁴² The spiritual wife of the Father is the Church.⁴³ To covet the "wife" therefore is to usurp the role of God in the Church. God implants His seeds or His Word in the Church. To wrest this function is to implant one's own "seeds" or own doctrines in the Church.

Together with the act is the appropriation of the glory that solely belongs to the spiritual husband. In this case, grabbing the honor and glory belonging to God alone is appropriating the role of the Father.

PERFECTION, THE ULTIMATE GOAL

Ever since, God's plan was for the perfection of His chosen people. In the Old Testament, we find God telling Abram before calling him Abraham, "to walk before Him, and to be perfect."⁴⁴ Then God repeated the admonition when His people were in the wilderness.⁴⁵ When God "was manifest in the flesh," Jesus in His role as "Son" told His Disciples:

Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Christ's disciples after Pentecost realized the need for spiritual perfection. Peter reiterated it in:

1 Peter 1:16 "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

⁴² Matthew 23:9 "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."

⁴³ As discussed earlier, it refers to the Church composed of real believers.

⁴⁴ Genesis 17:1 "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect."

⁴⁵ Deuteronomy 18:13 "Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God."

At this point, perhaps the reader of this book has realized the distinction between human and divine standard.

Matthew 23:26 "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Truth in the word of God clearly defines spiritual perfection as distinguished from religious where human wisdom taints the word. There can be no harmony between the two kinds of perfection. Thus:

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."⁴⁶



⁴⁶ Segregation is only on spiritual matters, and never does it embrace social, economic, political, scientific, and other human activities, where camaraderie is part of the physical life of the chosen.