

Acts # 87 “Flexible On The Non-essentials And Inflexible On The Essentials”

Acts 20:17-36; 1st Corinthians 9:1-15; 19-23;

The Four Laws of the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. The law of liberty is always directed toward self regarding our rights as royal priests before God.

2. The law of love is directed toward God first and then toward all others.

3. The law of expediency is directed primarily toward the unbeliever for the purpose of evangelism.

As a result of our commitment to Jesus Christ as we understand His love for all and the need to reach the lost, even though we have every right and freedom to do so, we must often refrain from doing certain things; not because they are wrong but because they prevent the unbeliever from seeing the true issue of salvation, faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ, alone.

4. The law of supreme sacrifice is always directed toward God.

Since the day he believed in Jesus Christ as his Savior, Paul’s been a royal family member of the body of Christ and all who are born again and in the body of Christ are no longer Jews or Gentiles but Paul will establish rapport with the Jews from his Jewish background in order to witness to them.

Paul as a Church Age born-again believer could eat pork if he wanted to but to establish a rapport with the Jews, he stayed away from pork under the law of expediency.

In this way, he didn’t make an issue out of the Law and the Law didn’t become an issue in the preaching of the Gospel.

The Christian life is not defined by what we do, it’s why we do what we do and how we do what we do.

Why do some believers and some churches do things differently than we do?

And it’s not about what’s right or wrong or even what’s better or worse; it’s simply about cultural traditions.

Paul never taught the Jews to abandon Moses or not to circumcise their sons but he did clearly emphasize that attempting to keep the Law saves no one and the Gentiles should never be made to adhere to Jewish traditions.

And he did not rebuke the Jews for maintaining their ritual traditions as long as they had their proper place in New Testament worship.

Paul doesn’t say; “No way fellas, I hate the Law or the Law is bad news or it’s over”; he willingly joins in on a cultural tradition that at this point in his life is not an issue either way.

Enter the law of expediency and actually Paul is playing one-upmanship in showing all that his opponents are lying through their teeth.

They can’t legally, morally or honestly charge Paul with any crime or injustice so they manufacture this complete hearsay at best, lie in accusing Paul of bringing a Gentile into the temple area reserved only for Jews.

They are lying to gain power and control by inciting a riot throughout the entire city.

“WHY TRUST WHEN WE CAN WORRY?”

THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT SATAN WANTS US TO DO.

So, I suggest you avoid falling in line with the devil and instead stop by the ‘Bank of Jesus Christ’ and make a deposit of your anxieties and problems with Him!

When we deposit our difficulties with Him, we can relax and why? Because we’re no longer working for Him, He is working for us!

Satan is hungry to devour or immobilize believers who are filled with anxiety, fear or pride!

When Satan succeeds in persuading us to disregard the Word of God, his next move is to tempt us to bypass the will of God.

It is the strategy of the devil to break our stride as runners for Jesus Christ by moving us out of the day by day will of God.