The Constitution of the Kingdom of God

The Laws That Govern in the Kingdom of God

Many of us would like to be in the Kingdom of God, to rejoice and to suffer no more, but perhaps we don't stop to think that there must be laws there too, laws by which we will have to live. Perhaps we don't think that "up there" we will have to live alongside one another, and that this will have to happen according to the laws of the Kingdom.

Yet in the Kingdom of God, His will is done. In other words, what governs there are the Laws of Heaven, His Word, laws that are eternal and unchanging. ("Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35; "The word of the Lord endureth for ever." 1 Peter 1:25)

If the Kingdom of God is marked by righteousness, peace and love, then the things above, the Law of Christ, will bear these same qualities. So when Scripture tells us that the Lord puts His laws into our hearts, these will in fact be the laws of righteousness, peace and love.

The Purpose of the Laws of the Kingdom: Making Man Perfect

In the world, mankind lies in the darkness of sin. That is why laws are given to regulate people's lives and make it possible for them to live together. These laws condemn and punish evil deeds, but they are not designed to work at making a person perfect. Holy Scripture tells us that even the Old Testament law was given because of transgressions. ("Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions." Galatians 3:19)

But in the Kingdom of Heaven, things are not as they are in the world. Those who are in the Kingdom of Heaven with God live in the light and are perfect. To be able to dwell with God, a person will have to be born again of God and become perfect as He is. ("Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48)

The teachings of Christ aim to make us like Him, to make His character our own. ("This is the covenant that I will make with them… I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." Hebrews 10:16; "The end of the commandment is charity." 1 Timothy 1:5) Here is one of these laws: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

The teachings and commandments of Christ are a School of integrity, peace and love. They will come alive in our hearts to the extent that we receive them with joy and obey them. ("Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering." Colossians 3:12)

So not only our outward deeds but our thoughts as well will have to be brought under the teaching of Christ. ("Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

Matthew 28:20; "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15; "Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5)

The Holy Spirit uses these teachings to form, in the one who lets himself be led by Him, a character like that of Christ. ("We… are changed into the same image… by the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18)

One of these teachings, these commandments, tells us not to resist anyone, not even the one who does us harm. By keeping it and putting it into practice, peace and longsuffering will grow in us: a fruit of the Holy Spirit's work, a part of the image of God. (Matthew 5:39)

The trials we go through are no greater than human strength can bear, and their purpose is to bring us to victory over darkness, so that we may be made worthy to dwell with the saints. ("They which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world… are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." Luke 20:35-36)

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