

# The Royal Law

(Sermon Notes) By: Warren Zehrung 6/3/2017

Today is day the seventh Sabbath, and day number forty-nine in our count to Pentecost, the fiftieth day. Tomorrow is the Day of Pentecost.

Leviticus 23:15-16 You shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the Wave Sheaf Offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall ye number fifty days.

God entered into a covenant with Old Testament Israel on the Feast of Weeks, (also called the **Day of Pentecost** in the New Testament), giving them the Ten Commandments engraved on two tablets of stone.

We have seen that Jesus Christ consolidated the Ten Commandments into **two** Commandments. The first is called the **Great Commandment**. And the second is named, **The Royal Law**.

Jesus took the first **four** Commandments and combined them together as the first and great commandment. As we saw, they are directed toward God. And then Jesus brought together the final **six** Commandments to establish **the royal law** which states, **You shall love thy neighbor as thyself**.

James 2:8 If ye fulfill **The Royal Law** according to the Scripture, *You shall love thy neighbor as thyself*, you do well.

At Mt Sinai, God gave us the codified Ten Commandments. God's purpose in giving us the Ten Commandments is so that we can have an orderly and peaceful society, and begin to put-on His character and likeness—and be as He is.

We do not often think about this, but God wants us to be His **representatives** among mankind.

With the coming of the New Testament Day of Pentecost God's people were, for the first time, enabled to **live** in accordance with His Law.

God's Spirit is the **means** and the **motivation** that make it possible for us to keep the Ten Commandments. God did not intend that Israel **secretly** and **surreptitiously** enjoy the blessings associated with Commandment keeping. No!

God fully intended that Israel's **prosperity** and **advantage** be seen and witnessed by all the surrounding **nations** for them to know how near and great Israel's God was. Deuteronomy means the "second giving of the Law." We see God dealing directly with Israel through Moses:

God reiterates the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy 5 after 40 years of Israel's wandering in the wilderness - - let's pick up the story in Deuteronomy 4 where Moses says:

Deuteronomy 4:5-6 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. **Keep therefore and do them**; for this is your wisdom and your understanding **in the sight of the nations**, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a **wise** and **understanding** people.

I'm drawing a parallel between ancient Israel and Commandment keeping - with the Church of God keeping the Royal Law. Who was immediately inspired by those first Christians on that first Day of Pentecost?

The answer is: Devout men, out of **every nation** under heaven (Acts 2:5). But, why are so few people around the world taking notice of God's Church today?

Psalms 111:10 ... a good understanding have all they that keep His Commandments:

Deuteronomy 4:7-8 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so **near** unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that has statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

God says that if you do not **use** His Commandments you will **lose** them. Moses refers back 40 years to Mt Sinai:

Deuteronomy 4:9-11 Only take heed to thyself, and **keep** thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and **lest they depart** from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stood before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to revere me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.

Tomorrow is the anniversary of this singular and extraordinary event.

Deuteronomy 4:12-13 And the Lord spoke unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. And he declared unto you **His covenant** [that Israel had previously ratified and agreed to], which He commanded you to perform, even **Ten Commandments**; and He wrote them upon two tables of stone.

During His public ministry, Jesus reiterated the Ten Commandments and **consolidated** them into **two** Commandments when He was asked:

Matthew 22:36-39 Master, which is the **great commandment** in the law? Jesus said unto him, You shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the **first and great commandment**. And the **second** is like unto it, **You shall love thy neighbor as thyself**.

As we saw, that is **The Royal Law**. Luke adds some poignant details to Matthew's account:

Luke 10:25-27 Behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted [Jesus], saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and **thy neighbor as thyself**.

As we saw, that is **The Royal Law**.

Luke 10:28-30 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shall live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and busted him up badly, and left him in the road half dead.

In 1983 I had the opportunity to travel this same road - from Jericho to Jerusalem - and I wondered as we traveled, where this incident took place.

The **priest** (looked the other way), **Levite** (evaluated the situation - but opted out), Think church leadership today - who are some of the worst offenders and have taught the brethren to be selective also ...and a **despicable** (in their eyes) Samaritan came by:

But it was the Samaritan who bandaged the robbery victim up and put him up in a local hotel with money in case he required further treatment.

Luke 10:36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?

Luke 10:37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. [a **command**]

Paul comes back and elaborates on these thoughts:

Romans 13:8 Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loves another has **fulfilled the law**. [The whole law]

Paul says that when you keep the Royal Law – loving your neighbor – you are in effect also loving God. So you fulfill the entire Law.

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shall not commit adultery, Thou shall not kill, Thou shall not steal, Thou shall not bear false witness, Thou shall not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, *Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself*. [Back to the Royal Law again!]

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore **love is the fulfilling of the law**.

Here is the lesson that I wish to draw today:

In the same way that ancient Israel was to have an impact on all the **surrounding nations** – all around Israel – by keeping God's Commandments, the Church of God is supposed to be a light to the all world by loving their neighbor.

Had Israel kept the Commandments – all nations would have been impacted positively.

If the Church of God kept **The Royal Law** – all nations would be impacted positively.

Here's the problem brethren. We in God's Church are not loving the brethren in other groups as we should – we are not living by the Royal Law – even in God's Church.

In the same way that Israel failed to be the good example God intended, the Church of God today is deeply divided into **rival** groups that will hardly acknowledge the existence of their brothers and sisters in Christ in other groups – let alone love one another according to the Commandment.

On this Day of Pentecost, our example does not correspond to the accord we find in the biblical record:

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were **all together** with **one accord** in **one place**.

They had not yet received God's Holy Spirit – and already they were **all together** with **one accord** in **one place**. We have God's Holy Spirit and we are **not all together** with **one accord**. We are scattered. Why is the Church of God divided – when Jesus Christ calls for unity?

Do we not realize that by breaking God's **Royal Law** – when we do not love our brothers and sisters in the other groups – that we are also breaking God's first and great commandment to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind?

This is a very serious matter and time is growing short.

Contrary to the lip-service being paid to, "We are all a part of God's Church," we should all recognize that there is a unspoken pressure for members to **primarily** remain loyal to

their organization and not go (as the various organizational leaders would look at it) **traipsing** about to fellowship with their neighbors in other Church of God groups.

It has been a quarter-century since Joe Jr. started sneaking in the Trinity heresy into God's Church.

We've been divided and scattered as a people for a generation. Our church leaders **cannot** pray the all inclusive, "Our Father" ...because they specifically exclude those not in their organization.

God prophesied that this would take place in the end-time...

Daniel 12:7 ... when he shall have accomplished to **scatter the power** of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

We are a broken people today.

Brethren, **do not be a part** of the division, separation and scattering that continues to go on.

There will be a **price to pay** by those men who put their goals of **control, power** and **security** ahead of God's Command to love one another. They are keeping the brethren separated from each other – on the Sabbath, on the Holy Days – and in their personal and family lives. It is an abomination!

Ephesians 5:6 Let no man deceive you with **vain words**: for because of **these things** cometh the **wrath of God** upon the children of disobedience.

Ephesians 5:7 Be not ye therefore **partakers** with them.

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful **works of darkness**, but rather reprove them.

This division that has been going on now for a quarter-century is **not of God**.

Do not be a part of the division – but love your neighbor as yourself.

It is **wrong** to ignore our **like-minded brethren** in other organizations. We have shown the idolatrous actions of those leaders who demand that their followers recognize **only** their "church's superiority" ahead of all the others.

1John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no **darkness** at all.

1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have **fellowship** with Him [while ignoring many of His saints], and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

What is the solution?

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship one with another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Brethren, please understand this: Jesus added a new and important **dimension** to the Law of God. It is not a small distinction, but a **great** difference in the two commandments.

John 13:34 A **new** commandment I give unto you, **That ye love one another**; as I have loved you, that ye also **love one another**.

And then we see again that aspect of **being an example** to all men.

John 13:35 By this shall **all men know** that you are my disciples, if you have **love one to another**.

Back in the Old Testament – even before Israel entered the Promised Land, God commanded, "*You shall love thy neighbor as thyself.*" (Leviticus 19:18)

What then is **new** (verse 34) about this **new** commandment?

There is a **significant** difference between the two.

It's a very well known line in the Bible: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18).

Leviticus 19:10 ... I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:11 Ye shall not **steal**, neither deal falsely, neither **lie** one to another.

I want to point out that these are not everyday occurrences – some seldom take place.

Like false witness against someone – it only takes **one time** to ruin someone's life.

Then, "Do not take God's name in vain."

Leviticus 19:12 And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shall thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:13 Thou shall not **defraud** thy neighbor, neither **rob** him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

God says, "Take no advantage of others."

Leviticus 19:14 Thou shall not curse the **deaf**, nor put a stumbling block before the **blind**, but shall fear thy God: I am the Lord.

God says, Judge righteous judgment.

Leviticus 19:15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shall not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shall thou judge thy neighbor.

You do not destroy **reputations** nor endanger thy neighbor's life.

Leviticus 19:16 Thou shall not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shall thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:17 Thou shall not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shall in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him.

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but **You Shall love thy neighbour as thyself**: I am the Lord.

How then is Jesus able to say this is a **NEW** Commandment?

John 13:34 A **new** commandment I give unto you, **That ye love one another**; as I have loved you, that ye also **love one another**.

John 13:35 By this shall **all men know** that you are my disciples, if you have **love one to another**.

The answer is in the degree of love toward neighbor that is called for.

Jesus said, "**As I have loved you**" (verse 34) that is **HOW MUCH** we are to love our neighbor.

The **way** Jesus loved us is what is different. How did Jesus love us? We are told that we are to "love" as Jesus loved. What does that mean? How did Jesus demonstrate His limitless love for the brethren? The answer is, **He died on the cross** so that we might live – that is how!

How much did Jesus love us? So much that He died for us. He laid His life down for us.

**Love one another**; **AS** I have loved you, Jesus says.

That goes well beyond Leviticus 19:18 **You Shall love thy neighbor as thyself**:

**Malachi 3:12** And all nations shall call you blessed:

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, **in that day** (timing) when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him.

Malachi 3:18 Then shall ye return ... [Return from where]

Return from the resurrection... the sea of glass... the throne of God... the wedding supper... ever to be with the Lord.

Malachi 3:18 Then shall ye return, and **discern** between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serves God and him that serves him not.

God tells us that when the saints are brought back in the resurrection - they will be used in a judgmental capacity to **discern** those who are God fearers and who are in fact seat warmers.

Too many brethren are spiritually immature and do not have the courage to interact with other like-believing brethren.

Like the parents of the blind man that Jesus healed, they are afraid they will be put out if they reach out to others outside of their church group.

They instinctively realize that they will be **singled-out** from among those who keep their mouths shut.

John 9:22 These words spoke his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

When you stand up for the Truth of God you will not always be regarded highly among the church leadership! And:

John 12:42 Nevertheless **among the chief rulers** also many believed on [Jesus]; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be **put out** of the synagogue:

I want you to see right here that Christ condemns that **weak** and **spineless** conduct!  
Notice:

John 12:43 For they loved the **praise of men** more than the praise of God.

Make no mistake about it, we are going to **stand** before Jesus Christ and give an account of our lives.

When asked to explain ourselves we will not be able to say, "Well he did this and she did that," because every one of us shall **give account** of himself to God.

We are not going to be called to judge others – we will not be answering for others.

What we had better have ready to present to Christ is our **Life's Legacy List**.

It is a list of those things we've done that are the evidence of our Christianity.

## Life's Legacy List

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? For **we shall all stand** before the judgment seat of Christ.

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall **bow to me**, [that's the first Great Commandment] and every tongue shall confess to God.

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall **give account** of **himself** to God.

Our **Life's Legacy List** should have (LLL) at the top of the page.

Here are some samples:

- \*\* took care of the widows
- \*\* brought a bowl of soup to a sick friend
- \*\* encouraged the fatherless
- \*\* prayed and fasted for another person
- \*\* aided those in prison
- \*\* gave a ride to someone or fixed their flat tire
- \*\* was first to extend the right hand of fellowship
- \*\* sent notes of love to those who needed it
- \*\* Loved your enemies – and prayed for them by name
- \*\* sharpened another's iron
- \*\* introduced a shy person to a new friend
- \*\* went to the hospital to support a sick person
- \*\* blessed them that curse you,
- \*\* stood by those who were fearful
- \*\* did good to them that hate you,
- \*\* turned a sinner from the error of his way
- \*\* prayed for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you
- \*\* was a good citizen – and prayed for national leaders
- \*\* got a job for someone who was cold and hungry
- \*\* spoke up for someone who was being unjustly maligned
- \*\* fed those who were hungry
- \*\* turned a sinner from the error of his way

Jesus is going to ask for **specifics** – times and dates – not sentiments – He will be looking for concrete **examples**.

2John 1:5 And now I beseech thee, lady (Church), **not as though I wrote** a new commandment [this is nearly 100 AD- it is not **new** anymore] unto you, but that which we had from the beginning (of the Church), that **we love one another**.

And here is the Bible definition of "**Love**."

2John 1:6 And this is love, that we **walk after His Commandments**. This is the Commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should **walk in it**.

That means we are to be living God's Commands.

A listing on my Life's Legacy List of where I spoke often one to another – not only in my group – but brethren in far away groups.

And finally a listing on my **Life's Legacy List** where I laid my life down in service to Christ.

\*\* put my money on the line for someone

\*\* put my reputation on the line for someone

\*\* put my job on the line for someone

\*\* put my future security on the line for someone

\*\* put my very **life** on the line for someone

This is what **Pentecost** is about - - we are able to do it!

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross**, and follow me.

Be ready to die at a moment's notice: Are we willing to die daily?

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Unless we learn what it means to lay our lives down as Jesus did in the love of God, we will **not** have a part in the Kingdom of God.

The Scriptures are clear; if we lack the compassion to do everything within our power to salvage a brother who is in danger – we do not possess the love of God.

1John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because **he laid down his life for us**: and **we ought to lay down our lives** for the brethren.

"We ought" sounds optional – but it is not – it is mandatory – it is required for salvation.

1John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and sees his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels of compassion from him, **how dwells the love of God in him?**

The answer is, the love of God does not dwell in him! God says get busy!

1John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Are we willing to die daily?

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Brethren do we know how to go about being a **living sacrifice**?

For those who take Christ's admonition seriously – situations that demand our participation **abound** in the Church.

And, Brethren, don't write your "Life's Legacy List" on a piece of paper... because they are already being written in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt...( Matthew 6:20)

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

God's Spirit is the **means** and the **motivation** that make it possible for us to live our lives as Christ lived His.

The parable of the foolish virgins tells us that many members are not exercising God's Spirit in their lives. They expect to go into the wedding supper of Christ - riding on the shirt-tails of spiritual members.

Matthew 25:8 The foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

They are **not** exercising God's Spirit in their lives. They go to Sabbath services and speak with the same **five or six** people every Sabbath – and about the **same** things – that have nothing to do with good fruits – nothing there to list on their Life's Legacy List.

Fellowship Only with friends? – heathens do that.

You know what some people think? They know Sabbath keepers in the other scattered groups – but they think that if they **call them**, or somehow make the **first move**, that somehow that other person has gotten the best of them.

They play that old game of waiting everybody out – rather than extending the right hand of fellowship.

Some people who have been in God's Church for two generations have only one or two items on their (LLL) **Life's Legacy List**.

- \* I take care of myself.
- \* I make a mean casserole for the pot luck.
- \* I've been in the church for umpteen years.
- \* I'm buddies with the minister or his wife.
- \* Everybody knows me, and where I sit every Sabbath.
- \* I heard Mr. Armstrong before anybody else in this congregation.
- \* I've accepted the invitation when someone invited me out.
- \* I've done my part.

Jesus is going to ask some tough questions of us – Like:

Have you bound up that which was broken?

Have you brought again that which was driven away?

Have you sought those who were lost or disfellowshipped?

Because, Says Jesus, "My flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them."

Matthew 5:46 For if ye love them **which love you**, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?

Matthew 5:47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Matthew 5:48 Become you therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

**Thankfully**, there are a growing number of saints who are extending the right hand of fellowship (Galatians 2:9) across the artificial boundaries of corporate organizations—because to wait for the church leadership to do so may prove to be too late.

I am finding that more and more our scattered brethren are beginning to reach out – in spite of – or because of – the persecutions they are undergoing in some of the Named Brand organizations.

Shortly in the future – On the fulfillment of this Day of Pentecost – that begins in a few hours at sunset – Jesus will have no problem rounding up His true and faithful saints.

1Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Pentecost pictures the resurrection of the saints and the wedding supper of our Lord.

Revelation 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a **sea of glass** mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

When we're resurrected and meet Christ in the air on that future **Pentecost**, there will be a sea of glass; holding all the saints who **loved their neighbor**.

End: The Royal Law