

# Faith and Works X

*The Contemporary and Biblical Contexts*

Col. 2:8

## Legal Re-Marriage

Faith in Christ is likened as a marriage, and Jesus reminds us it is adultery to marry another unless the first husband has died (Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:3). It is interesting that in that passage of scripture the context was discussion with the Pharisees concerning their attempts at union with God through successfully meeting the requirements of the law. We are bound by the law until death, and the scriptures show us that it was not given to perfect man, but rather to show those who were honest that by the works of the law no flesh would be justified.

Rom. 5:20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Being born again is to completely start over, and in the sense of the new birth, with a new lineage, a new pedigree, no longer connected to Adam as our forefather, but to the new lineage, a new foundation based on the last Adam, Jesus Christ.

It is not mental assent to the proposition that Jesus is the Christ, as the devils themselves can do that.

Faith in Christ is real when it is the foundation of what you are, who you are, and where you see yourself (Col. 3:1).

The fruit, the evidence of things hoped for, that evidence that the world first needs to see before they ask you for the reason for the hope that is within you, is the peace you demonstrate whose source is not as the world gives through comfortable circumstances, but that which is based on Jesus, the resurrection and the life, He who has overcome the world. And they overcame by the word of their testimony, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who loved us and delivered himself up for us, that we might become the righteousness of God, no longer children of wrath by our first birth, clothed in Him.

But how to get to this position of faith? Is it doctrine? The Pharisees were focused on doctrine and religious practice. But to them Jesus said not that their doctrine was incorrect, but that their foundation was wrong. As per John the Baptist, the axe had not yet for most of them been laid at the root of the tree (Matt. 13:10). You can't be grafted into the vine, Jesus, until you are cut off from your original root (John 15:5). Sometimes it takes more than an axe, sometimes it takes fire. When the scriptures speak to the fact that he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, it is referring to those who suffer persecution unto death for the testimony of faith in Christ. There is at that point a complete abandonment of the old foundation on behalf of faith in the new.

We cannot be cut off from our roots by appealing to God to do it for us. We are by nature, from Adam, living by the fruit of the tree of knowledge, seeking always by our own efforts to sustain by some system or ritual, some work or merit that is under our control, to sustain ourselves with the eternal life that we had when we had unbroken fellowship with God before the fall. But when you seek to be as God, there can only be one. And now we, by nature are children of wrath by birth (Eph. 2:3), and our religious works, good actions in themselves, but done in pride not recognizing our need for grace, by nature of its focus on the old nature, the very means by which man strays ever further from the Fathers light into darkness of mans own making. When God creates, there is light. When men live by their own creations, there is darkness.

And so the first husband seeks to make itself presentable to God. And we go along with this because after all, the flesh has some capabilities to endear itself in the arena we are by nature most familiar with, that of the realm of men and the opinion of men according to the natural mind. In our natural pride we do not walk in the light of Gods law, because that would reveal our inability by the works of the law to justify our flesh (Rom. 3:20).

And like Saul who ignored God's word to him through the prophet Samuel, we let king Agag live, along with all we by our natural mind deem profitable to our

Earthly endeavors. But rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. The mind set on the flesh is death, whereas the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. the true message of the gospel are words of spirit and life, but only to those with ears to hear, to those who have come to the end of themselves by complete exposure under the full light of God's Law.

The flesh might be called on to harshly treat itself, go on a diet, watch less TV, crawl on ones knees up the stair case in Rome as Luther did before he found the teaching of true faith in the scriptures and started the Reformation.

The flesh cannot crucify itself. When it tries to, it is there at the end of the job taking credit for the work of doing itself in, and so it did not really die. Don't be fooled by the moldy bread and worn out wineskins (Joshua 9:4). It is to be left behind (Luke 17:33; Phil. 3:7-14). We must come to the revelation of the difference of being in ourselves, and being in Christ, and understand there is no middle ground in the choice between the two (Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 12:1-2).

It isn't the success of the flesh that is the motivating force behind the original lie, it is the perceived success and the strength the soul and heart of man derives from confidence in the flesh. We consciously block out our awareness that it is appointed to men to die once, and then comes the judgment. The works of the flesh will profit nothing, and the fire, the consuming fire of God, will only leave the gold, those works done on the new foundation. If there is a doctrine that allows the flesh to interpret its condition in a favorable way, to justify it, to give it a hope of perfecting itself, then the soul takes its rest from its dependence on that lie, the original lie, that we shall not surely die as God said, but we shall sustain ourselves because we will know and operate as God Himself.

And so how do we, those guilty of being contaminated by the yeast of the Pharisees, have a legal divorce from that which by birth we were bound and debtors (Rom. 8:12)?

Luke 16:18 18 "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery."

Rom. 7:1-6 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

How do we come to this death?

When we realize the worthlessness, as did Paul of all that we could be based on our foundation inherited from Adam, and leaving that, even as Peter left the safety of his trusted boat in the midst of a storm, something no seasoned sailor would do in according to the reasoning of the natural mind, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author, perfecter, and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2), even as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent (John 3:14), and walk by faith on the foundation of Him (Psalm 118:22; Matt. 21:42; 1 Peter 2:7) and confidence that in Him, we have confidence to come before the throne of God, the veil taken away, and know that in Christ, as members of His household, He hears us, and that we know if he hears us, we have what we have asked (1 John 5:14-15).

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Rom. 7:24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

John 3:3 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

1 Peter 3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

2 Cor. 5: 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Cor. 6:2 Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Rom 10:9-13 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction

between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Phil. 3:7-9 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.

Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.