

Sunday, September 10, 2023

## The Law of Liberty

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### Proverbs 9 & James 2:12

#### Proverbs 1:20-23

Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

#### Proverbs 8:1-3

Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud...

#### Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

#### Proverbs 9:13-18

The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing. She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the highest places of the town, calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" And to him who lacks sense she says, "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol. **(Start transition after reading)**

Wisdom cries out, yet so does folly.... Their cries have the same starting point "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here" creating a crossroads for us. Both calling for our attention leaving us in the middle to decide.

### **Wisdom, Folly and In-between.**

Today we begin a journey through the book of James and Proverbs... James leading the way while we refer to the wisdom of Proverbs throughout this series. My hope & prayer is that we would answer the call of wisdom; to *speaK and act as those who are free* to live into the understanding that God has for us... His people.

Testify

[Please turn to James 2:12, pg. 1012](#) Read/ Pray

### **"The Law of Liberty".**

This series will be quite a contrast to 1 John. Why? Because it will be filled with Law, also known as imperatives.

Imperative; Command / Indicative; Truth

### 1 John Vs. James

1 John

There are 11 imperatives in 105 verses=11.55%

That means that 88.45% is indicatives (truth)

James

There are 54 imperatives in 108 verses<sup>1</sup>= 50%

50% is imperative

James is the "bossiest book" according to one study<sup>2</sup>, and 1 John? The least "bossiest"

Which begs the question, what is the use of "law"?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://timothysparks.com/2015/06/08/list-of-commands-imperatives-in-the-book-of-james/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://overviewbible.com/the-bossiest-books-of-the-bible/>

## “Threefold Use of the Law”

### 1. The Pedagogical Use

The first purpose of the law is to be a mirror. On the one hand, the law of God reflects and mirrors the perfect righteousness of God. The law tells us much about who God is. Perhaps more important, the law illumines human sinfulness. Augustine wrote, “The law orders, that we, after attempting to do what is ordered, and so feeling our weakness under the law, may learn to implore the help of grace” (Institutes 2.7.9). The law highlights our weakness so that we might seek the strength found in Christ. Here the law acts as a severe schoolmaster who drives us to Christ.

Gal 3:24, the law was our “tutor” until Christ came.

### 2. The Civil Use

A second purpose for the law is the restraint of evil. The law, in and of itself, cannot change human hearts. It can, however, serve to protect the righteous from the unjust. Calvin says this purpose is “by means of its fearful denunciations and the consequent dread of punishment, to curb those who, unless forced, have no regard for rectitude and justice” (Institutes 2.7.10). The law allows for a limited measure of justice on this earth, until the last judgment is realized.

that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, 1 Tim. 2:2.

### 3. The Normative Use

The third purpose of the law is to reveal what is pleasing to God. As born again children of God, the law enlightens us as to what is pleasing to our Father, whom we seek to serve. The Christian delights in the law as God Himself delights in it. Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). This is the highest function of the law, to serve as an instrument for the people of God to give Him honor and glory.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/threefold-use-law>

During this study all 3 will be used.

As we walk through this study our efforts to walk in them will lead us continually to Christ- The Pedagogical Use. As we do, our cultural will be blessed- The Civil Use. But the third use connects to our purpose to glorify God and enjoy him forever. In his pleasure we find ours. This third use will be our primary use.

And our study? This study of James is different than our normal expository study (verse by verse). It is a "concept by concept" study allowing us to look at James in a similar way as we would look at Proverbs.

5 large themes throughout the book of James. The are...

1. God's work
2. Faith Works
3. Our Work
4. Our Folly
5. Our Words.

**Our text this morning.** Read James 2:12

What is the Law of liberty? A law of Freedom? Oxymoron.

**Love God and love others.**

Why? Because God loves you.

## **GOSPEL**

Proverbs 9:1-6

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**Examine you heart... Communion.**