

Good Morning! Happy New Year! It is great to be here this morning! One thing I love about the beginning of a New Year is that we have the opportunity to look back on the previous year and kinda put an “end” to it and then we have the opportunity to look forward into the new year with this attitude of New Beginnings. It gives us Hope of news of things to come. As a young girl, I loved Anne Of Green Gables. It was a book series that was made into a movie, but one of my favorite lines in the movie is “ tomorrow is a new day with NO mistakes in it...”So just think 2022 is a new year..with no mistakes in it!

As we begin this New Year we are going to be talking about stepping IN to what God has for us without looking back. We all have a past. We all have things that we struggle with. I think most of us here this morning would say that we all have things we USED to be a part of who we are but as we grow in our faith God begins to change us. He teaches a New way to think. **A new way to live**. He miraculously turns our old sinful nature into a closer image of Christ. God loves to give us new beginnings. He’s the one who teaches us how to move forward and how to move into HIS WILL for our lives.

This morning, I hope to share with you on how to Move Forward– hand in hand and side by side with God. How many of us would say that going into 2022 that you would like to know that you are in the perfect will of God and fully connected to His heart?

As I thought about how to communicate to you, The BEST, the most simple phrase I could come up with to help us move forward in the perfect will of God and fully connected to His heart is to [“Surrender to the Law of God”](#)

At first you might think that sounds very difficult...confusing ..unattainable Surrender to Law of God ...how does one even do that? I don't know about you, but all my life when I heard the word LAW it always felt like such a Big word. It has such a finality to it. It makes me think of the phrase “I'm going to lay down the law” This word LAW is strong and kinda harsh. It's intimidating. It makes me think of being in trouble or something. But What the Lord has been teaching me when it comes to His law, those thoughts and feelings I have are actually a Worldly perspective.

And what I mean by Wordly is that God is not present in my perspective or my view.. But Isn't just like God to turn what we think we know upside down and backwards?

As we sang the Christmas song ``O Holy Night this year, the phrase “ Truly He taught us to love one another [His law is love](#) and His gospel is peace” I sang this song all my life and I never grabbed a hold of this line like I have over the last few weeks!

But when we look closely at this today, we will see that [God's Law Is Love... Both words ARE HIM. He Fulfills and completes both.](#)

Before Jesus came to us, God gave us HIS eternal Law. I think it's important to highlight the **eternal** here because one thing about God...what He sets into motion as eternal will always remain.

God gave us the 10 commandments to reveal our need for Him, to keep us on the right path in life and so that we can be close to Him. These commandments are still very much in God's plan for each of us and always will be! If we could just honor them fully we would remain in the perfect Will of God. But that seems impossible when our flesh longs for things that we know are wrong.

But The truth is, no one can obey God's law completely, UNTIL our hearts are changed.

In our human brokenness, we always mess things up! We just love to take matters into our own hands and try to fix everything in our worldly thinking...In our Worldly thinking (thinking that is void of God) we turned God's Law from being something He gave us to protect us, to guide us, to show us how to live and be close to him into a list of Do's and Don'ts on a paper. A 3 step program because we love to turn everything into..if I could just do A, B, C, or some type of formula and The entire HEART of God was missed. It got all twisted up and was completely misunderstood.

The Law became the "dirty" word...the word that makes us feel ashamed. Judged. Distant....like were in trouble. It also became the word that people began to use to Judge others by. It has become tainted

by religion and pride. Which is all about what WE have accomplished for God in our own strength or pride in how we look and act on the OUTSIDE.... So Our heavenly Father in His Great Love and Patience for us did what only He could do..He came down to us to physically show us what The Law really was and what it all meant. He came to WIN our hearts through Jesus. He made it possible to know God so we would know what to do and how to live!

Six hundred years before Jesus came, the prophet Jeremiah prophesied about what God would do someday. Jeremiah saw the hard hearts of the people and their failure to obey. He also saw that someday God would find a new way to connect to His people, not that He would do away with His Law but a way to empower people to obey HIM from their hearts.

Jeremiah 24: 7 I will give them hearts that recognize me as the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me wholeheartedly.

The prophet Ezekiel prophesied this same thing!

Ezekiel 36:26

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

God knew HIS law had to become internal. It wasn't enough to try to please Him from an outward expression ...It just doesn't work to have the laws of God written on paper if our hearts are far from Him. If the Law remains external it's always about what We do in our strength to be right with God. God decided it would be best if He would write the law on our hearts

Jeremiah 31: 33

33 "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Romans 2: 13-15

13 For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. **14** Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. **15** They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right

I read a quote this week by Dallas Willard in which he wrote, “ A time will come in human history when human beings will follow the ten commandments and so on as regularly as they now fall to the ground when they step off a roof . They will then be more astonished that someone would lie or steal or covet than they now are when someone will not. The law of God will be written in their hearts and as the prophets foretold This is an essential part of the future triumph of Christ and the deliverance of humankind in history and beyond”

Can you even imagine a world like this? That’s what we have to look forward to when Jesus comes to Rule and Reign on the Earth! Instead of right being wrong and wrong being right God will turn it all back to how He intended

Matt 5: 17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

This verse confirms that God’s commandments are eternal and they are never going away! If your a parent, or if you can remember what it’s like to be a teenager than this analogy will make sense. As you raise your children, there are certain truths you want to instill in your children. The things that are important to you like etiquette and morals you want

them to grab hold of and take with them through their whole lives. So when they are young there are certain house rules, or lets say ten “house commandments” . Like go to church on Sunday, Read your bible and pray before you go to sleep, say please and thank you, look people in the eyes when you talk to them, work hard, etc...and when the kids are little they learn the rules, they accept them and follow the rules fairly well because of the consequences you put into place. But as they mature, the rules become difficult. All the sudden they are no longer protections but these rules are keeping them from having fun. They have the “worldy thinking...that is void of God” that says we don't understand their life...Instead they feel judged or that were just trying to keep them under your control...

UNLESS the rules are rooted in LOVE inside their heart. When your children mature enough to realize hey mom and dad love me so much...they would never keep anything good from me. They have done so much for me that I want to honor and obey them...I just never want to do anything to hurt them...Thats the difference. The house rules become something they LOVE to do because it embedded in their heart and they feel close to you again! Obedience out of love..and so the same is with God.

Jesus left His seat in heaven and came down after us. He chased after us to WIN our heart and to embed his Law of Love on our hearts!

The WHOLE reason He came was to take the burden of striving to do all the right things only to fail AWAY. He came To show us That His Law really is about is Him loving us and he also wanted to give us a glimpse of the Kingdom that is to come

God is still working on revealing his will and his way to us for now and our future by depositing his law of love deep inside our souls. And by His Spirit He transforms us each and everyday making us more and more like him. Which also changes the way we Know God.

Instead of “knowing about Him” from an external perspective we learn to really Know Him because of His work on the inside of us. Truly knowing God means an intimate personal relationship where (2) people are committed to one another in LOVE. To know God is to be committed to Him.

A love FOR God= external expression. Wordly view of “laws”, customs, traditions.

The love OF God= internal love that transforms us. Makes us crazy like young love where He consumes are thoughts, our actions and our emotions. The power of His love is like a compelling force inside us that we just want more and more of...

When the Love OF the Father becomes truly real it explodes inside of us. Its freedom and life giving...This type of reaction and response is not from your own discipline, your academics, your hard work. It simply

being MOVED by passion and compassion of Jesus and boldly doing something about it.

When Jesus came the bible says he FULFILLED the LAW. Which means He came to do everything we could not do on our own.

God took the burden of sin away from us.

He summed up the LAW in (2) VERY CLEAR, UNCOMPLICATED commandments.

Matt 22: 37

Jesus replied, ““You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. The *entire law* and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Again, that doesn't mean that the rest of his commandments went away...it just means that when these 2 commandments are set into motion...all the others commandments just naturally happen and they become apart of who you are...

Jesus just wanted to keep His Law uncomplicated and very clear.

- 1) Love God with All your Heart
- 2) Love your neighbor as yourself

Galatians 6:2

2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

Some versions say bare another's burdens and so fulfill the Law of Christ.

This verse is telling us that we have the opportunity to fulfill the Law of Christ as well!

Romans 13:10

Love Fulfills God's Requirements

8 Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. **9** For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law

When Jesus died He FULFILLED the Law by bearing our burden of sin. And what God is telling us is that when we realize what HE did, our hearts should be so full of love and gratitude for HIM that our natural response in loving Him becomes Loving others... We intern MIRROR Christ by bearing their burdens. When this happens , when you are moved by compassion and you begin to feel what God feels and see

what God sees YOU are smack dab (pastor Mark phrase) in the middle His will and you are completely fulfilling the law! Suddenly, the struggle to sin is less and less because our focus is not on what we are doing... our focus is on Him and those HE has placed right in front of us. Your obedience to the law becomes a natural part of you because you want to please the father and the last thing you would want to do is hurt him.

When the law of love is written on our heart and we in turn bear someone else's burden, we become like living love letters to the world.

As I dove into this, I could not even get down all the verses that are written about this! There are so many verses of Jesus telling us the importance of not just loving one another but doing something with that love.

So I am going to just read several here and allow the Holy Spirit to make His point because he certainly can do that better than me.

1 Peter 4:8

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Wow! Think about that!

Hebrews 13:16

And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

Matthew 5:42

Give to those who ask, and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you.

Proverbs 19:17

Those who are gracious to the poor lend to the Lord, and the Lord will fully repay them

Romans 12:13

Contribute to the needs of God's people and welcome strangers into your home

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Colossian 3:12-14

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Proverbs 3:27

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them.

Ephesians 5: 1-2

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

Philippians 2:4

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

James 1:27

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

Matthew 25: 37-40

“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters,^[f] you were doing it to me!’

Proverbs 11:25

The generous will prosper;
those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

I think we get the point! We have all heard it said that we cannot take anything with you when you die, but that is not true. The things you do in genuine love go with you! God does not forget not even one act of kindness.

Revelation 14:13

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!”

ETERNITY WITH JESUS IS YOUR TARGET.

From the moment you surrender to Jesus the Holy Spirit comes in. He partners with you as you go through life. The More we press into Him and really KNOW to Him intimately The more He steps in and coaches you along the the way- and every day your struggles with sin will become less and your love for others will become more and more

Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of christ. God has made it crystal clear on how to fulfill His law to the fullest. Become loving. When given the opportunity to help someone... act. Don't analyze all the reasons you shouldn't. Is it going to cost you something? Yes.

Going back to where we started this morning. New Beginnings with the LAW OF LOVE written on your heart in 2022! Move forward. This is A new year with no mistakes is it!

Jude 1: 24 Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.

Leaving the past behind begins with Surrender to Love of the Father. Allow Him to remove the burden of sin, the burden of striving and Let His Love so full you that the past sins and way of living become yucky... you just don't want anything to do with it anymore

His Law is Love and once it is written on your heart.. it changes everything!

- You are the **Channel God chose for the Love of God to flow out of.**
- It's God's kindness that leads us to repentance...that's how He wins our heart so that we will naturally want to please him...It will be **your kindness** that will win the heart of others
- **Humbleness**: Know your need for God. Daily submission.
- Love others. Don't be selfish. Don't be too busy! Live in the perfect Will of your heavenly father.

This Morning I want to Close with a blessing:

May the Lord Bless you and Keep You

May His face Shine upon You

May the Law of Love be written on your hearts today

May that Love transform you so that you may love others fully

