

A NEW SEASON: A HIGHER LEVEL

You must change your mind about “Right and Wrong”

I. Take off the “LENS” of “Right” and “Wrong” with yourself and with others

- Because it brought death into the world

Genesis 2:16–17 . . . And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

2 Corinthians 3:7–8 . . . But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, 8 how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?

- Because it brings death to you and to your relationships

Romans 7:8–11 . . . But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. 9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

- Because it was only meant for a specific time and that time has passed

Galatians 3:19 . . . What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

Galatians 3:24–25 . . . Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

II. Put on a new LENS of LOVE for yourself and for others

1 Corinthians 12:31–13:3 . . . But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

1 Peter 4:8 . . . And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

- Look to Jesus for instruction

Matthew 5:38–45 . . . “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- “Trust” the Father with your injuries

Romans 12:19–21 . . . Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- Be “Truthful” with yourself about your “SELF”

Matthew 7:1–5 . . . “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And WHY do you look at the SPECK in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the PLANK in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

III. Replace what brings *DEATH* with what brings *LIFE*

John 3:17 . . . *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

John 10:10 . . . *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

- Consider the *Personal* nature of “Right and Wrong”

Romans 14:14 . . . *I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.*

Acts 10:13–15 . . . *And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” 14 But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” 15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.”*

Romans 14:1–3 . . . *Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. 3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.*

- Adopt the three principles that Raise your level and Empower your life

1 Corinthians 10:23–24 . . . *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. 24 Let no one seek his own, but each one the other’s well-being.*

1. Helpful – profitable or adding value to another
2. Edify – to build up
3. Peace – to have only one side

Romans 14:19 . . . *Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.*

Romans 15:1–2 . . . *We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to *edification*.*

Ephesians 4:29 . . . Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary *edification*, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

John 8:7–11 . . . So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “*He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.*” 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “*Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?*” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “*Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.*”

1 Corinthians 9:24 . . . Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.