

False Consecration

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 7:14-8:4.

B. If you do not learn how to walk in the Spirit, your Christian life will be an enigma to you and everyone else.

C. The problem with walking in the Spirit is how to maintain the walk.

D. Know what God has said concerning what God has done with your old life on the cross, reconcile it every day, and yield to the mighty life of Jesus Christ in you to walk in the Spirit.

II. Hindrances to walking in the Spirit.

A. A secret love for our sin.

B. False consecration to the law of God.

1. This shows that not only are the things we do wrong, but what is behind it.

2. In Jesus Christ, there is no longer need to be under the law.

III. False consecration to the law of God.

A. Behavior that battles.

1. After we come to Christ we still want to sin.

2. Even though we are horrified at making grace ugly, we still want to transgress God's law.

3. This describes the carnal Christian who has still to learn that he is subject to the law of sin and death.

4. Christians ought not to expect to be freed from temptation—it is a necessary part of being able to choose evil from good.

B. Law that limits.

1. The flesh is not only sinful—it is helpless to do what is right.

2. The new will is a permanent gift but the power must be attained all the time.

3. God lives power through people—He does not give it to any one person.

4. Do it yourself Christianity never works.

C. The force that frees.

1. We act from the life motive and not the love motive in this stage.
2. There is no condemnation in Christ.
3. We are placed under a new standard—the law of the Spirit of life.
4. We must rely on the Spirit of life within us.
5. Life becomes less of a struggle when we rely on the Spirit's power.

Application questions:

1. Why is the carnal Christian not merely the one who engages in some of the more universally recognized and condemned sins such as murder? Explain.

2. Why is the power of God not a permanent thing in the Christian life?

3. What does it look like to rely on the power of God daily? What is required to maintain this in your life?
