

The Doctrine of The Royal Imperatives

I. Introduction

- A) The Imperative Mood carries with it a forcible tone of command and authority; it is never employed in communications from an inferior to a superior.
- B) The Apostles and their associates in the chain of command did not regard it as appropriate to address their hearers or readers with softened commands or requests, lest they lose the necessity of adherence.
- C) Since Christ spoke with authority (Lk 4:31-32), those who are appointed by Him and speak in His Name naturally speak in a similar fashion.
- D) The Imperative demands recognition of volition – it expresses the appeal of one’s will to another’s, but expresses neither probability nor possibility for compliance, only intention.
- E) It is used in active commands and prohibitions, and all tenses demand action (even Passive Imperatives demand we not allow something to happen to us):
 - 1) the Present Imperative implies continuance – “Continue on...”
 - 2) the Aorist refers to simple or singular occurrence – “Start...”
 - 3) the Present with a negative prohibits the continuance of an action – “Stop...”
 - a) the Future Indicative with the negative acts as an Imperative of permanent prohibition – “You shall not...”
 - b) the Aorist Subjunctive with the negative acts as a present command to avoid an action, or a temporary prohibition – “Do not...”
 - 4) the Perfect Imperative (only 3x) deals with completion and the permanent result – “do, and continue that way...” {Mk 4:39; Ac 15:29; Js 1:19}
 - 5) In addition, the Participle, Future, and Infinitive are recognized as having imperatival force in certain contexts, and these are no less binding.
- F) There are over 1,800 imperatives found in the NT – this includes the Gospels, Acts, and Revelation, and so is not the total of Royal Imperatives incumbent on CA believers.
 - 1) some imperatives were given to specific individuals and are not directly applicable to our situation – cp Phlm 17-18
 - 2) some imperatives were given concerning the temporary gifts, and so do not apply to the present time – cp 1Cor 14:39 “*Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues*”
 - 3) some imperatives were given to individuals, but apply to our niche – cp 2Tim 2:15 “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God...*”
- G) Certain epistles contain a greater number of imperatives, including 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus (the pastoral epistles). (2Cor is the epistle with the fewest number of imperatives {4.9 per 1000 words}, as compared to James {31.5 per 1000 words}.)

II. Definition

- A) The Royal Imperatives are those commands that are expressly stated in the Word of God, and specifically limited to the period of the Church Age.
- B) This study will deal with those imperatives found in the epistles, excluding the Gospels, Acts (excepting the issue of deacons), and the Revelation (after Chap 3) – this is due to the fact that some could legitimately argue that the Gospels and much of Revelation occur during the Age of Israel, and Acts deals with the transition period.
 - 1) This does not mean that a command from the OT or the gospels is not binding on the Church Age believer because they were given in another dispensation.
 - 2) However, if a command from another dispensation is binding, one can be assured that it will be taught in the epistles.
- C) The Royal Imperatives express what the Directive Will of God is in the various situations that arise in the course of the CWL, but are summed up in Mt 22:37-40.

- D) It should be evident that a believer is not able, and is not to be expected, to execute all of the imperatives at one time, or perfectly every time.
- E) This study will make it abundantly clear that the believer must be informed, discerning, and willing to critically evaluate all that comes into their periphery, in order to arrive at the correct application for each situation.

III. The Royal Imperatives as Related to Volition

- A) The Christian Way of Life is dependent upon the volition that exists in the believer, since the Lord makes demands upon each of us.
- B) There is no purpose in making a demand if there is no possibility to do otherwise – that this possibility exists proves that freedom of choice is inherent.
- C) The Royal Imperatives set the limits and give direction to believers in their CWL.
- D) The CWL is primarily to be the result of the willing response of each believer to the grace of God, which they have personally experienced in their lives.
- E) Nevertheless, Jesus Christ made it perfectly clear that the reality of the love we proclaim for Him is to be evaluated based on the realities of executing His demands. Jn 14:21-24
- F) Therefore, our love towards God is no greater than our desire and ability to understand and execute the imperatives.
- G) All that God requires of each believer, i.e. that which pleases Him, is fulfilled in the believer that is in fellowship. Rom 8:3-4
- H) However, one cannot hope to continue in the FHS if they are not aware of “the commandments”. 1Jn 3:24a *“And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him...”*

IV. Concerning God

- A) His Person:
 - 1) we are to fear God (combining reverence and respect) – 1Pet 2:17 *“...fear God...”*
 - 2) we are to boast in Him only – 1Cor 1:31, 2Co 10:17
 - 3) whatever we do, we are to do with His glory in mind – 1Cor 6:20, 10:31 *“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* ; 1Pet 4:16
 - 4) we are to avoid allowing other things to take His place – 1Cor 10:7, 14; 1Jn 5:21 *“Little children, guard yourselves from idols.”*
 - 5) we are not to be ashamed of God or His Plan, or those that are advancing it – 2Tim 1:8 *“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God”*
- B) Concerning His Word, we are to:
 - 1) pursue intake of BD
 - a) in contradiction to hvpt and cosmic thinking – Rom 12:2
 - b) with a view to the assimilation of the totality thereof – Col 3:16
 - c) with the humility necessary to receive it – Js 1:21
 - d) with a spiritual hunger – 1Pet 2:2 *“like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation”*
 - e) in order to apply as well as learn – 2Pet 3:18 *“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...”*
 - 2) pursue application/DGP
 - a) in regard to the needs of others – Tit 3:14 *“And let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful.”*
 - b) to avoid self-deception – Js 1:22
 - c) to demonstrate knowledge – Js 3:13
 - d) as opposed to involvement in evil – 1Pet 3:11 *“And let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.”*

- 3) pursue the Maturity Adjustment
 - a) so as to avoid involvement in evil – 1Cor 14:20 *“Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature.”*
 - b) to live a life of contentment and peace (inner and overt) – 2Cor 13:11
 - c) with reverence and respect for God – Phi 2:12 *“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed..., work out your salvation with fear and trembling”*
 - d) with diligence/eagerness/urgency, so as to achieve the highest level of application – 2Pet 1:5-11
- C) Concerning the Holy Spirit, we are commanded to:
 - 1) get in, stay in, and conduct ourselves according to His Filling Ministry:
 - a) so as to avoid sinful activity – Gal 5:16 *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”*
 - b) as opposed to the cosmic attitude of rejection of God’s Will – Eph 5:15-18
 - c) as a result of the teaching we have received – 1Jn 2:24, 27
 - d) in order to have confidence at the Judgment Seat of Christ – 1Jn 2:28
 - e) in anticipation of the vindication of God’s Grace at the Bema – Jud 21
 - 2) avoid quenching or grieving the Holy Spirit – Eph 4:30; 1Th 5:19
- D) We are to emulate/imitate the example of God and His Son, conducting ourselves as He would:
 - 1) because He loved us – Eph 5:1-2
 - 2) because of our position as children of the Most High God – Eph 5:8
 - 3) because He called to us (we are obligated to Him) – 1Pet 1:15 *“but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior”*
- E) Concerning prayer, we are to:
 - 1) apply Faith-Rest, and request all our desires from our Father – Phi 4:6 *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*
 - 2) be persistent, and offer thanks for everything – Col 4:2; *“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving”*; 1Th 5:17
 - 3) offer intercessory prayers for the blessing of communicators, so that the Word of God will be spread effectively – 2Th 3:1 *“Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you”*
 - 4) request further enlightenment in BD – Js 1:5
 - 5) ask with confidence, not wavering or doubtfully – Js 1:6
 - 6) ask for relief from our testings (as well as the ability to pass the test, and gratitude after they are relieved) – Js 5:13
 - 7) honestly present our weaknesses before others (as edifying), and offer intercessory prayer on behalf of others – Js 5:16
 - 8) remain calm and focused on God’s Plan, so that our prayers may be in line with His Will – 1Pet 4:7 *“The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”*
- F) Regarding our physical bodies, we are to:
 - 1) follow His Will, so as to produce a life dedicated to His glory – Rom 6:19
 - 2) submit our fleshly desires to His Will, as the demonstration of our worship for Him – Rom 12:1
 - 3) set Christ apart from anyone or anything, as the only Holy One, and be ready to declare our loyalty to Him – 1Pet 3:15 *“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”*
- G) Concerning Faith-Rest, we are to:
 - 1) submit ourselves to God’s Plan:

- a) under our undeserved suffering, with confidence He will never abandon us – 1Pet 4:19
- b) humbly awaiting His exaltation for us – 1Pet 5:6
- c) acclimating to our niche, remaining in it until God (and God alone) changes it – 1Cor 7:17-27
- 2) be patient and leave the outcome of all things to Him:
 - a) revenge – Rom 12:19 *“Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.”*
 - b) a wrong suffered from the source of evil – 1Th 5:15 *“See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.”*
 - c) following the example of those before us – Js 5:10 *“As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.”*
- H) Concerning the Lord’s Table, believers are to:
 - 1) partake, as a memorial of His life and work – 1Cor 11:24-25
 - 2) examine themselves so as to be clean – 1Cor 11:28
 - 3) avoid abuse of any kind – 1Cor 11:33-34
- I) With regard to financial support of His Plan:
 - 1) the desire is to be carried to completion – 2Cor 8:11
 - 2) it is to be done regularly/consistently – 1Cor 16:1-2
 - 3) the mental attitude is to be one of grace – 2Cor 9:7

V. Concerning Church Leaders

A) Commands for the Pastor-Teacher

- 1) he is to pursue the godliness code – 1Tim 4:7
 - a) in the process, he is to actively flee/escape the temptations of the flesh/STA – 1Tim 6:11; 2Tim 2:22
 - b) he is to remain faithful to the BD he has learned in the past, not deviating from sound teaching – 1Tim 6:20; 2Tim 1:13-14, 3:14
- 2) he is to teach the truth and encourage application – 1Tim 4:11, 13, 6:2c
- 3) he is to function under the auspices of his spiritual gift (not of his own merit, ability, or desire) – 1Tim 4:14
- 4) he should be wholly devoted to the Word of God – 1Tim 4:15-16
- 5) he is to exercise an industrious and careful attention to his efforts – 2Tim 2:15
- 6) he is to carry out the office after the manner of an official herald – to proclaim with formality, gravity, and authority; in order to make it plain he is to be listened to and obeyed – 2Tim 4:2
- 7) the methods prescribed include:
 - a) exhortation – to promote a particular course of action – 1Tim 5:7; Tit 2:6
 - b) instruction – to train and coach believers in their best interests – 1Tim 6:17
 - c) repetition – to cause an individual to remember what has been previously taught – 2Tim 2:14; Tit 3:1
 - d) reprove – to verbally point out a fault or faults and make the person aware of it, so they will experience the appropriate shame and repentance – Tit 1:13
 - e) rebuke – to verbally seek to put a halt to an action or attitude – 1Tim 5:20
 - f) modeling the doctrine that he teaches – 1Tim 4:12
- 8) he is to demonstrate himself faithful before God and man, fulfilling God’s Will until the end – 1Tim 6:12; 2Tim 2:1, 3, 4:5
- 9) he is to oversee accusation/discipline with the LCh – 1Tim 5:19
- 10) he is to instruct the next generation of PT’s – 2Tim 2:2
- 11) he is to shepherd his own flock, with eagerness – 1Pet 5:2-3

12) he is to avoid:

- a) unprofitable subject matter – 1Tim 4:7; 2Tim 2:16, 23; Tit 3:9-10
- b) subjective evaluations/rejection by others– 1Tim 4:12; Tit 2:15
- c) harsh or severe rebukes – 1Tim 5:1-2
- d) partiality – 1Tim 5:21
- e) ordaining anyone without due consideration – 1Tim 5:22

B) Deacons:

- 1) with the exception of teaching and extent of authority, many, if not all, the items incumbent on the PT are binding for deacons. – 1Tim 3:8 “*Deacons likewise...*”
- 2) deacons are to be tested before being placed in office – 1Tim 3:10
- 3) their specific responsibility is to alleviate the PT of any necessary physical tasks in order for him to devote himself to the study-teach routine – Ac 6:1-4

C) The congregation towards their leaders:

- 1) Each believer should recognize their spiritual leaders and be cognizant of their function, purpose, and effort, as those who:
 - a) serve Christ by explaining His Will and Word – 1Cor 4:1 “*Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.*”
 - b) are esteemed for their efforts in the service of God – Phi 2:29 “*Therefore receive him in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard*” ; 1Th 5:12-13
 - c) set an example in the CWL – Heb 13:7 “*Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.*”
- 2) individual believers are to obey their spiritual leaders – Heb 13:17a “*Obey your leaders, and submit to them...*”
- 3) each believer is responsible to provide physical blessing for those that labor as spiritual authorities – 1Tim 5:17-18
- 4) believers are to imitate the example of their PT – 1Cor 4:16, 11:1; Gal 4:12; Phi 3:17, 4:9; 2Th 2:15 “*So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.*”
- 5) believers are commanded to provide full joy for the PT by reflecting the attitude of Christ – Phi 2:2 “*make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*”

VI. Concerning Church Policy

A) Regarding organization:

- 1) all things are to be done in an organized fashion – 1Cor 14:40 “*But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.*”
- 2) female members are not allowed to teach, be a deacon, or exercise independent authority over adults – 1Cor 14:34-35; 1Tim 2:12 “*But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.*”
- 3) the LCh is to avoid the traditions of men not sponsored by the WoG, (including, but not limited to: holy days, special dress, legalistic demands/restrictions, etc.) – Col 2:8 “*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.*”

B) Regarding widows/orphans/the needy:

- 1) the LCh is responsible to help those that lack resources – 1Tim 5:3
- 2) their family is to practice this first – 1Tim 5:4, 16
- 3) the church is not to permanently support young widows – 1Tim 5:11
- 4) we are to permanently assist those 60 or older as necessary – 1Tim 5:9

C) Regarding the Royal Family in other adjusted Local Churches:

- 1) provide appropriate greetings – Rom 16:3-16

- 2) provide appropriate hospitality – 1Cor 16:10-11; Heb 13:2
- 3) Prayer – Eph 6:18-19; 1Th 5:17, 25; 2Th 3:1; Heb 13:18; Js 5:16
- 4) apply DGP when our own priorities are intact – Gal 6:10 *“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”*
- 5) assist those on a mission from another LCh – Rom 16:1-2

VII. Regarding the Royal Family in Hope Bible Church

A) We are to have the correct Mental Attitude:

- 1) lack of arrogance – Rom 12:16
- 2) lack of contempt for another, or judging regarding one’s exercise of their freedom in Christ – Rom 14:1-10
- 3) no desire to offend in non-essentials – Rom 14:13
- 4) other believers are more important – Phi 2:3-4
- 5) as exemplified by Christ – Phi 2:5
- 6) toward those under separation – 2Th 3:14-15
- 7) love – 1Pet 1:22, 2:17
- 8) mercy – Jud 22-23
- 9) doctrinal harmony and agreement – 2Cor 13:11a *“...be like-minded, live in peace...”*

B) We are to have correct speech:

- 1) spoken with edification in view, not STA motivated – Eph 4:29 *“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.”*
- 2) verbal solidarity – Rom 12:15 *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”*
- 3) demonstrating grace and BD, tailored to the individual situation – Col 4:6 *“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.”*
- 4) provide comfort – 1Th 4:18 *“Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*
- 5) concerning exhortation/encouragement:
 - a) done for promoting application and growth – 1Th 5:11 *“Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”*
 - b) given and received in a spirit of grace and restoration – Gal 6:6 *“And let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches.”*
 - c) as often as needed – Heb 3:13 *“But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’...”*

C) We are to have the correct actions:

- 1) willing reception of others – Rom 15:7 *“Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”*
 - a) not limited to those at the same level of growth – Rom 14:1 *“Now accept the one who is weak in faith...”*
 - b) not flaunting our liberty at the expense of a weak believer – Rom 14:15, 20; 1Cor 8:9 *“But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.”*
 - c) live in peace with others – Heb 12:14 *“Pursue peace with all men...”*
 - d) restoration after failure – Gal 6:1a *“Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness”*
 - e) bear one another’s burdens – Gal 6:2 *“Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.”*
 - f) kind to one another, forgiving when wronged – Eph 4:32 *“And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other...”*

- g) sharing the details of life with others – Heb 13:16 *“And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”*

VIII. Concerning outsiders/negative volition:

- A) The establishment chain of command – Rom 13:1, 3, 7; 1Pet 2:13, 17
- B) the Jews – Rom 11:18
- C) the Gentiles (unbelievers) – 1Pet 2:12
- D) those who are antagonistic – Rom 12:17-21
- E) those who are indifferent/undecided – Col 4:5 *“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.”*
- F) Concerning the workplace:
 - 1) for an employer/supervisor – Eph 6:9; Col 4:1
 - 2) for an employee – Eph 6:5; Col 3:22-23; 1Tim 6:1-2
- G) Concerning separation – 2Cor 6:14-17
 - 1) from false teachers – Rom 16:17
 - 2) from religious reversionists – 2Tim 3:5 *“holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.”*
 - 3) religious unbelievers – 2Jn 7-11
 - 4) the cosmos – Rom 12:2; 1Jn 2:15
 - 5) reversionistic believers – 1Cor 5:7, 13; 2Th 3:14
 - 6) from defiling activities – 2Cor 7:1
- H) We are to show honor to all men, but an inappropriate mental attitude of affection violates the principle of separation from evil and evildoers – 1Pet 2:17 cp Js 4:4

IX. Concerning marriage and family:

- A) Marriage partners:
 - 1) husbands – Eph 5:25, 33; Col 3:19 *“Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.”*
 - a) spiritual and disciplinary responsibility over the children – Eph 6:4
 - b) spiritual responsibility to the wife – 1Cor 14:35a
 - c) be understanding and show her the honor she deserves – 1Pet 3:7
 - 2) wives – Col 3:18 *“Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”*
 - a) the submissive spirit is a greater witness to a negative/misapplying husband than words – 1Pet 3:1
 - b) this is not only pleasing to God, it is quite valuable to Him – 1Pet 3:4
 - 3) both – 1Cor 7:3-5
 - 4) the marriage vows – 1Cor 7:10, 39
 - 5) separation/divorce – 1Cor 7:11-15
- B) Unmarried believers – 1Cor 7:8-9, 36
- C) Parents – Eph 6:4; Col 3:21
- D) Children – Eph 6:1-2; Col 3:20

X. Personal Imperatives for Every Believer

- A) Concerning the Mental Attitude:
 - 1) the correct MA qualities:
 - a) fear of God – Rom 11:20-21b
 - b) we are to be clear on the non-essentials – Rom 14:5, 22
 - c) steadfast in BD – 1Cor 15:58, 16:13; Phi 4:1; 1Pet 5:12
 - d) alert to our surroundings (A/C) – Heb 3:12; 1Pet 5:8
 - e) love – 1Cor 16:14; Heb 13:1 *“Let love of the brethren continue.”*
 - f) +H/rejoicing – Phi 2:18, 4:4; 1Th 5:16 *“Rejoice always”*

- g) reflect upon pre-salvation state and the grace we are under – Eph 2:11-13
- h) focus on Ph₃ – Col 3:1-2
- i) have an attitude of: (Col 3:12)
 - (1) compassion
 - (2) kindness
 - (3) humility (cp 1Pet 5:5)
 - (4) gentleness
 - (5) patience (cp 1Th 5:14)
- j) be thankful – Col 3:15
- k) consider the Person and work of Christ – 2Tim 2:8; Heb 3:1, 12:3
- l) receive D.D. and avoid reaction thereto – Heb 12:5, 12-13
- m) reflect on the joys of the CWL when under testing – Js 1:2 *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,”*
- n) be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger – Js 1:19
- o) be impartial in dealings with others – Js 2:1 *“My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.”* (cp vs 9 *“But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”*)
- p) display righteous indignation only – Eph 4:26 *“Be angry, and yet do not sin...”*
- q) reflect on Dvpt – Phi 4:8
- 2) the wrong MA qualities:
 - a) arrogance – Rom 11:20 *“...Do not be conceited ...”*
 - b) foolishness – Eph 5:17 *“So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”*
 - c) surprise at suffering – 1Pet 4:12; 1Jn 3:13 *“Do not marvel, brethren, if the world hates you.”*
- 3) things we are to know/understand concerning:
 - a) prophecy – 2Tim 3:1; 2Pet 3:8; Jud 17
 - b) God’s love – 1Jn 3:1 *“See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God...”*
 - c) faith – Gal 3:7 *“Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.”*
 - d) restoration – Js 5:20 *“let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.”*
- B) Verbal activity:
 - 1) the correct verbal activity:
 - a) admonish (to urge by a warning) – 1Th 5:14a *“And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly...”*
 - b) comfort and encourage those who are struggling – 1Th 5:14b *“...encourage the fainthearted...”*
 - 2) the incorrect verbal activity:
 - a) lying to one another – Col 3:9 *“Do not lie to one another...”*
 - b) maligning another – Js 4:11a *“Do not speak against one another, brethren...”*
 - c) generally, anything rotten, not edifying, or STA motivated – Eph 4:29 *“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth ...”*
- C) Overt activity:
 - 1) we are to conduct our lives with SG₃ in view – 1Cor 9:24
 - 2) men are to act like men: possess and demonstrate admirable qualities: courage, reliability, levelheaded, consistency, integrity, dignity, maturity – opposites include childish, cowardly, effeminate, irresponsible. – 1Cor 16:13
 - 3) all things are to be done under Divine love – 1Cor 16:14

- 4) we are to examine ourselves periodically – 2Cor 13:5; Gal 6:4
- 5) we are to receive comfort/encouragement – 2Cor 13:11; Gal 6:6
- 6) we are to resolve conflicts as soon as possible – Eph 4:26b “... do not let the sun go down on your anger”
- 7) we are to model patience – Phi 4:5 “Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men...”
- 8) we are to help those who need it – 1Th 5:14c “help the weak,”

XI. Concerning the Angelic Conflict

- A) Primarily, we are to be aware of the fact of the Angelic Conflict and be prepared for what comes our way; we are to:
 - 1) resist Satan and his viewpoint – Js 4:7b “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
 - 2) be alert for his attacks at all times – 1Pet 5:8-9
 - 3) arm ourselves for the conflict – Eph 6:10-17
 - 4) be critical and discerning – 1Jn 4:1

XII. Concerning the STA

- A) The Word of God recognizes the functional existence of the STA in each believer throughout his or her Ph₂. – Rom 5:12 “... just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned”
- B) Believers are commanded to recognize and deal with the STA by refusing its solicitation to evil – Rom 6:13, 13:14 “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”
 - 1) the STA is not to be placed in the rulership position over the soul – Rom 6:12 “...do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts”; Eph 4:22
 - 2) the STA is to be dealt with based on Positional Truth – Rom 6:11; Col 3:5 “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.”
 - 3) the STA and its salvations are to be rejected by:
 - a) removing them – Eph 4:31; Col 3:8
 - b) fleeing/running away (actively and intensely avoiding them) – 2Tim 2:22a “Now flee from youthful lusts...”
 - c) self-denial – 1Pet 3:10 “For, ‘Let him who means to love life and see good days Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile.’” (Ps 34:12-13)
 - d) turning away – 1Pet 3:11 “Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.”
- C) When we succumb to the STA we are to rebound and move on. Js 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded”
- D) We are to confess our sins to other believers for the purposes of edification – Js 5:16a “Therefore, confess your sins to one another...”
- E) We are not to be deceived into thinking that practice of STA activities will not adversely affect our SG₃ grace – 1Cor 6:9-10
- F) STA activity is the basis for God’s judgment, and we are not to be persuaded otherwise – Eph 5:6 “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”
- G) Since STA activity is not limited just to the lascivious side of men, but is inclusive of human good and human viewpoint, we are to avoid all who advocate false doctrine, of whatever kind or type – 2Tim 3:5
- H) Specific STA activities we are commanded to avoid:
 - 1) cursing another – Rom 12:14
 - 2) revenge tactics – Rom 12:19-20

- 3) excessive debt – Rom 13:8
- 4) STA deception (from others or ourselves) – 1Cor 3:18; Gal 6:7
- 5) inappropriate boasting – 1Cor 3:21a *“So then let no one boast in men...”*
- 6) inappropriate judging – 1Cor 4:5a
- 7) sexual sins – 1Cor 6:18 *“Flee immorality...”*
- 8) complaining – Phi 2:14 *“Do all things without grumbling or disputing”*; Js 5:9
- 9) resorting to legalism(s) – Gal 5:1; Col 2:8, 16-18
- 10) using our liberty in Christ as a cover for STA activity – Gal 5:13
- 11) lying – Eph 4:25; Col 3:9 *“Do not lie to one another...”*
- 12) drunkenness – Eph 5:18 *“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit”*
- 13) worry – Phi 4:6a *“Be anxious for nothing...”*
- 14) false oaths – Js 5:12
- 15) activities which would bring D.D. or deserved suffering – 1Pet 4:15
- 16) inappropriate shame – 1Pet 4:16
- I) We are to be aware that God is in no way connected with the STA and our temptations – Js 1:13 *“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.”*
- J) We are not only to avoid STA activity, we are to avoid the very appearance of impropriety – 1Th 5:22 *“abstain from every form of evil.”*

XIII. Conclusions

- A) This categorization of imperatives is not fully complete.
- B) One can see that the “commandment is exceedingly broad” (Ps 119:96), but His commandments are not burdensome to the believer that desires to do His will. 1Jn 5:3 cp Mt 11:28 *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”*
- C) We are to objectively evaluate ourselves and others based on these commands and the execution of them. 2Cor 13:5-6
- D) Many of the Royal Imperatives carry promises that are associated with their application. Eph 6:2-3
- E) All carry the promise of SG₃ if they are executed in Fellowship – Gal 6:8 *“For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.”*
- F) Each believer must know the commandments in order effectively to remain in FHS. 1Jn 3:24a *“And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him...”*
- G) The believer that walks in the FHS is the only one that can effectively fulfill the +R required by the Law of God. Rom 8:4 *“in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”*

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.” Jn 14:21

HOPE BIBLE CHURCH
AUG 2002