

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"



Message: "The Law of Cause and Effect Part One"

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Live Tele-service, October 10, 2021

If we've entered the Kingdom of God, then how do we live and survive there?

We're talking about the laws of the Kingdom of God, which when we know them and when we operate according to their truth, God will bless us. The laws are operating both to the negative - as in the Law of Sin and Death - and as to the positive - that is, Life in Christ Jesus. This is also true with the Law of Cause and Effect.

How do we live under God's reign and rule? Today we're going to start talking about the Law of Cause and Effect. Actions have consequences. These are the times when we have "If...Then" or "Whenever...then..." or "Because...this..."

"Causality is influence by which one event, process, state or object contributes to the production of another event, process, state or object where the cause is partly responsible for the effect, and the effect is partly dependent on the cause." [Wikipedia](#)

The *cause* is the 'why.' The *effect* is the 'what.' The *effect* is an event that happens because of a *cause*. Nothing in the universe happened by chance. For every effect, there is a cause preceding and for every cause, there is an effect. There are absolutely no exceptions to this law, which is considered universal and immutable.

God our Creator is the Sovereign First Cause over all His creation. We owe Him obedience on the basis of the Creator/creature relationship alone. Human beings were created in the image of God. In the covenant of Creation/Works/Adam, Adam had only one rule or command, namely, not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When Adam knowingly and willingly rejected the wisdom of God and ate of the fruit, he received the effect of that action: **in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die.** Adam plunged humanity into the estate of sin and misery. The wages of sin is death, spiritual and physical. No one in the first Adam humanity has the ability to render to God the obedience, worship, service, loyalty, or anything else required. We are totally unable, crooked at the core.

God initiated salvation. God makes crooked places straight. Salvation is a gift, paid for by the work of Jesus Christ. By Him, on the merit of His obedience unto death, certain ones enter into the Kingdom of God. The righteousness of Christ is laid to their account and the sin and lawlessness and iniquity of the person chosen in Christ from before the foundation of the world are laid upon Jesus by imputation, the life exchange of the Covenant of Grace. The Covenant we call the New Covenant is a Blood Covenant; it cannot be broken. It is legally and judicially sound.

When we believed, when we repented of our former way of life and our thinking, we believed Jesus, we believed in Jesus. Now under God's reign and rule, we find conditions and laws

governing life. God has worked within, He has wrought in us eternal life. We found that one of the principles is - As Within, So Without. What God is/had been/has been working in, we are working out.

Justification is a one-time act. Those who trust in Christ alone and have with a hearty reliance upon Christ alone, repented of their sins, are forgiven. Jesus died, the Just for the unjust that He might bring us to God. We are reconciled with God, as Father.

Now it is time to work out our salvation. As we saw in James, faith without works is dead. This is sanctification – it is becoming all that God has declared us to be. It is the work of the Holy Spirit who has empowered us. Before being born of the Spirit, we had no choice, no inclination, no power to follow after right living, but now we do.

If indeed we have received Jesus Christ, we have been given the power to be the child of God that God desires us to be. We have a new heart given to us by God; a heart inclined to keep His commandments, which in 2 John 6 is love. We have the mind of Christ and the Father's will in the Word of God.

So, cause and effect. **God is the Sovereign Cause** of all things. All things are upheld by the word of His power, by His decrees. What God says goes. This is Providence. It is rooted in God's perfect wisdom, goodness, and Sovereign right as Lawgiver, King, and Judge. God is the Sovereign Cause of all things. We as Believers in Christ, must learn to live with a sovereign, a very Sovereign God, who takes pleasure in His Son Jesus Christ; a God who takes pleasure in all He does and who does all He pleases.

Humans are responsible agents. We are free moral agents who are to respond to God. For example, we love because He first loved us. We are the secondary cause, given with salvation the ability to respond to God in ways that honor Him; ways that demonstrate our loyalty and allegiance to the Divine Suzerain, the Covenant Lord. We call it responsibility.

The Kingdom of God seems upside down to the teachings of the world and indeed it pretty much is upside down to the teachings of the world. Satan knows the laws that govern the spiritual realm and he seeks to deceive, or if not deceive, to contain God's children and discourage them from pressing through to victory.

Remember now, the temporal follows the spiritual and the physical explains the spiritual. What happens in the spiritual realm is a cause that has an effect in the temporal, physical realm. The New Testament tells us that the Old Testament is given as the example of spiritual truth. The physical explains the spiritual.

Let's just listen now to some examples from scripture of the Law of Cause and Effect. Even back in Genesis chapter 3:14 and 17 “**and the Lord God said unto the serpent ‘because you have done this, you are cursed above all cattle and above every beast of the field’** and then to Adam He said ‘**because you have harkened unto the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying ‘cursed is the ground for your sake in sorrow’**” and the rest of it. Ok, so there we see that God is The Sovereign Cause of all things but He also works through secondary causes. And humans are the responsible agents so because of Adam's sin there was an effect to that sin. Cause and Effect relationship is what we're talking about.

Let's listen to Genesis 18: 20 and 21 “**and the Lord said ‘because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great and because their sin is very grievous, I will go down’**” and it goes on. So the

actions that occurred had an effect. There was a Cause and Effect relationship with humans being the responsible agents before God. And also a secondary Cause with an Effect.

Genesis 22:18 “and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because you have obeyed My voice.” This is God speaking to Abraham. So Abraham's obedience was a cause that had an effect. That effect was really a blessing from God.

Genesis 39:23 “The keeper of the prison looked not to anything that was under his hand because the Lord was with him. (meaning Joseph) and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper.” So here we have a cause that led to an effect.

Leviticus 26:43 “The land also shall be left of them and she'll enjoy her Sabbath while she lies desolate without them and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity because, even because, they despise My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes.” And we could even consider all of Leviticus 26 in looking for examples of cause and effect. And here again we see that man as a responsible agent is also a secondary cause that has an effect.

Numbers 3:13 “Because all the first born are Mine, for on the day that I smote all the first born in the land of Egypt, I hallowed unto Me all the first born in Israel, both man and beast. Mine they shall be. I am the Lord.” So there is a cause and effect.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 “The Lord did not set His love upon you nor choose you because you are more in number than any people. For you were the fewest of all people, but because the Lord loves you and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn unto your fathers, hast the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh King of Egypt.”

Why did Israel become as it says “Israel my glory”? The cause was rooted in God who set His love upon Israel and because He would keep the oath sworn to their fathers. The effect was that the Lord brought them out with a mighty hand and redeemed them out of the house of bondage.

Deuteronomy 15:10 “You shall surely give him relief and thine heart shall not be grieved when you give unto him because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee and all thy work and in all that you put your hand unto” and we can read on for the blessing.

Deuteronomy 16:15 “Keep a feast because the Lord your God shall bless you and all your increase and in all the works of your hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice.” We can almost see some conditions here to these things -- as we obey God's command, God will respond with the effect. When we do not obey, God will also respond with the effect. Obedience brings blessing. Disobedience brings the effect of whatever God chooses—the mercy of forgiveness, correction, punishment, exile, etc. The Judge of all the earth shall do right.

Here's 1st Samuel 12 “For the Lord will not forsake His people for His great name's sake because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people. Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you, but I will teach you the good and the right way. Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart for consider how great things He has done for you. But if you shall still do wickedly, you shall be consumed, both you and your King.” This is 1 Samuel 12:22-25.

Well, we're going to stop off there and we'll pick up some more examples next time. Just remember though that God is the sovereign cause and we can be a secondary cause. We also have our part. It's a relationship of Covenant and it is establishing the Covenant and the kingdom

of God, which is to be preached to all creation. God has promises, many of which have conditions to fulfill those promises. But we are to believe the promise. Remember, first we believe. Then we see.

Pray. John 1:12-14 ESV ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

*Woe to you who put far off the day of doom,
Who cause the seat of violence to come near;
Who lie on beds of ivory,
Stretch out on your couches,
Eat lambs from the flock
And calves from the midst of the stall;
Who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments,
And invent for yourselves musical instruments like David;
Who drink wine from bowls,
And anoint yourselves with the best ointments,
But are not grieved for the [affliction](#) of Joseph.
Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the captives,
And those who recline at banquets shall be removed. Amos 6:3-7 Berean*

Turn at my rebuke;
Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,
Because you disdained all my counsel,
And would have none of my rebuke,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when your terror comes,
When your terror comes like a storm,
And your destruction comes like a whirlwind,
When distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;
They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
And did not choose the fear of the LORD,
They would have none of my counsel
And despised my every rebuke.
Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way,
And be filled to the full with their own fancies.
For the turning away of the simple will slay them,
And the complacency of fools will destroy them. (from Proverbs 1:20-32)

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