

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

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



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

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Dr. Mary Craig

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We're wrapping up our consideration of the Law of Cause and Effect. Behind every effect there is a cause and we gave some examples in the scripture. We have established that God is the Sovereign Cause and human beings are Responsible Moral Agents, free moral agents. We also saw that God works through us as secondary causes.

God the Sovereign Cause is a giver. He is One who gives and therefore we are also to give. In fact we can almost say **because God is, we have**. Or because God is, we are to respond and be a certain way ourselves, especially as those created in the image of God and those who are saved by God to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works. We can be the person we were designed to be, maybe not perfectly until "glory," but progressively pressing toward the mark of the high calling of Jesus Christ.

So God is a giver and therefore we are to give. And as we do, as a secondary cause, that will have an effect. The scriptures tell us **"give and it will be given unto you; with the measure you give, it shall be given unto you."**

Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:37, 38.

So, followers of and believers in Jesus Christ are to be known as givers, not as judges. We're the cause of how much effect our giving will have. We affect what we receive from God. We're setting the measure. The Bible tells us to **"remember the Lord thy God who gives you power to get wealth."** Deuteronomy 8:18.

That's a very good principle: "Remember the Lord thy God who gives you" whatever, who gives you power. Remember the Lord thy God who gives. God is a God of abundance and therefore I have abundance. Therefore I can give and I am not God, but I can be like God, made in His image and likeness. So we want to remember that. All things stem from God who is the Source of all things, the Source and Sustainer of all Life and Blessing.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It's another principle that runs here of cause and effect. Give what? Is this just about money? No. What we have freely received, we are to freely give.

So we want to extend grace, mercy, kindness, and forgiveness to others. What happens to that? Well, as we extend that to others it comes back into our own life. God releases that into our lives. It's kind of like this: I am Mercy, the Sovereign Cause, therefore be merciful and you, the

responsible secondary cause will have an effect. We will receive mercy. Also, we're going to have an effect in other people's lives as we demonstrate the glory of God, and carry that glory, reflect that glory. We're going to demonstrate that God is merciful even in our extension of mercy. And we will receive mercy from God. As we do, God will do to us. God is going to respond the way you respond to others and with the measure you mete out mercy. He's going to respond the way you respond to Him.

God is forgiving. He's the Sovereign Cause therefore forgive so that you, the responsible secondary cause may be forgiven by your heavenly Father. Forgive that God may give to you. Mark 11:25, 26, below.

And when you stand to pray, if you hold anything against another, forgive it, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your trespasses as well. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses; see also [Matthew 6:15](#). BSB

This law works to the positive and to the negative. Even here on the forgiveness: if we don't forgive, we will not be forgiven. We will rather experience "Fatherly displeasure." If we don't give generously, even what we have will be taken away. See Matthew 25:29.

God is Lawgiver and Judge. Back to Luke. Because God is Lawgiver and Judge, we are not to judge. Here is an area that Jesus says "judge not, that ye be not judged." God is the Judge. He reserves that for Himself. We are not like God in that situation.

That's good - we don't have all knowledge, we aren't all wise, God is the only wise God our Savior. He's the only one with all knowledge. He's the best one to judge. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And we don't want to be judged, do we? There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. And so we are not to judge. And here's an aspect that God reserves for Himself alone.

Now to be clear, this is not talking about abandoning discernment, making wise decisions under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, getting factual information in order to act responsibly.

It is about extending the gospel of grace for now. The kingdom comes in grace right now and then in the Second Coming, the Second Advent of Christ, the kingdom will come in power and great glory. Jesus judges what is living and what is dead. But right now, the kingdom is coming in grace. This is a time of grace and we are to be gracious and extend the grace of God in the extension of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Remembering the Lord thy God the Sovereign Cause is the secret of this law, I believe. As we step out in faith, seeing the storehouse in heaven, we release God's treasures on earth. I'm not talking about just money or mammon or things like that. We cannot serve God and mammon. I'm talking about the true riches, the riches in glory of Jesus Christ. I'm talking about things that bring life and health to us: things like mercy, grace, kindness, love, forgiveness, blessing, happiness, abundance.

You see, we want to watch for this Law of Cause and Effect in the scripture. When God says, "It is so" and when God says "If you do this then you will live" or whatever..."If you do this then this is going to happen" we want to watch that because when God says it, it will surely be as He says.

God is the Sovereign Cause. We're the Responsible Moral Agents and the Secondary Cause as we've been mentioning. God uses Secondary Causes in the doing of all His good pleasure.

Remember God does as He pleases. And He's going to do all His good pleasure. He has the authority and He has the power and there isn't anyone or anything to stop Him. Not even Satan. Don't ever think that Satan is so strong or as strong as Almighty God. Satan is a creation. God is Creator. There's a VAST gap between Creator and creation. And God has no serious competitors.

As the Sovereign Lord, God takes pleasure in His Son, Jesus. He takes pleasure in all He does. God takes pleasure in His creation. God takes pleasure in spreading His own fame and glory. God is pleased to elect some to eternal life. Remember the Lord thy God; it pleased Him to bruise His Son, Jesus.

It pleases God to do good to all who hope in Him. So, if it pleases God to do good to all who hope in Him, what can we do to have a fantastic effect? We can hope in God.

Knowing who God is causes me to be who I am. Because God is, I have. The secret is to desire God, to take pleasure in God. "Remember the Lord thy God" is the key in keeping pace with the Law of Cause and Effect. God is pleased with the prayers of the upright. When I pray, God is pleased with that prayer. In fact, I believe that the Holy Spirit within me is prompting those prayers. God likes to work that way. My daughter's little saying is "if God's happy, I'm happy. Keep God happy." Tap into that happiness, to that pleasure, that fullness of God.

God takes pleasure in personal obedience. So calling upon the name of the Lord is an obedient act of faith and calling upon the name of the Lord is an obedient act of faith that gives God pleasure. My advice today, go to the Sovereign Cause, trust God, desire God, enjoy God, reach for Him, RUN after Him, call upon Him.

You know, we praise what we enjoy and admire. Think about TV, all those ads and commercials and everything, well, what are they doing? They're saying you're going to get happiness or something out of this. They're praising this like "I enjoy this and I'm praising this before you" and so you'll buy this product and you'll enjoy it and then you'll be praising it.

We do this all the time; we like something, we're going to tell someone else about it. We're going to speak of what we value. We're going to praise what we enjoy and what we admire. So God is desiring our praises because God just looked all around and there really isn't anything or anyone as glorious as God! In Him is all fullness of joy and blessedness or happiness. And so God wants us to enjoy Him. He wants us to admire Him.

We call people out as not authentic if they're out to be praised and all that. But God IS authentic. He IS the Most Glorious One. When we admire Him and praise Him, we are going to have that fullness of joy and that fullness of happiness.

We speak of what we value, we celebrate what we love. All of our advertising and marketing wants us to celebrate and speak and praise and enjoy and admire some created thing. Go for the gold, go for the Creator. God desires us to have fullness of joy, peace, and love but to achieve that effect, we must seek the Source, the Sovereign Cause.

The Living God is of infinite worth and value. Desiring God will reap the greatest effects in our lives. Let's not settle for less than abundance in our lives. Let's pursue God to enjoy and praise Him. Remember the Lord thy God. Believe and you WILL see. Desire God and He will give you the fulfillment of that desire. John 17:3 says **"That this is eternal life: to know the One True and Living God and Jesus Christ whom God has sent."**

Jesus was sent by the Father to save a people for Himself. He lived a life of radical obedience, perfect, personal, perpetual obedience, even to death on the Cross. He paid the penalty to satisfy divine justice, taking on sin voluntarily. He offered Himself as Sacrifice to atone and enable the guilt and liability of sin to be canceled. He bore the sin, the iniquity, the cosmic treason. He bore the wrath of God. He bore the curse, though He had no personal sin and fulfilled all righteousness. He died, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. He was buried and rose again the third day. His resurrection demonstrated that the Father accepted Christ's atoning work, thus enabling the forgiveness of sin, reconciliation, redemption through the Blood of the Lamb, propitiation, and the destruction work of triumphing over Satan and his kingdom of darkness in a public spectacle of supernatural proportions.

Jesus ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father Almighty. He is coming again in great glory and will judge the living and the dead. He is holy; He is sovereign. Jesus sent the invitation out to every man, woman, boy, and girl. We are responsible free moral agents. Those who have ears to hear will hear. Those who have eyes to see will see. Those whose hearts have been turned will run in repentance and faith in response to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, who compels us by His love.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matthew 11:28, 29 KJV

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