

☞ *A letter focus hinders acceptance of others putting us at odds with God.*

Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him judge whether they are right or wrong. And with the Lord's help, they will do what is right and will receive his approval. ...So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer?

Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

...Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

Romans 14:4,10,12-13 (NLT)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:7 (NIV)

☞ *The letter focuses on the means. The Spirit focuses on the outcome, God's will, God's desire.*

And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:27 (ESV)

➤ Lying

➤ Gossip

➤ Adultery

➤ Sexual Purity

☞ *HWJL*

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:12 (NIV)

But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35 (CEV)

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV)

Robinwood Church

The Real Deal

The Killing Letters (Part 3)

by Henry Marquiss / Andy Stanley

Theme Verse: Don't let anyone tell you what you must eat or drink. Don't let them say that you must celebrate the New Moon festival, the Sabbath, or any other festival. **These things are only a shadow of what was to come. But Christ is real!** Colossians 2:16-17 (CEV)

Message Text:

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; **for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.** II Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)

1. Love, without it, you don't get it!

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

I John 4:20-21 (NIV)

☞ *Our treatment of others affects our peace with God, opens/closes our connection to God and is a barometer of our relationship with God.*

In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

I Peter 3:7 (NLT)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then

the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Matthew 25:31-40 (ESV)

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; **for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**

II Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)

2. A letter focus brings a number of negative characteristics into our relationship with and our view of God and if we don’t get off that path it brings death.

☞ *A letter focus brings blindness. You wouldn’t see the Son of God even if He was standing right in front of you.*

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Luke 23:34 (ESV)

The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

Acts 3:13-17 (ESV)

Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and

healed him. The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, “He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!” **Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.”** John 9:13-16 (NLT)

☞ *A letter focus leads us to look for a loophole.*

Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven! “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Matthew 18:21-35 (NLT)

☞ *A letter focus leads us to be more concerned about what others think about us than about who we hurt.*

Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

John 9:28-29 (NIV)