

If God's Standard is the only Valid One, is it Possible to Live by It?

Ricardo Campos, Elder Grace Chapel, Orange, CA July 26, 2009

I. Introduction

If God's standard is the only valid one (because every aspect of life originates with Him, Gen. 1:1), then is it actually possible to live by it? How can sinful human beings ever live according to God's ~~high~~ impossible standard? Has God provided a way or is man doomed to fail from the start?

II. Is it Difficult to Live by God's Standard: Colossians 3:1 – 4:6

There are approximately 24¹ commands in Col. 3:1 – 4:6, commands that are not difficult, but impossible. And God's requirement is not 50%, or 60%, not even 99.9% obedience; He requires 100% obedience, Col 3:17. It would take a miracle for man to live by God's standard.

III. God Performs a Miracle and Enables You to Live by His Standard

A. *Colossians 1:12 – 23*

God the Father delivered you from the power of darkness and placed into His Son's kingdom. And though you were His Son's enemy, yet His Son bled and died for you so that one day He might present you blameless in His sight. But in order for this to happen, you must not move away from the hope that lies in Christ.

¹ Depending on how one counts these, there can be over 30 commands in Col. 3:1-4:6.

B. *Colossians 2:1 – 23*

You are supposed to cling to Christ and His wisdom instead of man's empty philosophy. Why? Because you are no longer part of the world. You have been stripped of the world's dominance and been forever united with the God of the universe. The ways of the world no longer have dominion over you, 2:20.

IV. Another Look at God's Standard: *Colossians 3:1 – 4:6*

Since you are united to the God of the universe and are no longer subject to the world's philosophy, your life should reflect it. Rather than living according to the world's sinful ways, you are to put off all these things because Christ has not only stripped you of this (2:11), He has clothed you with the new man, i.e., He has placed you in the Body, the Church, 1:18; 2:19; 3:9 – 11.

Therefore, since you have been permanently united to Christ's Body, the Church, your behavior should reflect it. Your conduct should be one of kindness, humility, longsuffering, and unity, 3:12 – 16. Your position in Christ should affect every aspect of your life: marriage, parenting, employee/employer, and your interaction with the unbeliever, 3:18 – 4:6.

V. CONCLUSION

Yes, God's demands are impossible. It requires a miracle to be able to live by them. And that's exactly what God does, He performs a miracle and unites you to His Son, strips you of the world's fleshly dominance, and clothes you with the New Man whose lifeline is Christ Himself. Since you are positioned in Christ, you should know better than to live according to a world that Christ set you free from. You're better than that; you're God's child not the world's.