

## No. 2 Fulfilling the Law of Christ When Unseen by Humans (Local elder)

### *Note to speaker:*

This talk includes a scripted interview. Help the audience to appreciate that fulfilling the law of Christ is motivated by love—not guilt, shame, or fear

### **HOW WE SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE LAW OF CHRIST** (1 min.)

Because of our inherited imperfection, each of us must struggle against wrong inclinations (Ro 3:23)

What we do in private reveals the depth of our appreciation for the law of Christ

This includes doing good to others even when it goes unnoticed

It also includes avoiding such things as the misuse of alcohol and the viewing of pornography

How can we strengthen our resolve to avoid what is bad and to do what is good even when unseen by other humans?

### **DEEPEN YOUR APPRECIATION FOR THE LAW OF CHRIST** (9 min.)

#### (1) *Heighten your awareness of Jehovah*

Remember that Jehovah observes all our actions, “both the bad and the good” (Pr 15:3)

Jehovah is keenly interested in us, but he is not watching us solely to punish us (Heb 4:13)

Rather, he observes us with loving concern, like a father who wants to reward his obedient children (w14 4/15 27 ¶2)

Pray for guidance throughout the day; pray earnestly whenever a wrong thought enters your mind (Jas 1:5, 6)

Expressing our specific concerns to Jehovah heightens our awareness of him, especially as we discern his answers to our prayers

#### (2) *Avoid taking even the first step toward what is unclean*

There is often an identifiable first step that makes one vulnerable to spiritual danger; each successive step makes it increasingly difficult to turn back

Proverbs 7:6-23 describes the wayward steps of a young man (w11 4/15 27 ¶16-18)

Be aware of the danger of aimlessly surfing television channels or the Internet, especially when alone (Pr 22:3)

Avoid the first step toward what is unclean; set safeguards to protect yourself, and adhere to them

#### (3) *Decisively reject wrong thoughts*

Wrongdoing begins with wrong thinking (Jas 1:14, 15)

When wrong desires come to mind, choose not to dwell on them (w14 4/1 11-12)

Pray to stop harmful thinking (Ps 55:22; 139:23, 24)

Fight wrong thoughts by continuously considering the things that please God (Php 4:8)

#### (4) *Choose to do good because it glorifies Jehovah and pleases him*

Jesus was deeply conscious of always pleasing his Father (Joh 8:29)

Doing “all things for God’s glory” means that at all times and under all circumstances we think about Jehovah’s worthiness to receive our praise [**Read 1 Corinthians 10:31**]

Each Christian who chooses to drink alcoholic beverages should ask himself, ‘Does the amount of alcohol I consume, even in private, ever detract from God’s glory?’

### **INTERVIEW** (3 min.)

[Scripted interview with an elder. The script does not need to be presented word for word but should be followed as a guide]

**Speaker:** Please explain how some fall into the habit of viewing pornography.

**Elder:** They may start by viewing provocative images that are not pornographic, such as people in swimwear and models in advertisements. They rationalize that such images are not so bad. As they continue to feed wrong desires, they gradually escalate to viewing worse things.

**Speaker:** Can you elaborate?

**Elder:** With a relaxed sense of danger, they may begin to channel surf late-night television or stray to inappropriate Internet sites when no other person is around. There are also emotional triggers that cause some to let down their guard, such as feeling hungry, angry, lonely, or tired. A married person may even find fault with his or her mate in an attempt to justify viewing pornography.

**Speaker:** What can a person who is struggling with an attraction to pornography do?

**Elder:** It is imperative that the person make it his or her responsibility to know and be guided by Bible principles.

**Speaker:** Please share a few examples of Bible principles that have proved helpful.

**Elder:** I’ll mention three:

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Colossians 3:5 says: 'Deaden your body members as respects sexual immorality, uncleanness, uncontrolled sexual passion, hurtful desire, and greediness.' The word "deaden" vividly conveys the idea of striking improper sexual thoughts dead, not simply suppressing them. This means that the individual must be aware of how the things he views affect him and then immediately stop viewing anything that fuels improper desires.

James 5:16 says: "Openly confess your sins to one another and pray for one another . . . A righteous man's supplication has a powerful effect." This means seeking help from others. Confiding in others, such as one's mate, a trusted friend, or an elder, will take courage and determination. Yet, it is a vital step in counteracting the pull of pornography.

Philippians 2:13 says: "God . . . energizes you, giving you both the desire and the power to act." This shows that if a person prays to God and yields to His holy spirit, it will help him to conquer wrong desires and actions.

**Speaker:** Thank you for reminding us of these Bible principles and their application, which have been discussed in our publications.

### **BENEFIT FROM FULFILLING THE LAW OF CHRIST (1 min.)**

Obeying the law of Christ helps us to have a clean heart and a good conscience before Jehovah

**Review question: How can we fulfill the law of Christ when unseen by humans?**

**Answer: 1 Corinthians 10:31; by making it our purpose in life to "do all things for God's glory." This dominates all our thoughts and actions, including when we are unseen by other humans**

The loving guidance contained in the law of Christ gives us confidence that Jehovah will help us to pursue a course that will lead to everlasting life

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text)