

I. Several ways to read this call of Christ.

- A. That Jesus is negating every non-biblical addition to Scripture.
- B. That Jesus is negating every teaching of Scripture except his own commands.
- C. That Jesus is telling us that obedience is impossible, but there is no need.
- D. That Jesus is has in general removed requirements until the law is within reach.
- E. That God can make us strong enough to obey him through our union with Christ. (Psalm 119:97, 131, 136; Psalm 18:1-2)

II. In order to truly obey God, we must first be sure that we have the strength to do so.

- A. False beliefs about our ability to love and obey God.
- B. If you think everyone can will and do good, you don't believe the biblical testimony concerning sin. (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 8:7-9)
- C. If you think that obeying God's law is easy, you don't know the law or yourself.
- D. A call to pity and humility in Christians.

III. *God* gives the power to will and to do his good pleasure.

- A. He has always given it to his people. (Genesis 3:15; 21:22; Exodus 3:12; Deuteronomy 31:8; Joshua 1:9; Judges 6:14)
- B. Since we are *under grace*, we have power to truly love and obey God. (Romans 6:13-14)
- C. Since we are *in Christ*, we have power to truly love and obey God. (Ephesians 6:10-11)
- D. Since God is *at work in us*, we have power to truly love and obey him. (Philippians 2:12-13)
- E. Since God *makes us strong*, we have power to truly love and obey him. (1 John 2:14-15)

IV. How God makes us strong to obey him

- A. Justification: righteousness wrought in Christ, imputed to us
- B. Sanctification: holiness wrought and formed in Christ, then given to us
- C. We have *fellowship with Christ* – we share what is his! (1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 John 1:1-3)
- D. Union with Jesus Christ
 - i. like a husband and wife (Ephesians 5:31-32)
 - ii. like the union between God the Father and his Son, Christ (John 14:20; 17:21-23)
 - iii. like a vine and its branches (John 15:4-5)
 - iv. like a head and a body (Ephesians 1:22-23)
 - v. like bread and the one who eats it (John 6:51-54)
- E. Sealed in the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 10:16)

V. "Come to me ... and I will give you rest."

- A. It is precisely *by coming to Jesus Christ* that the yoke of obedience becomes light and easy.
- B. Unequally yoked with Christ.