

## **MORAL PERFECTION**

Obligated and Attainable

**Jesse Morrell**

(Excerpts from the booklet “The Vicarious Atonement of Christ”)

Moral perfection is a moral obligation for all men (Gen. 17:1; Deut. 18:13; 1 Chron. 28:9; 2 Chron. 19:9; Isa. 1:16; Matt. 5:48; Jn. 5:14, 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:31; 2 Cor. 13:11; 1 Tim. 5:7, Rev. 3:2). Moral perfection is not perfection of knowledge, since that is impossible and therefore cannot be an obligation, but moral perfection is purity of heart or motive (Matt. 5:8; 1 Pet. 1:22) which is perfection of heart or intention (1 Kg. 8:61, 11:4, 15:3, 15:14; 2 Kg. 20:3; 1 Chron. 12:38, 28:9, 29:9, 29:19; 2 Chron. 15:17, 16:9, 19:9, 25:2, Ps. 101:2; Isa. 38:3). Moral perfection is having a clean conscience void of offense (Acts 23:1, 24:16). Moral perfection is defined as loving God and loving your neighbor (Rom. 13:8; Rom 13:10; Gal 5:14; 1 Thes. 3:12-13; Jas. 2:8). Moral perfection is a choice (1 Kg. 8:61; Ps. 101:2). While physical perfection (glorification) is not attainable in this life (1 Cor. 15:50-56; Php. 3:11-12), moral perfection (sanctification) is attainable in this life (1 Kg. 15:14; 2 Kg. 20:3; 2 Chron. 15:17; 2 Chron. 16:9; Job 1:1, 1:8, 2:3; Isa. 38:3; Lk. 1:6; Jn. 8:34-36; Acts 20:32, 23:1, 24:16, 26:18; Rom. 6:6, 6:18, 6:22; 1 Cor. 1:2, 1:8, 6:11; Heb. 2:11, 10:10, 10:14; Gal. 5:24; Php. 2:15, 3:15; 1 Thes. 3:12-14, 5:23; 1 Tim. 3:2, 3:10; Tit. 1:6-7, 2:12; 2 Pet. 3:14; Jude 1:1). Though no man is above temptation, not even Jesus (Matt. 4:1; Mk. 1:13 Heb. 4:15), sin or disobedience to God’s moral Law is always voluntary, optional, and avoidable (Gen. 4:6-7, Deut. 8:2, Jdg. 2:20-22, Ex. 33:2, 34:24; Eze. 3:19, 12:13, 33:19; Jer. 18:8-10; Ps. 81:13, 1 Cor. 10:13). Since God is the author of our nature (Isa. 49:5; Jer. 1:5; Ps. 139:13-14; Ecc. 7:29), we are naturally able to obey God (Gen. 4:6-7; Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15; Isa. 1:16-20, 55:6-7; Hos. 10:12; Jer. 21:8; Eze. 18:30-32; Jer. 18:11, 26:13; Acts 2:40, 17:30; Rom. 6:17; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Tim. 2:21; Jas. 4:7-10; 1 Pet. 1:22; Rev. 22:17).

All men are under obligation in the Moral Government of God, under obligation to the moral Law of love (Matt. 22:35-40; Mk. 12:30-31; Lk. 10:27; Rom. 13:8; Rom 13:10; Gal 5:14; Jas. 2:8). No sinner can be justified by obeying the Law since present obedience cannot atone for past disobedience (Acts 13:39; Rom. 3:20; Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16). And though Christians are not under the condemnation of the Law (Rom. 6:14-15, 8:1; 1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 5:18), nor under obligation to the Jewish laws (Acts 21:25, Gal. 4:21), Christians are under obligation to obey God (Acts 3:19, 5:29; 2 Pet. 3:11) by choosing to be loving (Rom. 13:8); Christians are obligated to walk as Christ walked (Jn. 13:15; 2 Tim. 2:19; 1 Jn. 2:6) and thereby fulfill the Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2). The Law of God is written upon the very heart of the Christian (Ps. 40:8, 51:7, 119:34; Prov. 3:1; Isa. 51:7; Jer. 31:33; Rom. 6:17; Heb. 10:15-16), so that the Kingdom is reigning on the inside of them (Lk. 17:21). The righteous care about the well-being of others but the wicked disregard it (Prov. 29:7). True obedience to God is caring about others (Lk. 6:9), love is a committal of the will to promote the highest well-being of all (Jn. 15:13), love does not promote the ill-being or harm of his neighbor (Rom. 13:10), love is absolutely not selfish (1 Cor. 13:5), and so love is the fulfillment of the Law (Rom. 13:8; Gal. 5:14;

Jas. 2:8), the one who loves will keep God's commandments (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:2, 5:3; 2 Jn. 1:6).

Forgiveness or justification is conditional upon repentance (Isa. 55:17; Eze. 18:32; Mk. 1:4; Lk. 13:3, 13:5, 24:47), faith (Jn. 3:18; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9; Eph. 2:8-9), and ultimately perseverance unto the end (Matt. 10:22, 24:13; Mk. 13:13; Acts 13:43, Acts 14:22; Heb. 3:6, 3:14; ). Repentance is when a person changes their mind about sinning and makes up their mind to sin no more (Isa. 1:16, 55:7; Jn. 5:14, 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:34; Eph. 4:28), and faith is the hearts embrace and obedience to the truth (Lk. 24:25; Acts 8:37, 15:9, 26:18; Rom. 10:10; 1 Pet. 1:22). The notion of being righteous in our position but unrighteous in our practice is absolutely contrary to scripture (1 Jn. 3:7, 3:10); such a concept is false doctrine and damnable heresy (2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 1:4-5). Jesus is the author of salvation to all them that obey Him (Heb. 5:9), Christians are those who keep God's commandments (1 Jn. 2:3), so that only those who keep God's commandments will enter through the gates into the Heaven (Matt. 7:21, 19:17; Lk. 10:28; Rev. 22:14), while all sinners will be left outside the Holy City (Matt. 7:23; Lk. 13:27; Rev. 22:15).

Christians are those who were formerly disobedient (Tit. 3:3; 1 Pet. 3:20) but are no longer disobedient (Rom. 6:17; Php. 2:12). Christians make the daily choice to obey God (Lk. 9:23; 1 Cor. 15:31). Christians are not sinners (Ps. 66:18; Jn. 9:31; 1 Pet. 4:18), all Christians are saints (Acts 9:13, 9:32, 9:41, 26:10; Rom. 1:7, 8:27, 12:13, 15:25-16, 15:26, 15:31, 16:2, 16:15; 1 Cor. 1:2, 6:1-2, 14:33, 16:1, 16:15; 2 Cor. 1:1, 8:4, 9:1, 9:12, 13:13; Eph. 1:1, 1:15, 1:18, 2:19, 3:8, 3:18, 4:12, 5:3, 6:18; Php. 1:1, 4:22; Col. 1:2, 1:4, 1:12, 1:26; 1 Thes. 3:13; 2 Thes. 1:10; 1 Tim. 5:10; Phm. 1:5, 1:7; Heb. 6:10, 13:24; Jude 1:3, 1:14; Rev. 5:8, 8:3-4, 11:18, 13:7, 13:10, 14:12, 15:3, 16:6, 17:6, 18:24, 19:8, 20:9). And as saints Christians are sanctified (Acts 20:32, 26:18; 1 Cor. 1:2, 6:11; Heb. 2:11, 10:10, 10:14; Jude 1:1), that is, Christians are free from sin (Jn. 8:34-36; Rom. 6:6, 6:18, 6:22, 8:2; Gal. 5:24).