

A New Way of Living

What would it be like to live without pain? I mean both physical and emotional pain. Can you imagine being free from pain? What would it take to be free from pain? We spend countless of thousands of dollars on remedies for physical pain. There are analgesics, ibuprofens, codeine, morphine, alcohol, topical rubs. Emotional pain is no less expensive to relieve. There are drugs, for depression and anxiety. We spend money on vacations, we eat comfort foods, and we drown our sorrows. We fear death. We fear life. We can't afford to live, and we can't afford to die. And yet God says that He is going to wipe away every tear from our eyes. (Rev.21: 4) In Psalms 56:8 God says he keeps track of our tears. God doesn't just count how many tears we cry, God knows why we cry and will take steps to make it better.

Can we live a life free from emotional and physical pain in this life? The answer is no. But we can live relatively free from pain by following three simple rules. These rules are the rules that John Wesley gave to his holy societies. They are Do no harm. Do good. And stay in Love with God.

Do no harm—means more than just not hurting each other physically—it also means restraining ourselves from hurting each other emotionally. It means not harming our surroundings. It includes not littering, destruction of property and responsible use of our resources.

Doing good means to use our gifts our resources as much as we are able to relieve the pain and suffering of others. Visiting the sick, giving to those in need, and helping where ever we can are just some ways that we can do “good” to others. I call it commando kindness because we are to do these

things without seeking recognition. Some people may think that this type of life sounds boring and unexciting kind of like a no salt diet will keep us alive but have no taste. However, if we look at our lives as God calling us to serve Him right where we are then that means that we are to be bold in our faith and witness and actually be dangerous Christians. What do I mean by that? In his book, YAWNING AT TIGERS, You Can't Tame God So Stop Trying, Drew Dyck writes: “God may not call you to travel to a distant land or to die for your faith, but you are called to live wholeheartedly for him wherever you are, in whatever you're doing. The specific places and vocations God call us to are secondary. The important things are whether we walk with him, take risks where we are, and live as threats to the evil around us.” Doing good also requires us to do our best to rid our world of evil.

The third rule, staying in love with God means more than just telling yourself that you love God. It encompasses regular worship of God; daily conversation with God, and spending time learning about God. There is a big difference between knowing who God is, and being in love with God. It's like the difference between knowing details about a famous person and being friends with that person. If you are friends with that person then you have a close personal relationship with that person which is more intimate than just knowing details about that person. Do you know God, or are you friends with God?

The bottom line is this. God loves us. God wants to be in relationship with us. God calls us into that close personal relationship and then commands us to be in that same type of relationship with each other. As Jesus said in John 13:34 – 35,

“A new commandment I give you; love one another. As I have loved you so you must love each other...”

Having a godly loving relationship with each other will not completely relieve us of the pain in this life, but it will certainly make it easier to bear. Until the time comes when God will wipe every tear from our eyes.