

St. Paul's Letter To Christians In Rome

Gist: The original human condition is sin, but we don't realize it at the time because we have no law to instruct us. When we learn of the law we recognize our sin, but are resentful of the law because it forces us to do what we don't want to do and to avoid what we do want to do. God is not pleased with this condition of obeying the law reluctantly and mechanically. The next step is faith in Jesus which converts our hearts to wanting to love as Jesus loved by reception of the Holy Spirit and the various gifts of the Spirit. Now even if we still sin (and we will occasionally) it is not held against us because we struggle sincerely against the flesh and sin and for the Spirit. And the good we do arises from our converted hearts of faith.

Abraham as model: Abraham believed God when God promised him a son and that belief was counted as righteousness while Abraham was still uncircumcised. Hence he is the father of all who believe, regardless of whether circumcised or not, in order that righteousness might be credited to them

Gifts: Different Christians have different gifts or talents which are to be used for the common good of all Christians.

Be law-abiding: The governing authorities should be obeyed as agents of God for the good of all people, providing a safe and orderly society.

Love of neighbor: The summary and fulfillment of the law consists in loving one's neighbor as oneself.

Avoid quarreling over disputable matters: Everything done that doesn't arise from faith is sin.

See also [Luther's Preface to the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans](#) and [St. Paul and the Identification of Heterosexuals and Homosexuals](#).

And see this more detailed summary of [Romans](#).

Author Contact

Website: kantwesley.com