

The Law of Sowing and Reaping

In Relation to You and Your Pastor

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. (Gen. 1:11-12)

1. One of the first positive laws that God establishes upon His restoration of the earth is the sowing and reaping law:

- a. Notice the phrase “whose seed is in itself”. Every thing that God has created has a creative ability within itself.
- b. This did not apply only to plants but to animals and humans as well:
- c. Gen. 1:21-28
- d. Notice how God told man, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it”. Man was made a partner with God in the creative purposes upon the earth.
- e. God is by no means a micromanager. He is a creator and He has extended, in a limited sense, the ability to create and produce to all of His creatures. Otherwise God could have created all of the animals and humans He wanted without any help from us. However, God has created everything to be productive.
- f. Like the law of gravity or any other established law, this is a law that will continue as long as the earth continues – Gen. 8:22
- g. The life that we have today is the harvest of seeds that we planted in the past. As we understand the law of seedtime and harvest we can see that God doesn’t have to punish sin directly. Sin itself has within itself its own seeds of retribution and consequences (Rom. 6:23; James 1:12-14; Psalm 107:17-20).
- h. Since sin contains within itself its own seeds of destruction, we can better understand many of the Old Testament acts of punishment attributed to God. God “punishes” by withdrawing His protection and allowing us to reap the consequences of our rebellion.

2. The seed is within you to create an atmosphere and a life for good or for evil:

- a. The understanding of this law explains the issues of “theodicy” or so-called “problem of evil” that theologians are constantly fussing about.
- b. This is also the reason why there is a hell. God cannot allow unrepentant people to continue to sow evil into the universe forever since it will continue to produce a harvest after its own kind.
- c. Notice that Satan is able to sow seed. He also has a creative ability but has used his ability to plant all kinds of evil – Matt. 13:24-30, 37-40
- d. Here is why Satan is called a “father” to liars and murderers (John 8:44). He created this concept. God is not the author of lying and murder. He gave His creatures creative ability and

expected them to do good with it. But He also gave them free-will. Satan and those who follow him have set their will against the Creator and have used their creative ability against Him.

- e. An example of the ability to plant evil is seen in the fact that discord can be sown among the brethren (Prov. 6:14, 19).
- f. You can choose to use your creative ability to be a blessing to others or in a selfish way for self-gain, which always leads to evil purposes.

3. Sowing and Reaping as it relates to your pastor, who is a gift from God (Eph. 4:11-12).

- a. 1 Cor. 9:9-14
- b. God has uniquely gifted your pastor to sow into you. No one except the pastor that God has assigned you to can sow into you exactly what you need.
- c. This is why people who get upset with their pastor, leave and then go to another vineyard find themselves utterly dissatisfied. This is why they either begin wandering from church to church or they backslide altogether.
- d. On the other hand, every farmer is to eat from the fruit of the field that he or she has sown into. In other words, when your pastor has sown good things into you, it is only right that you bless him or her back from the harvest that you have received from his labors.

4. The advantages of obeying this law as it relates to your pastor:

- a. Galatians 6:6-9
- b. This passage has both a positive and negative application, though the negative is often emphasized. However to emphasize only the negative is almost like constantly emphasizing how the law of gravity works against us when we jump from tall building but never speaking about how this same law keeps us from floating into outer-space.
- c. This is connected to your pastor-teacher. You are to give your pastor "good things" if you value the importance of the Word he or she continues to plant in your life that enables you to walk in victory, keeps you moving forward, and keeps your soul from hell.
- d. Phil. 4:15-19
- e. What you plant back into your pastor will garner you great benefits (Luke 6:37-38; 2 Cor. 9:6-9).

5. Commendations

- a. Supporting your pastor when he has to preach in other churches. God will ensure that you have the support that you need during crucial times (Heb. 6:10).
- b. Giving sacrificially to the ministry. God will ensure that you have every one of your needs supplied in abundance.
- c. Cooking.
- d. Attending all services on time as much as possible. Sacrificing your time to be sure that you are at services.
- e. Coming to church to do administrative work, cleaning, set up, technical things etc. All the things needed to free up a pastor to concentrate on prayer and the Word of God (Acts 6:1-4). God will ensure that you receive a harvest of love in return.