

EVERY NATION CAMPUS

from **DARKNESS**

to
LIGHT

DAY 3

LEADERS CONFERENCE DEVOTIONAL

A NEW CONSTITUTION: THE WORD OF GOD



ISAIAH 48:17-18

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go. Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea . . ."

One of the greatest joys many of us experience would probably be traveling. A travel tip that we usually follow is to be familiar with the customs and local laws lest we risk getting arrested or fined.

Recall a time when you visited a new place, whether local or abroad. What was a custom or law that you encountered that was unique to that location? Did you adhere to it or not? How did others respond when you chose to follow or not to follow it?

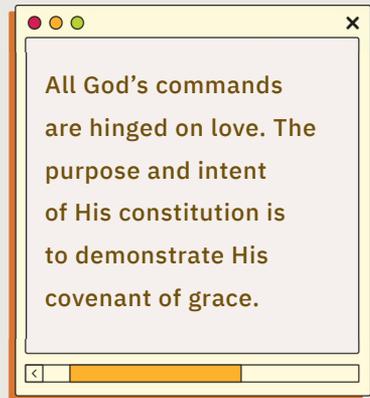
Customs and laws are put in place in order to protect relationships and promote life. They outline the powers and duties of the government, and guarantee the rights of individuals. Laws are ultimately created to promote peace and order among the people.

On Day 3 of this devotional workbook, we will talk about a change in the constitution we follow as we transition from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Let's talk about the new constitution that sets our standard of living.

I. A CONSTITUTION HINGED ON LOVE

READ: MATTHEW 22:36-40

Now that our allegiance is to Christ and to His kingdom, He gets to call the shots and we get to follow Him who is fully trustworthy and fully in control. There is so much peace and freedom there! Why? Because all His commands are hinged on love.



Jesus Christ was the first one who modeled loving God above all, and loving His neighbor as Himself. Think of three instances in the Bible when He showed this love for God and for others through His obedience to God's word.

God speaks in various ways but mainly instructs us through His written word. He knows that His people need a lot of guidance in learning how to live godly lives. God's word is essential in this inside-out transformation.

Romans 12:2 tells us that we should not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. How does the Bible transform us and renew our minds?

- ▶ John 17:17 _____
- ▶ 1 Peter 2:2 _____
- ▶ 2 Timothy 3:16–17 _____
- ▶ Hebrews 4:12 _____

Kingdom values are what God wants to shape and develop in us as we obey His commandments. If His people learn His ways, they will become more like Him, think like Him, and thrive all the more.

As you read and meditate on God's word, in what areas of your life have you learned to love God and love others more? Check all that apply:

- I have forgiven someone who hurt me.
- I have accepted someone who is so different from me.
- I have become more patient with those who trigger me easily.
- I have become a better listener than a quick judge.
- I have gone out of my way to help the poor and the needy.
- I have prayed and preaching the gospel to someone, knowing it's the answer to their ultimate need.
- Others:



II. A CONSTITUTION UPHELD BY A COVENANT

READ: ISAIAH 48:17–18

Before reiterating the value of following His commands, God reminded the Israelites of the very reason they are meant to follow Him in the first place: because they are in a covenant relationship with Him. This bond is not like an employer-employee relationship that's rarely personal and often transactional. Rather, a covenant is like a marriage—a relationship that is founded in unconditional love and strengthened through mutual trust and respect.

This reminder is also significant for us, especially during those moments when we struggle to obey God. If we are not mindful of this truth, we might think He is a power-tripping dictator who does not care about our feelings or that He is perpetually mad upon seeing our shortcomings. Yes, we need to obey Him as a sign of our allegiance to Him, but remember that the purpose and intent of God's constitution is to demonstrate His covenant of grace.

In what areas of your life are you struggling to obey God? How does it affect your view of God's goodness in your life? Was there ever a time that you felt being a Christian is too restricting? How did you respond to that feeling?



PRAYER

In Isaiah 48:18, the Lord reminded the Israelites that if only they listened to His commands, peace and righteousness would have been overflowing in their lives. Indeed, following God has a lot of blessings! Hence, we need to recalibrate our view of God's commandments as a list of to-dos and start seeing it as an act of a loving Father.

As you wrap up your devotional time, pray for supernatural hunger for God's word to continuously be birthed in your heart as you read it with the lens of His love and faithfulness.

Write your prayer below:



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