

CHAP. 9: MY LAWS IN THEIR HEARTS

1.    CONTENT

- a. In this age, God has not given us the option of withdrawing from the kosmos - He has invested us into it (I Cor. 5:10; Jn. 17:15,18). But Satan is too crafty and the kosmos too subtle to avoid getting enmeshed in it without God's help. Even when we walk with real care and caution, how do we know when we have become too involved with the kosmos?
- b. So also in this age, God has not provided rules to keep us from "crossing the line" of excessive involvement with the kosmos. Instead, He has given us His Spirit. As we abide in Christ, the Holy Spirit is able to convict us when we have "crossed the line" (I Jn. 2:27; Jer. 31:33).

2.    APPLICATION

- a. Our primary means of defense is to to be committed to Christ (Rom. 12:1,2) and to focus on our relationship with Christ by walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16). When we do this, we leave little room for the kosmos to entice us, and we are also sensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit when we are in danger.

c. Nee mentions only two requirements for this ministry, requirements which even the youngest Christian can meet:

---- that there be no known controversy between me and the Lord. I cannot impart spiritual vitality which I do not have! This does not involve sinlessness, but a willingness to walk with God and respond to Him when He convicts me of sin rather than hardening my heart and rationalizing. We need not introspect about our attitude - God is faithful to convict us if we simply focus on following Him (Phil 3:15).

---- that I be willing to be refreshed as well as to refresh others. Since we are members of the Body of Christ and of one another, none of us is self-sufficient. Unwillingness to be refreshed by others is not a proof of spiritual maturity, but rather an indication of pride or autonomy.

d. Every believer should regularly seek refreshment from other believers and seek to offer it to others. This kind of Christ-centered interaction forms the foundation of healthy of Body-life.