

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

Can You Slap Your Mother?

Can you slap your mother? I know this sounds like an absurd question, but what is your answer? If you are like most people, your answer would be “No!” Then what could make you slap your mother? What if she screamed at you or insulted you? What if she hit you? The truth is for most people none of this would matter. They simply could not slap their mother. Their “inability” to do it is not based on self-control, but because they cannot find it in their heart to do such a thing.

There are people, however, who could slap, curse, or even spit on their mother. This “ability” is clear evidence that something has gone wrong in the parent/child relationship. The Bible describes this as being “*without natural affection.*” ¹¹ Timothy 3:3. It is just not natural for a person to be able to slap their mother. If they can, something is not right!

The Apostle John tells us something that very few people believe. He wrote, “*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: **and he cannot sin**, because he is born of God.*” ¹ John 3:9. Before you fall over in disbelief at these words, consider that this statement is a simple acknowledgement that if something is not in your heart, you cannot do it.

A great key to understanding this passage is in the words *“for his seed remaineth in him.”* *“His seed”* speaks of God’s children, or those who are *“born of God.”* The words *“remain in him”* speak of abiding in Christ. For those who abide in Christ, it is not strength that keeps them from sin, but Christ, who has washed it from their hearts. This why Jude wrote, *“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”* Jude 1:24.

There are things a person who abides in Christ simply cannot do. In fact, in three different epistles, the Apostle Paul list these things, saying, those who do such things *“shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.”* I Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:5. The things Paul mentions are not in those who abide in Christ. They cannot slap their mother, and they cannot commit adultery. They cannot slap their mother, and they cannot use pornography. They cannot slap their mother, and they cannot lie and deceive. They cannot slap their mother, and they cannot hate someone. If they can do such things, it is clear evidence that something is very wrong in their relationship with God.

The record of the scripture is clear that Jesus Christ came to make us free from sin. John 8:32-36. Paul describes this work, saying *“... Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”* Romans 6:18. For those who live in Christ, righteousness is as natural as taking their next breath, and sin is as unnatural as slapping their mother.