

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"



Message: "The Law of Cause and Effect Part Two"

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Dr. Mary Craig

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How does knowing about the Law of Cause and Effect help us to live in the Kingdom of God today? Let's examine the scriptures that we might live better in the Kingdom of God.

We have established that God is The Sovereign First Cause but we also have our part. Man is a responsible agent. We are free, moral agents and we have a choice. We can obey God and receive the blessings of His promises or we can disobey and receive the consequences of that choice. We have a cause and effect relationship. People are a secondary cause with an effect, but God is the Sovereign Primary Cause, always. And we were looking at a few examples. We're going to continue doing that.

1 Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were you called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps." We know from 3 John 7 "because that for His name's sake they went forth taking nothing of the Gentiles."

Genesis 41:52 "And the name of the second child, called he Ephraim, for God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction." This is what Joseph said when he was released from the prison. Much happened with Pharaoh, and you can read about it in Genesis. Joseph had a second child and he gave glory to God and he established God as that Sovereign Cause - "God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction." God's Cause had an Effect.

Isaiah 48:21 "And they thirsted not when He led them through the desert, He caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them. He clave the rock also and the water gushed out." So God was the Sovereign Cause and He had a Cause that had an Effect. The waters flowed out of the rock BECAUSE God caused it to happen.

Isaiah 63:17 "O Lord, why hast Thou made us to err from Thy ways, and hardened our heart from Thy fear? Return for Thy servants' sake, the tribes of Thine inheritance." So here's a prayer because there is an acknowledgment that God is sovereign and He is doing all His good pleasure. Remember God has the power to enforce all of His own authority. He can do whatever He wants. He has the power, He has the authority. He is Lawgiver, King, and Judge. He is the Creator and He takes pleasure in all His creation and He takes pleasure in all He does.

Jeremiah 29:7, 13-14

7 And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

13 And ye shall seek Me, [not read: and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.]

14 And I will be found of you, [not read: saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord;]

and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.”

Note how the people become a secondary cause with God giving the effect of blessing for obedience. Also, you might want to read Jeremiah 29 to note all of God’s promises.

Jeremiah 32:23 “And they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed not Thy voice, neither walked in Thy law; they have done nothing of all that You commanded them to do: therefore You have caused all this evil to come upon them.”

As these people did, so God did unto them. There was a cause and effect relationship. In fact a lot of times you can go through and when you’re reading a story in the OT, sometimes you can go back just prior to that time in whatever is going on. What you’ll find is that what you’re reading is the effect of something that happened prior to that incident. And so there’s a cause and effect relationship going on all the time.

We need to remember this in our own lives because sometimes we’re living under the effect of something that has happened because of our ancestors or in the family line and so we want to go back to what we call the seed and the root of something. We want to go back and think about this Law of Cause and Effect in the relationships.

Now I’d like you to listen very carefully to a very important principle going on throughout scripture from Jeremiah 18. I call it God’s foreign policy, how He deals with nations. It might explain a lot about what’s going on. **As we do, God will do.** Man is the responsible agent, a free moral agent. He is a secondary cause.

Jeremiah 18 - “The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,

Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will announce My words to you. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, there he was making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter: so he re-made into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?’ declares the Lord. ‘Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. At one moment, I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom, to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it. **IF** that nation, against which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it.’

“So now then, speak to the men of Judah, and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I am fashioning calamity against you, and devising a plan against you. Oh turn back each of you from his evil way, and reform your ways and your deeds. But they will say it’s hopeless for we are going to follow our own plans; and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.”

And then it goes on. See how God has already established by decree how He is going to handle us, how He is going to handle His people in different situations? This is already established so if He comes out with some message or word of the Lord, as we do, He will do. It’s a back and forth thing. What we do has an effect. There’s a cause-and-effect relationship going on, back and forth.

We must understand this: That a lot of these promises of God and the blessings of God are conditioned upon our obedience and remember, as we believe, that’s how we obey. We obey according to what we truly believe. If we believe God that He’s telling the truth and we believe

in those promises which is faith, if we believe, then we will act accordingly and that action is our obedience. We obey what we believe. This includes the warnings and exhortations from the Lord. When we do not obey, it's because we do not believe that what God says will happen as the consequences of our choices.

God is the sovereign cause and we also have our part. Here we see a relationship of covenant. It is establishing the covenant and the Kingdom of God, which is to be preached to all creation.

Remember we have potential in the promise of God. We release that potential by starting out, stepping out in obedience. As we do, the eye of faith sees that storehouse in heaven reserved there. With our mind set on heavenly things, we go ahead and bless. We go ahead and we give. We go ahead and sow seeds. We go ahead and do unto others as we would have them do unto us. We go ahead and forgive. We go ahead and love the unlovely. We go ahead and are kind to the ungrateful and evil. We love because God, the Sovereign Cause, has loved us. He initiated action that has an effect. His actions result in our response-ability to reflect and conform to the image of Christ. God is merciful. We have received of that mercy. We can be merciful as He is merciful as we step out in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit.

Now, as a new creation in Christ Jesus and being conformed to His image, we go ahead and initiate action that will have its effect. But, instead of serving Satan, self, and the world, we choose to serve the Living God. We do things His way for His kingdom, asking Him to direct our steps. We must decide to stop reacting, being the effect of causes from the world, the flesh, and the devil and start acting in response to God's cause. It is the way faith works. In a sense, we are the cause of what happens to us. This is why God holds us accountable. It is the way He works.

One thing that has helped me throughout my Christian walk is a verse from 1 Kings 12:24 which says, **"This thing is from Me."** And so, I would have a message for you today and that is, have you ever thought of it that all that concerns you concerns God also? You know, the Bible says that what touches us touches God. For we are the apple of His eye; we are precious in His sight. I think it helps to know that verse from 1 Kings 12:24, **"This thing is from Me."** Whatever happens to us - temptations or when the enemy comes in, this thing is from God. Whatever we need, He is. And because He is, we have.

When we are in difficult circumstances or are surrounded by people who don't understand us or who never consult us or put us in the background, remember, "This thing is from God." He is the God of circumstances; He is the sovereign first cause of all things. And so, we need to remember to respond to God and not to react. God would have us to draw from and depend upon Him. His supplies are without limit. He would have us to trust His promises. Let it not be said of us, "In this thing, you did not believe the Lord your God."

Let us hope in God for we will yet praise Him, who is the help of our countenance and our God.

#### **[Psalm 43:5](#)**

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God.

#### **[Jeremiah 30:17](#)**

For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, *saying*, This *is* Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

### Jeremiah 33:6

Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.

**2 Chronicles 7: 11** When Solomon had finished the house of the LORD and the royal palace, successfully carrying out all that was in his heart to do for the house of the LORD and for his own palace, **12** the LORD appeared to him at night and said to him:

“I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. **13** If I close the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people, **14** and if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.

**15** Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. **16** For I have now chosen and consecrated this temple so that My Name may be there forever. My eyes and My heart will be there for all time. 2 Chronicles 7:11-16. BSB (to Solomon/for Israel but we can see in this the heart and mind of the LORD)

**17** And as for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, doing all I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and ordinances, **18** then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with your father David when I said, ‘You will never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.’

**19** But if you turn away and forsake the statutes and commandments I have set before you, and if you go off to serve and worship other gods, **20** then I will uproot Israel from the soil I have given them, and I will banish from My presence this temple I have sanctified for My Name. I will make it an object of scorn and ridicule among all the peoples.

**21** And when this temple has become a heap of rubble, all who pass by it will be appalled and say, ‘Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?’ **22** And others will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—because of this, He has brought all this disaster upon them.’ □” 2 Chronicles 7:17-22 BSB

We can be thankful that God the Creator is also the Redeemer and initiated redemption to redeem a people for Himself from every tribe and kindred and nation and tribe and ethnic group, etc. from all over the planet. He sent Jesus out of His love that we might believe in Him, and believe Him, and get to the place where we believe what Jesus believes. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He has a system of belief and we are to come into that. We call it “the Faith.” He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. It is because of Jesus and what He has done that we are accepted by God the Father.

We have a relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit because of God the Father who sent the His only and unique Son. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. All that we have is “in Christ,” the Beloved. We are accepted in the Beloved. We have had our sins forgiven because of Christ’s atoning work. We are reconciled to the Father because of Christ. We are redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb because of Christ, because of His sacrifice of Himself in our place and stead and for our benefit, namely the forgiveness of sin which frees us from the guilty and liability of sin. We believe. Our trust is in the Lord.

We are now the Temple of the Lord. We have been bought with a price and our life is not our own. The wrath of God has been propitiated, meaning Jesus took the wrath of God. Jesus satisfied divine justice. He paid the penalty for sin. He suffered in our place on our behalf. And He triumphed over Satan and over the kingdom of darkness. Jesus Christ did that, so that all of the Law is fulfilled in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

We receive the garment of Christ's righteousness by imputation. His righteousness is laid to our account, and Adam's sin and our sin is laid to the account of Jesus. But Jesus had no personal sin; death could not hold Him. He came in the power of an endless life. He came that we might have Life and have it more abundantly.

We need to praise Jesus for it and we need to thank Him for it because what He did has an effect. The effect of what He did brings blessings to us who believe, and we are not to be fooled when Satan comes up with his schemes. Let's not be fooled and then we will not be foolish. Amen.

## Mary Craig, D. Min.

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