

## We Believe: Article 7 – Christian Living Sunday: 10/29/2023 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli

*“We believe that God’s justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God’s Word, the Spirit’s power, and fervent prayer in Christ’s name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ’s commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.”*

### Overview:

This week Pastor Lenard examined Article 7 of the Statement of Faith. The Article speaks to Christian living. Pastor Lenard showed us that Christian living is not a list of things to do or not do but that it is about the direction of our lives in Christ. There is a profound truth for us to consider; that we are not called to continually die to sin, for the believer we already have died to sin. We can rest in the finished work of Christ. Knowing this, Pastor Lenard described how sin continues to pester the believer, sin comes at us in guerilla warfare seeking to knock Christ off his throne in our lives. Knowing that our calling is not to continually strive to justify ourselves, we learned the goal of this Christian living. The goal for us as believers is to love God and to love others. One way we show God our love is through our obedience, this week we focused especially on the great commission.

### Outline:

1. Godly living: *Romans 6:1-14*
  - a. Reigning Sin vs Remaining Sin
2. Sacrificial Love
  - a. Care for one another: *Romans 12:10, Romans 15:5, 15:7, Galatians 5:13, 6:2, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13, 1 Peter 4:9*
  - b. Act with Compassion Toward the Poor: *Galatians 2:10*
  - c. Seek Justice for the Oppressed: *Micah 6:8*
3. Spiritual Warfare: *Ephesians 6:10-18, 1:19-20, 3:16-17*
4. Making Disciples: *Matthew 28:18-20*

### Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Lenard defined poverty as broken relationships and an absence of peace (Shalom).
  - a. How has that definition changed how you think about poverty?
  - b. Can you describe a time that this described you?
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Pastor Lenard spoke to the idea of not relying in our own strength but in God’s.
  - a. How does this context of being strong in the Lord change how you think about this passage?
  - b. What does it mean to you that you have the same power in you that raised Christ from the dead?
3. As we seek to live a life where we love God and love others in response to his work in us what does it mean to seek justice? How is this justice different from today’s “social justice?”
  - a. What does this justice look like in your life? How do you need to grow in this area?
4. Did anything else stand out to you in the sermon?

### **Article 8 with references: Christian Living**

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose (Matt. 7:17-18; 12:33, 35; Heb. 11:6; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17, 23; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Jn. 2:29; 3:9; 5:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Tit. 3:5; 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 6:11, 14; 1 Pet. 1:15; Phil. 2:12-13; Heb. 12:1, 14; 2 Tim. 1:9; Js. 2:17; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Pet. 1:3-11). God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially (Dt. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:37-39; Mk. 12:30; Lk. 10:27) and to live out our faith with care for one another (Rom. 12:10; 14:13; 15:7, 14; Gal. 5:26; Eph. 4:32; 1 Thess. 3:12; 5:11, 15; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 4:9), compassion toward the poor (Dt. 15:11; Psa. 82:3,4; Psa. 140:12; Prov. 14:21,31; 19:17; 22:9,16,22,23; 28:8; 29:7; 31:8,9; Jer. 22:16; Gal. 2:10; Js. 1:27) and justice for the oppressed (Ex. 23:6; Lev. 19:15; Psa. 82:3,4; 140:12; Prov. 29:7; 31:9; Isa. 1:17; Jer. 9:24; Mic. 6:8; Zech. 7:9,10; Matt. 23:23; Luke 4:18). With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name (Eph. 6:10-18), we (Heb. 3:13; 10:25), are to combat the spiritual forces of evil (2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:11, 12; 2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Jn. 5:3-4). In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people (Matt. 28:19; Jn. 20:21; Rev. 7:9), always bearing witness to the gospel (Acts 1:8) in word and deed (Matt. 5:13-16).