

Good Morning!

In a way we can look at the processes and goals of the *Lenten Season* as redefining the traditional distinction between "sacred" and "secular." Rather than certain places or objects being inherently holy, in the New Covenant *sacredness* is shifted to *the presence of God within believers* and the resulting *change of our hearts* and the miraculous *transformation of the ordinary*.

Sacredness in the New Covenant:

- **Sacred space within the hearts of believers:** Under the New Covenant, physical locations are no longer considered inherently "sacred." Instead, the "sacred" resides in the presence of God among God's people and within the hearts of believers through the Holy Spirit.

- **The Ordinary Made Sacred:** Because the Law that once divided the "clean" from the "unclean" is fulfilled in Christ, the barriers between the mundane and the holy have crumbled. This allows the "ordinary" aspects of life to be known as sacred when lived in relationship with God.

- **Internal versus External Holiness:** The Old Covenant focused on external rituals, specific holy days, and physical washings. The New Covenant prioritizes internal transformation, with God's law written on the heart and mind, making the believer's entire life a "priestly service."

- **Sufficiency of Christ:** Sacredness is no longer achieved through personal performance or adherence to ceremonial laws but is a gift received through faith in Jesus Christ, who is considered superior to all the Old Covenant elements.

In Christian theology, the fulfillment of the law in Christ is a multifaceted concept centered on Jesus' statement that he came "not to abolish but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). This fulfillment is understood to occur in a variety of ways, which we will briefly explore together next week.

Today, let's end this little theological summary by remembering *Christian teaching holds that the entire law is fulfilled in the single command to love one's neighbor as oneself*. We are empowered in this direction through union with Christ by faith, and the in-filling of the Holy Spirit!

During Lent, and always, God is working to create within us *good hearts--God hearts!*

With love,

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