

Conditions, Blessings, Consequences

The Lord's word is black and white. The Lord operates on the very simple premise of the following: If, Then, Else. This is the core of all computer languages. Computers are machines that simply follow a set of instructions and do so without individual interpretation. People on the other hand, not so much.

Part 1

One of the first examples of this principle is in Genesis 2:16-17.

16 ¶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

So we see here that God establishes a law that every tree is good to eat, but "if" you eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, "then" you will die.

We see in Chapter 3 that Satan exploits some error in the translation of God's word when he entices Eve.

1 ¶ Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

In vs one you see Satan's MO. He starts by bringing doubt on the truth and surety of God's word as well as the reality that God is going to follow through on His word.

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Here we see a common error in the church. This is NOT what God said. How it got changed is not made clear, but the commandment from God was about not eating. It had nothing to do with not touching. This gave Satan an opportunity which he soon begins to exploit.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And in vs 6, the doubt gains traction when Eve touches it and nothing happens. The deception and trap is complete and Satan succeeds in his plan. We all know the rest of the story.

6 ¶ And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

In the first few chapters of the Bible we see how things will continue to play out through to the present.

Part 2

If you look up the word “if” in the Bible you’ll see is used 1420 times. If you look up “then,” you’ll find it used 2115 times. Look for verses that have both “if” as well as “then” and you come up with 307 verses. Many of these are quite latterly “if” this condition, “then” that consequence. You’ll find a lot of these in the law of Moses as well as throughout the rest of scripture. While these are important, there are many times where “if” and “then” are implied. Here’s a good example which we are all familiar with in Mark 16 vs 15 - 18:

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

There’s no specific “if then” listed, but you can clearly see: If a person believes and is baptized, then they will be saved. If a person does not believe then they will be damned. Additionally, if a person believes and is baptized, then “these signs shall follow them.”

This is Jesus speaking. The very Word, is speaking the word and it is very clear. So why don’t we see this in action throughout the church? Well, the church has bought the same lie as Eve with teachings like these:

- “this passage was not in the most reliable manuscripts”
- “this is not really what God meant when it was translated”
- “that was only for the original apostles”
- “once the bible was completed, we didn’t need the power of God manifested anymore so this is not for today.”
- “all this healing and speaking in tongues is of the devil” (interestingly enough, that’s the line the pharisees used against Christ during His ministry. I guess from the devil’s perspective if it ain’t broke don’t fix it?)

When a person does not have these gifts operating in their life or a church is not seeing this in their day to day existence, all of the above just helps justify them. They are not brought to the place of having to come to the conclusion that there’s something amiss with what they believe and their relationship or lack of relationship with the author of these miracles. It’s all very convenient for the devil and the pride of man is built up against the word of God.

Let’s take another look at a verse that’s come under the same attack as the passage above; John 14:12:

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Again, we see a lack of an explicit “if then,” but the implication is very clear. If a person believeth on Jesus, then they will do the works that Jesus did, and far greater works. Why is this not happening in every Christian church across the world? Well the only conclusion is that people don’t believe on Jesus. If they came to that conclusion, or were to be brought to that fact, then they could repent of their

unbelief and their lives would be transformed by the power of God. And not only their lives, but the impact of their change would have a direct effect on the lives of all those around them. Not to say everyone around them would come to know Christ, but the opportunity for them to know Christ in truth would go WAY up.

Coming to the conclusion that you are the problem, and not God, seems to be an impossible pill to swallow for most people. This is why they find so much comfort in the lie. The end result is that they stay in bondage and never come to the knowledge of the truth. Jesus said this of the pharisees in Matthew 23: 13

13 ¶ But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in [yourselves], neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

This is the unfortunate state we find ourselves in currently. The truth of God's word. The black and whiteness of His word, His judgement, conviction, repentance, etc., it's all lost on this generation because they choose to believe a lie rather than humble themselves and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Part 3

So I've talked about some "theoretical" arguments put out by the devil to try and throw off the church. They've all come from my personal experiences both in and out of various denominations. They all have one thing in common and that is to justify man against the truth and judgement of God. Let me set this one up for you.

In Philippians 4:6 Paul says the following:

Php 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Let's throw in vs 7 for good measure:

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

You can break this down into yet another "if then" concept here. If you don't worry (that's what "careful" means here) and make your requests known to God, then the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Frankly that's AWESOME. The next time fear, worry, mental anguish comes against you, you have a perfect way to see it crushed by the very hand of the almighty God! Neat, clean, simple right? But you would have to acknowledge that you had worry in the first place.. which is a sin, as anything not of faith is sin. Hum...

Now let's look at how the modern "enlightened" church looks at the same passage. Here's an example pulled from a well-known and respected modern "Christian" author (Max Lucado) talking about the same exact passage:

"... Paul doesn't seem to offer any leeway here. Be anxious (they reference a different version of the bible than the above quoted King James) for nothing. Nada. Zilch, Zero. Is this what he

meant? Not exactly. He wrote the phrase from the present active tense, which implies an ongoing state. It's the life of perpetual anxiety that Paul wanted to address. The "Lucado Revised Translation" reads, "Don't let anything in life leave you perpetually breathless and in angst." The presence of anxiety is unavoidable, but the prison of anxiety is optional. Anxiety is not a sin; it is an emotion."

So the reader of Max's book takes away that which Paul said very specifically and succinctly, isn't really what he meant but rather something else and that the worry, fear, and mental torment is really not a sin, but rather an emotion that in the end, they are not responsible for.

In some 10,000 years has anything changed? Truly you will not die. God didn't really mean that... And this lie and lies like it are gobbled up hand over fist all throughout churchdom across the world. And too often right here in our own fellowship as well.

Part 4

Conditions, Blessings, Consequences

Here are some other places where the if, then, else applies.

1. If you love me then keep my commandments. - John 14:15
2. If you have anything before God, including your own life, you cannot be His disciple - Luke 14:26-27
3. If you keep His ways and turn not to the left or right, then all these blessings will come upon you, else all these curses will come upon you - Deut 28
4. If you keep my statutes and commandments and do them, then will I give you rain in due season and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit - Leviticus 26:3
5. If you delight yourself in the Lord, then He will give you the desires of thy heart - Psalms 37 - 4
6. If you trust in the Lord and do good, then so shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed - Psalms 37:3
7. If we are dead to sin, then we will not live any longer therein - Rom 6:2
8. If we are in Christ Jesus and walk not after the flesh, then there is therefore now no condemnation
9. If you walk in the works of the flesh, then you will not inherit the kingdom of God - Gal 5:19-21
10. If you walk in the spirit, then you will manifest the fruit of the Spirit which is love along with all its attributes - Gal 5:22-25

Part 5

The black and whiteness of God's work in condensed form:

If you want to take a look at the stark contrast between how God sees things vs how man sees things, then read through 1st John. The volume of specifically stated and implied "if, then, else" statements are all through the book. Most of them cut right to the heart of where man has his greatest strongholds, his own opinion of himself. People want to see themselves as "good" and righteous where there is only one good and righteous which is God. John lays it out in pure black and white for the conviction of God to do its job. If, when you are convicted, you go to 1st John 1:9:

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Then God does His part to take away our sin. However, if we continue to stand in justification seen in vs 8 and 10:

8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Then you are frustrating the judgment of God that is trying to lead you to repentance and restoration with the Father. Let this be the case no longer.