His Commands Are Not Burdensome

Ken Chapman · 1 John 5:2–3

INTRODUCTION

- Sometimes we get frustrated when we can't do something, especially when we can't do something that somebody else can do.
- God's commandments, taken in their entirety as a whole, are not too much for you to handle, for you to bear.
- But then here comes the apostle saying his commandments are not burdensome, not too heavy of a weight.

1 A Different Perspective

1 Corinthians 2:10–16

- They are not burdensome, or they become less burdensome if we have a different perspective. It's how we view them.
- Perspective is so important. What we look at and how we look at things determines so much about our lives.
- The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God for their foolishness to him, nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.
- These commandments that can be difficult, that can be demanding, that can be challenging become far less so if we have the proper perspective.
- Our perspective changes. And we're willing to undergo tasks that might otherwise not only be difficult, challenging, but unthinkable.

2 Our Affection Is Different

1 John 5:2–3

- Not only is our perspective different, but our affection is different. And that changes everything.
- For this is the love of God. That we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
- That sentence, his commandments are not burdensome, was not written in a vacuum … It was written in the context of our love for God.
- I gave that to my children. Why? I love them. … Because love changes everything.
- He's saying this is the love that we have for God. If we love him, his commandments are not burdens.

3 My Treatment of Others

- The first practical application comes in my treatment of others.
- Not everybody has that perspective. Not everybody shares that affection … Well, maybe I need to be patient with them.
- What we need to be doing is helping them to grow to that.

- I fed you with milk and not with solid food. For until now, you were not able to receive it.
- But he didn't try to force feed them meat when all they could handle was milk.

4 The Next Application Is About Me

- If I can't agree with John, and his commandments are burdensome to me. Well, I need to work on my perspective.
- Maybe it's not time for the meat. But that doesn't mean that I neglect the milk of God's word.
- And secondly, and maybe primarily, I'm going to try to love God more. Because that'll change everything.
- The more I know about him, what he's done, is doing, has promised to do, I'm sure the more I'm going to love him.
- And so I read, I study, and I pray so that I can get there where John was.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you count that cost? Would you make that step today to be one of his disciples?**

MY NOTES