

# NEW LIFE TEACHING

## THE TRAFFIC COP

At a recent Church meeting someone shared about getting a traffic ticket. We do that at our Church. Anybody who wants to, gets to share. This lady was speeding and when stopped, she immediately said, “Guilty”. The policeman was gentle and though giving her a ticket also gave her a break. The theme of this particular meeting was taken from the first chapter of Paul’s letter to the Church at Ephesus. It tells us, quite eloquently, about some of the many things we are and we have because of the work of God, our Father through our Lord, Jesus. Read this again! It is wonderful! God chose us before the world was made. We are set free (from a lot and to a lot). I could rave on about Ephesians but that is not the point of this little writing. My friend Jackie’s bittersweet experience with the cop set me to thinking. The police in our society have the authority of the state and nation behind their uniforms and badges. They also have the authority of some weapons if they need it.

This physical world is not the only arena in which we encounter ‘Cops’. There are Cops in the spiritual world also. I propose to bring some things to your attention that may prove helpful. I suggest that there are three different ‘Cops’ that may arrive at any moment to stop us and ‘give us a ticket’. Let us begin with the illegitimate one.

**SATAN:** Satan and his many minions love to exercise authority and dominion over human beings. My belief is that for many humans these evil beings actually have the right to do so. Jesus taught that we will have a master. We will either serve God or Satan. We are under the authority of the one we serve. I am writing this for Christians. We have made a decision that we will serve Christ and Him alone. He is our Lord. Now we often do not do this very well. It is common for us to do things that disappoint ourselves and our friends around us. It is rare that we actually change our loyalty from God back to Satan. That is so rare that I have never met anyone who has done so. We belong to God. He is in us and we are in Him. Satan has NOTHING in us. He has no authority over us. He will accuse us. He does accuse us, constantly. Don’t listen to him because he is a liar and the father of lies. He hates us and never wants to do us good. When that lying cop stops you and tries to give you a ticket, just drive right on off because he

has no authority over you. We all know enough scripture to know that we have died to the old way. As far as Satan is concerned, he is trying to give a ticket to a corpse. Give him the same notice that a corpse would give – none.

**FATHER:** Many of my good Christian friends still seem to see God as an angry Cop who knows every evil thought and every evil deed you have ever done (some of which you are still doing) and He is pretty upset. He intends to beat the badness out of you. Frankly, most of our messes come a lot more from immaturity than it does from rebellion. One of my closest friends likened this to us being an immature banana. A green banana is quite firm and not very tasty. If you find an immature banana would you be angry at it for being green? If so, would you then begin beating that banana to a flat pulp because it was green? Probably not. Our Lord has given life to our spirits. Unfortunately that life giving event did not do a whole lot for our minds. The way I see it our minds are still very ‘green’ even though we have been given ‘life’. It take awhile for us to ‘grow up’. We are transformed by the renewing of our minds and that is not instantaneous. It takes awhile. It appears to take longer for some of us than for others. So, when God, the Cop stops us what is His attitude? He gives us the ticket, tells us what was wrong, gives us direction to the right way, then says, “Drive on Son, the fine has already been paid”. The self-righteous among us (most of us) will not like to accept that. No, we want to pay (a little at least). We want to at least feel a little condemnation despite Romans 8:1 which says quite clearly that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Abba Cop will, however, do it His way which is to give us good guidance and insist that the penalty has already been paid. Even if He stops you a hundred times, each time He will say the same thing, “The penalty as paid for you by another. That is finished”.

There is yet a third cop and he is by far the most trouble. We have met the enemy and he is **US!**

**ME:** When it comes to guilt, fear, condemnation, worry, and accusation I have no enemy that even approaches myself for being persistent and unyielding. I think, though I have no proof, that the ones the world sees as the most ‘religious’ are the most guilty of this self – condemnation. In this matter, we have exactly the same authority over the situation as Satan – NONE. We are not our own, we have been purchased as a Pearl of great

price. (I know the parable but do not think I am doing any great dis-service to it here). We do not have the right to impose sanctions and penalties on ourselves because we have caught ourselves 'speeding'. We do not actually say that if we 'do better' then perhaps God might look more favorably at us, but we think like that and we live like that. We so often seem to believe that if we will just live right then we can find 'life in the Spirit'. In a Dale Carnegie course I took one time we were taught, "If you act enthusiastic you will BE enthusiastic". The Christian paraphrase given me by a close Pastor friend was, "fake it till you make it". Scripture says, "If you walk in the Spirit you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh". We turn that around to be, "If you do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh you will walk in the Spirit". No, you will not, you will just continue to walk in the 'flesh'.

What is the problem I see? The problem is that both Satan and Me are saying, "No God, you are wrong. I was bad and I deserve to be punished. If you won't do it I guess I will have to". No matter how you slice it, that is what is being said. God says I am free. Therefore, I am free from the penalty of sin, from condemnation, from guilt. I am free to walk in the Spirit, be comfortable in the presence of my Lord, believe that He lives in me, loves me, and finds me quite acceptable thank you. I believe that and I will live like I believe that.

Any spiritual Cop that comes and exerts authority over you and wants to 'make you pay', for any sin you have committed (yeah, I know you did it, so did I) you have a choice. You can submit to his unrighteous and illegal stuff or you can tell him to stuff it. When our Lord comes He will say, "You did this wrong Son. That will hurt you and I will show you a better way. Now, go and sin no more but this account has been paid in full.

Written by Dick Pendleton under the auspices of NEW LIFE INC. , a non-profit organization. You may review other writings on our web page at: [rcnewlife.org](http://rcnewlife.org) There will be no request for donations.