

The Christian's Power to Bind and Loose

CrossWay Church

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Looking at the two references made by Jesus of what He taught us about the authority we have to be able to bind and loose here on earth.

The first mention by Jesus of this phrase is after He has told us that He has given to us the keys of the kingdom of heaven, meaning that we now have access to those things which are in heaven among those here who Believe and follow Jesus.

The function of these keys are based on the revelation of who The Rock is, which is Jesus, who is our Righteousness Peace and Joy through Faith in His Cross.

Matthew 16:16-19

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The second mention of this phrase is dealing with problems within relationships among Christians. The answer is always the same, which is what the keys bind and loose, when drawing from the power of Christ and His Sacrifice.

Matthew 18:15-20

15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

This statement comes directly after Jesus' instruction about dealing with sin and restoration among Believers. Therefore, it is not a mystical formula for controlling heaven, but an **authority exercised in agreement with heaven.**

The words, “Bind” and “Loose” are judicial terms.

In Jewish usage, bind meant to forbid or to retain, and loose meant to permit or release. Jesus is saying that when His people act according to His revealed Truth, heaven stands behind that action.

Heaven is not responding to earthly things, but earthly things are responding to heaven. Remember, the keys given us are the keys of the kingdom of “Heaven.”

The grammar implies: what has already been bound in heaven will be bound on earth. The authority is dependent,

not independent. **We do not initiate; we agree.**

This authority only flows from the Cross and the power of the Cross being the good work being allowed to work within our hearts

All true authority given to the Church rests upon what Christ accomplished in His selfless death. Sin was judged at the Cross, where forgiveness was granted and restoration made possible.

Therefore, what is bound or loosed must align with the finished work of Christ, not human will or emotion.

The application of this Truth for us is that we bind what Christ has already judged (sin, deception, rebellion) and we loose what Christ has already provided (forgiveness, restoration, liberty).

This is exercised in humility, truth, and love defined and experienced through Faith in Calvary's Lamb, not sentiment.

Jesus Himself is the ultimate expression of this verse as IN Him Sin was bound in His death and God's Righteousness was loosed.

Thus, the Church does not wield authority apart from Him but manifests His authority by remaining anchored through Faith in His Cross.

There is only one place where earth and heaven agree, and that place is the Cross of Christ

1. Heaven's decree precedes earth's action

Heaven does not wait on the Church to decide truth. Heaven has already acted in Christ.

Sin was judged at the Cross and Righteousness was worked at the Cross.

Isaiah 32:17

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Peace with God was secured there.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Therefore, binding and loosing is not creative authority, but recognitional authority. We recognize and enforce what heaven has already settled in Christ crucified

2. What is bound at and through the Cross

These are not mystical forces; they are legal realities which are already judged:

Sin's Dominion

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Condemnation

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The Law's Power to Accuse

Colossians 2:14

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Satan's Claim over the Believer

Hebrews 2:14

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

When the Church "binds," it is declaring what the Cross has already condemned.

3. What is loosed at the Cross

Again, not future blessings, but present realities secured by Christ's death are:

Forgiveness of Sins

Ephesians 1:7

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Righteousness before God

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Peace and Assurance

Isaiah 32:17

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Access to God

Hebrews 10:19-22

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;
21 And having an high priest over the house of God;
22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

When the Church “looses,” it is proclaiming what the Cross has already released for man’s partaking by Faith.

4. Why the resurrection matters—but does not replace the Cross

The Resurrection does not produce Righteousness; it confirms it. Christ was delivered for our offences (Cross). Christ was raised again for our justification.

The Resurrection of Christ justified what Christ did on the Cross

Romans 4:25

Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

The resurrection is heaven’s public declaration that the Righteous work done at Calvary was accepted. It seals but does not originate Righteousness.

The Resurrection seals our Righteousness, but does not originate it – The Cross did that

5. The Church's authority is Cross Dependent

The Church possesses no authority except that which flows from, agrees with, and remains confined to the finished work of Jesus Christ in His selfless death on the Cross.

2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

The Love of Christ on the Cross was God's Love being manifest for all to see.

1 John 4:9-10

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Any binding or loosing that attempts to bypass the Cross adds conditions outside the framework of God's legal justifying and sanctifying Way IN Christ. This is always the manifestation of faith which is not biblical. It is a shift of focus to human authority, which is lawlessness, and not true biblical authority.

True authority agrees with heaven and speaks what the Cross accomplished. True authority will always be dependent upon Faith in Christ's selfless death on the Cross.

***Righteousness was worked at the Cross and Peace is
the effect of that Righteousness***

Isaiah 32:17

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

The resurrection confirms heaven's acceptance, and binding and loosing is the Church agreeing with what God has already done in Christ through the Cross. There is only one place where heaven and earth agree and it is where sin was judged and Righteousness was worked, and that place is the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 58:6

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

