



Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate  
St. Mina & St. Abanoub Coptic Orthodox Church  
Dayton, Ohio

Baunah 22, 1724 AM

June 29, 2008

Dear beloved, today is the fourth Sunday in the blessed Coptic month Baunah. The Holy Spirit informs us about the Holy commandments that some people think is a heavy burden. The Holy Gospel says, **“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you”** (Luke 6: 27,28). It might appear to us that our Lord’s commandments is a burden and difficult to accomplish.

A person might ask himself, “Are these commandments reasonable?” “Am I a saint to be asked to accomplish these commandments?” In reality, the discussion of the commandment is one thing and its accomplishment is another thing. Truly, we need to know the fact that our Lord works through us. Christianity is not commandments and laws that a person stands idle in front of. Christianity is our life in Christ. Our Lord is in us and we take the power of life from Him that makes these commandments reasonable for our new human nature. Anyone who is enjoying his new creation that he has taken through baptism and enjoying life in Christ knows the nature of these commandments and perceives how these commandments are good, holy, and beneficial.

**Love.... Bless.... Do good.... Pray.**

These are the signs of our new creation and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We can say that a person living in Christ knows how to love, to bless, to do good and to pray. Therefore, it is not practical that he will develop enmity, insult, curse, or persecution. The commandments raise us to the heavenly matters.

The commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ raise us above the nature of a human being and make us in a position above our human nature. It makes us at a level above resisting evil. It is written **“See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all”** (1 Thessalonians 5:15). If your enemy is hungry feed him; if he is thirsty, give him water. The commandment raises us from facing our enemies to facing God as His children. The greatness of the mystery of these commandments is that it shows us as children of God and children of light in front of the world because the commandment carries with it the spirit of Christ. Our Lord said, **“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”** (John 6: 63).

The strength of the commandment of our Lord is seen through this example. It is written that a lady with an evil spirit slapped one of the father monks then he turned the other cheek for her. Satan then cried and left her as if he was burnt by the commandment of our Lord, **“Whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also”** (Matthew 5:39). St. Bakhomios became a Christian because he saw Christians doing good to the

pagan soldiers who were persecuting and killing them. It is written **“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?”** (Luke 6:32)

Christianity is giving, exerting, and love to the weak, scornful, sinners, and enemies without hoping for any return. All these matters cannot not be done by evil persons. It distinguishes a Christian person and shows him as a son of God in the eye of the people.

To our Lord is the Eternal Glory in His Holy Church forever, Amen.

Fr. Angilos Antoun