

THE LAW AND THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO IT

The law was given to the nation of Israel (Ex. 20:2), but while the law was not given to Gentiles (Rom. 2:14a), they have the works of the law written in their hearts (Rom. 2:14,15). Each will be judged on that basis (Rom. 2:12). In giving the law to Israel, God used that nation as a sample of the human race. Israel's failure proved the failure of the race (Rom. 3:19).

The law is holy, just, good, and spiritual, (Rom. 7:7,12,14,16; 1 Tim. 1:8). But it had bad raw materials to work with (Rom. 7:7-9). It was weak through the flesh (Rom. 8:3). It made nothing perfect (Heb. 7:19).

The essence of the law is love to God and love to one's neighbor (Matt. 7:12; Matt. 22:36-40; Rom. 13:8,10; Gal. 5:14).

The law's purpose is to produce conviction of sin (Rom. 3:20; Matt. 19:16-22; Luke 10:25; Rom. 4:15; 5:20; Rom. 7:7; 1 Cor. 15:56; Gal. 3:19; 1 Tim. 1:8,9). It is good if it is used for this purpose.

Sin is not imputed (as transgression) where there is no law (Rom. 5:13).

There is no virtue in hearing the law; it demands obedience (Rom. 2:13).

The penalty for breaking the law is death (Gal. 3:10). It is impossible to be under the law without being under the curse (Gal. 3:10). The law demands perfect and complete obedience (Gal. 3:10; 5:3; James 2:10,11). To break one law is to break all.

The law told men what to do but didn't give them the power to do it. It had the effect of stirring up dormant desires and appetites in man (Rom. 7:9,10).

The law was not God's ultimate program. It was added till the seed should come (Gal. 3:19). It was our schoolmaster until the coming of Christ (Gal. 3:24).

Christ did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it (Matt. 5:17). He kept it perfectly in His life and paid its awful penalty in His death. He said that not one jot or tittle would pass from the law till all be fulfilled (Matt. 5:18). For the believer, the law was fulfilled in the work of Christ at Calvary.

There is no justification by the law (Acts 13:39; Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16,21; 3:11). It was never God's intention that anyone be saved by the law. Even if a person could keep it perfectly from this day forward, he still would not be justified because God requires that which is past.

The Spirit is not received by law-keeping (Gal. 3:2).

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law (Gal. 3:13; 4:4,5).

The believer is dead to the law by the body of Christ (Rom. 7:4,6; Gal. 2:19). Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to those who believe (Rom. 10:4). Now that Christ is come, we are no longer under law (Gal. 3:25). Those who are led by the Spirit are not under law (Gal.

5:18). The law is done away for the believer (2 Cor. 3:7-11).

The righteousness of the law is fulfilled in those who walk after the Spirit (Rom. 8:4).

While the believer is not under law but under grace (Rom. 6:14,15), he is not lawless. Rather he is enlawed to Christ (1 Cor. 9:21).

The gospel does not make void the law; it establishes the law (Rom. 3:31). The penalty which the law demands has been paid by the Lord Jesus. "Stern justice can demand no more, and mercy can dispense her store."

The law itself is not dead. It has never been repealed.

Nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the New Testament, but they are not repeated as law, with penalty attached, but as instruction in righteousness for the people of God.

Commandment

New Testament Reference

1. Thou shalt have no other God before me.	Matt. 4:10; 1 Cor. 6:9,10; 10:7,14; 1 John 5:20,21
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, etc.	Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:23; 1 Cor. 10:7
3. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.	Matt. 5:33-37; James 5:12
4. Honor thy father and thy mother.	Eph. 6:2; Col. 3:20
5. Thou shalt not kill.	Matt. 5:21,22; 1 John 3:15
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.	Matt. 5:27,28; 1 Thes. 4:3-5
7. Thou shalt not steal.	1 Cor. 6:9,10; Eph. 4:28
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.	Matt. 5:43-48; Eph. 4:25
9. Thou shalt not covet.	Rom. 7:7

The one commandment which is **not** repeated is the one commanding Sabbath observance. Christians are never taught to keep the Sabbath (even though we admit that there is a principle in the Word of one day in seven).

Christ and not the law is the believer's rule of life (1 John 2:6). He is our standard, our pattern, our example (John 13:15; 15:12; Eph. 5:1,2,8,15,16; 1 John 3:16).

Grace and law cannot co-exist (Gal. 4:30). Faith and law are contrary principles (Gal. 3:12). But the law is not against the promises of God (Gal. 3:21).