

### Law 3: What is the believer's relationship with law?

Many claim that the Law of Moses, primarily the 10 Commandments, is the rule of life for believers; sanctification follows obedience to these laws. But this turns attention on to external regulations instead of Christ. What does scripture tell us?

- Jesus was led by the Spirit (Matt 4:1; Lk 4:1).
- We are led by the Spirit, not law (Rm 8:14; Gal 5:18).
- We are to walk in the Spirit, not law (Rm 8:4; Gal 5:16, 25).
- We are to live in the Spirit (Gal: 5:25).
- The Spirit (not law) leads us into truth (Jn 16:13).
- The believer is under grace not law (Rm 6:14).
- The believer lives by faith (Rm 1:17); the law is not of faith (Gal 3:12; Heb 11:1).
- Knowing God's will comes not by law but by the spiritual renewing of the mind (Rm 12:2).
- Christ is man's judge at the last day, not the Law of Moses (Jn 5:22, 12:48; Acts 10:42, 17:31; 2 Tim 4:1).

Does this mean that believers do not follow law at all? No, this is the sin of antinomianism, or rejecting all forms of law; this is a serious heresy. There is grace in the Old Covenant and commandments in the New Covenant.

After the cross God internalised his directing will in the heart of man, instead of being set in written regulations. This was promised by the prophets (Jer 31:33; Ezek 36:27). The age of external law ended at the cross / Pentecost when the age of the Spirit began (Jn 1:17). The New Covenant has a new internal direction because it is set within the new heart of new creations (2 Cor 5:17). Christians are no longer part of the Adamic race but are in Christ, in a new realm of the Spirit (Rm 8:1, 9). The Law was for Adamic men under sin.

The Spirit does not minimise the moral law of God (which the Mosaic Law formalised in regulations); indeed he brings conviction regarding inner motivations and thoughts as well as external actions (2 Cor 10:5). This is the operation of the Law of Christ (Rm 8:2; Gal 6:2) in accordance with Jesus' teaching (Matt 5:21-22, 27-28). The standard of righteousness is no longer a set of regulations but a man – Christ (Rm 2:16, 3:21-22 Acts 17:31), the firstborn of a new creation. The Law of Christ is the measure of the character of Christ mediated by his Spirit.

Something that ministers death and leads to condemnation cannot be the rule for believers to follow (see, 'What is the purpose of the Mosaic Law').

Scripture quotations are from The New King James Version

© Thomas Nelson 1982

**Paul Fahy Copyright © 2015**

Understanding Ministries

### Law 3: What is the believer's relationship with law?

Many claim that the Law of Moses, primarily the 10 Commandments, is the rule of life for believers; sanctification follows obedience to these laws. But this turns attention on to external regulations instead of Christ. What does scripture tell us?

- Jesus was led by the Spirit (Matt 4:1; Lk 4:1).
- We are led by the Spirit, not law (Rm 8:14; Gal 5:18).
- We are to walk in the Spirit, not law (Rm 8:4; Gal 5:16, 25).
- We are to live in the Spirit (Gal: 5:25).
- The Spirit (not law) leads us into truth (Jn 16:13).
- The believer is under grace not law (Rm 6:14).
- The believer lives by faith (Rm 1:17); the law is not of faith (Gal 3:12; Heb 11:1).
- Knowing God's will comes not by law but by the spiritual renewing of the mind (Rm 12:2).
- Christ is man's judge at the last day, not the Law of Moses (Jn 5:22, 12:48; Acts 10:42, 17:31; 2 Tim 4:1).

Does this mean that believers do not follow law at all? No, this is the sin of antinomianism, or rejecting all forms of law; this is a serious heresy. There is grace in the Old Covenant and commandments in the New Covenant.

After the cross God internalised his directing will in the heart of man, instead of being set in written regulations. This was promised by the prophets (Jer 31:33; Ezek 36:27). The age of external law ended at the cross / Pentecost when the age of the Spirit began (Jn 1:17). The New Covenant has a new internal direction because it is set within the new heart of new creations (2 Cor 5:17). Christians are no longer part of the Adamic race but are in Christ, in a new realm of the Spirit (Rm 8:1, 9). The Law was for Adamic men under sin.

The Spirit does not minimise the moral law of God (which the Mosaic Law formalised in regulations); indeed he brings conviction regarding inner motivations and thoughts as well as external actions (2 Cor 10:5). This is the operation of the Law of Christ (Rm 8:2; Gal 6:2) in accordance with Jesus' teaching (Matt 5:21-22, 27-28). The standard of righteousness is no longer a set of regulations but a man – Christ (Rm 2:16, 3:21-22 Acts 17:31), the firstborn of a new creation. The Law of Christ is the measure of the character of Christ mediated by his Spirit.

Something that ministers death and leads to condemnation cannot be the rule for believers to follow (see, 'What is the purpose of the Mosaic Law').

Scripture quotations are from The New King James Version

© Thomas Nelson 1982

**Paul Fahy Copyright © 2015**

Understanding Ministries