

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:24

The Bible says: By the law is the knowledge of _____. (Rom. 3:20) Therefore the law was our _____ to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. (Gal. 3:24)



Note: Many people think they are good according to their own standard, but when we see ourselves through the lens of God’s law, we realize that even our best deeds “are like filthy rags” (Isa. 64:6). The purpose of the law is to show us our sinfulness. Paul said, “I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet”” (Rom. 7:7). When we see our sinfulness, we begin to realize the impossibility of saving ourselves. Many, in desperation, searching for an antidote to save them from the disease of sin, are led to Christ, therefore the law is the tool that leads us to Christ who saves us.

2. ARE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS STILL REQUIRED?

Matthew 19:17; Revelation 22:14

The Bible says: But if you want to enter into life, _____ the commandments. (Matt. 19:17) Blessed are those who _____ His _____, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. (Rev. 22:14)

Note: When asked how to get to heaven, Jesus answered by saying we must keep the commandments – twice (See Matt. 19:17; Luke 10:25, 26)! We are not saved by keeping the law because before we accept Christ it would be impossible (See John 15:5). After we are saved, we have God’s power to keep the law because He writes it on our hearts (See Heb. 8:10). True faith leads us to obey and only those who have enough faith to obey the law will go to heaven (See 1 John 2:3). This principle is carried to the last chapter of the Bible, where we are told that only those who keep the commandments will get into heaven.

3. ONCE WE ARE SAVED, AREN’T WE UNDER GRACE AND NO LONGER UNDER THE LAW?

Romans 6:15; Jude 1:4

The Bible says: Shall we _____ because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! (Rom. 6:15) For certain...ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into _____. (Jude 1:4)

Note: Some have gotten the idea that grace excuses breaking the, but Jude warned against this deception. When Paul says we are not under the law, he is saying we are no longer under condemnation. We are not condemned by the law because when we are obeying it, and there is no condemnation when we “walk in the Spirit” because we are obeying the law. Those who say they are in the spirit yet continue to willfully break God’s law, saying, “We are delivered to do all these abominations,” “walk in a false spirit” (Jer. 7:10; Mic. 2:11).

4. DIDN’T JESUS COME TO DO AWAY WITH THE LAW?

Matthew 5:17, 18

The Bible says: Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to _____ but to _____. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one _____ or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. (Matt. 5:17, 18)



Note: Jesus did not come to do away with the law but, as the King James Bible says, to “magnify the law” (Isa. 42:21 KJV). Jesus put a magnifying glass on the law, showing us what the law entailed (See Matt. 5:21, 22, 27, 28), and how to keep it. Jesus fulfilled the law in His life by keeping it, then offered us the Holy Spirit so “the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (Rom. 8:4). Just as He fulfilled the law, Christ offers to fulfill the law in us.

6. DON’T WE ONLY NEED TO KEEP THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW?

Romans 7:6; 8:4

The Bible says: We should serve in the newness of the _____ and not in the oldness of the letter. (Rom. 7:6) the righteous requirement of the _____ might be fulfilled _____ us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8:4)



Note: The contrast of the letter and the Spirit is a contrast of life before and after we accept Christ. To serve in the letter refers to outward obedience without a love for Christ. Before we accept Christ, we do not have a true love for God, so our obedience lacks the proper motivation. After we accept Christ, He puts a love for the law in our heart (See Heb. 8:10). To serve in the newness of the Spirit means we obey the law out of love, because we now love the law (See Ps. 119:97). We keep His law by “the Spirit” (See 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 John 3:24).

6. WASN’T THE LAW NAILED TO THE CROSS?

Colossians 2:14, 16; Hosea 2:11

The Bible says: He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross...So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a _____ or a new moon or sabbaths... (Col. 2:14, 16) I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her New Moons, her Sabbaths – All her appointed _____. (Hos. 2:11)

Note: The law did not end at the cross, but “the handwriting of requirements” surrounding the sanctuary service did (Col. 2:14). Notice that after Paul says these regulations ended at the cross, he goes on to mention food and drink, festivals, new moons, and sabbaths. These are all sanctuary “ordinances” of the Jewish feasts (See Eph. 2:15; Heb. 9:10; Neh. 10:32-33), These feasts, also referred to as sanctuary Sabbaths (See Lev. 23:32), regulated by moon cycles, with food and drink offerings (See Eze. 45:17), all ended at the cross. That’s why we don’t kill lambs anymore, but we still keep the commandments.

7. DIDN'T JESUS SAY LOVE IS THE NEW COMMANDMENT?

John 13:34; 2 John 1:5

The Bible says: A new commandment I give to you, that you _____ one another... (John 13:34) And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the _____: that we love one another. (2 John 1:5)

Note: Love was not really a new commandment. We know this because John later clarifies that love is not a new commandment, but one we had from the beginning. The command to love was taken from the Old Testament, where God commanded His people to first, “love the Lord your God with all your heart” (Deut. 6:5), and second, to “love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18). This was a new concept to the Pharisees who obeyed the law outwardly but had no true love for God or for the people. Jesus was saying that outward obedience alone means nothing without love.

8. ISN'T A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW?

John 14:15; 1 John 2:3

The Bible says: If you _____, keep My commandments. (John 14:15) Now _____ we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. (1 John 2:3)



Note: That would be like a child saying, “Isn’t dad more interested in having a relationship than in my obedience?” Certainly, it’s important for a child to have a good relationship with a parent, but the relationship is affected by the child’s willingness to obey the parent. A lack of obedience shows a lack of faith in the parent’s guidance. The same thing can be said of our relationship with Christ. The law is a written transcript of the character of God, revealing what God is like. We show our love for and trust in God by obeying the law.

9. ISN'T THE LAW OF LIBERTY OPPOSED TO LEGALISM?

Galatians 5:1; James 2:12; John 8:32

The Bible says: Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us _____. (Gal. 5:1) As those who will be judged by the law of _____. (Jas. 2:12) The truth shall make you _____. (John 8:32).



Note: When Paul speaks of the liberty he has in Christ, he is at times referring to freedom from the Jewish regulations, like circumcision, animal sacrifices, and other ceremonial laws, but the Christian liberty goes beyond this. Under Christ we are not only free from Jewish ceremonies, but we have freedom from sin. The liberty we have is not a liberty to break the law, as some today believe, but rather a liberty to keep the law! Before Christ, we were slaves to sin, unable to keep the law. In Christ, we find freedom to obey (See Rom. 8:2)!

10. IS IT POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

Matthew 19:26; Mark 9:23

The Bible says: But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God _____ are possible.” (Matt. 19:26) Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who _____.” (Mark 9:23)

Note: Before we accept Christ, it is impossible to keep the law (See John 15:5). However, once we accept Christ, we then love Him and His law. The issue isn’t about keeping all the commandments, all the time. It’s about loving Jesus so much you never want to break His commandments. While we will slip at times, those who love Jesus will make the effort to stop sinning, and those who try to obey will receive the power of God to help them. God empowers us to resist sin and keep His law, doing inside us that which would could not do in our own strength. Christ makes the impossible, possible!

THE LAW OF GOD

