

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

What is the Christian's relationship to the Law?

"So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good."

(Romans 7:12)

Giving Thanks for the Law?

A Christian's Relationship to the Law

Relationship to the Law

1. As Christians, we are not under the law!

- the law is no longer a direct and immediate source of or judge of the conduct of God's people

"Paul does not say that believers in Christ walk according to the law...are to do, observe and keep the law...learn the law, follow the way of the law, are fruitful from obedience to the law, or do good works by observing the commandments." (B. Rosner)

Relationship to the Law

2. As Christians, we have the "law of Christ"

²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law.

(1 Corinthians 9:20-21)

Relationship to the Law

2. As Christians, we have the "law of Christ"

- our behavior is guided by the example and teaching of Jesus, the centrality of love, and the enablement and influence of the indwelling Holy Spirit

Relationship to the Law

3. The ongoing value and validity of the law
 - A. Reveals the character of God
 - his holiness, love, righteousness, justice, mercy, wisdom, forgiveness, forbearance, immanence

Relationship to the Law

3. The ongoing value and validity of the law
 - B. Foreshadows the person and work of Christ
 - tabernacle, priesthood, sacrifices, Sabbath-rest, punishments, righteousness, land

Relationship to the Law

3. The ongoing value and validity of the law
 - C. Gives wisdom for Christian conduct
 - the law is useful for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16); it was “written for our instruction” (1 Cor. 10:11)

Relationship to the Law

- Examples of wisdom from the law:
 - Tithing – proportionate, generous giving
 - Idolatry – in the form of greed
 - Stealing – the responsibility to work and share
 - Murder – fulfilled in the single obligation of “love”
 - Sexual ethics – avoid incest, immorality, homosexuality
 - Marriage and divorce – goodness of marriage, restriction on divorce, and benefit of remarriage

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

(Galatians 5:22-23)