

GRACE AND THE LAW

PART TWO: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

ARE THEY OBSOLETE?

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AT THE VERY END OF THIS AGE

REVELATION 11:19 “Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”

The seventh angel sounded (Rev. 11:15). “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our LORD and of His Christ.” This is the very end of this age. “And the Ark of the Covenant is seen in His temple in heaven.” The only “covenant” placed inside the golden ark was the Ten Commandments - written in stone by God Himself (Deut. 4:13, Deut. 10:5). These Ten Commandments detail man’s part in the covenant with God. Why would attention be directed to this Ten Commandment Covenant, if it became obsolete when Jesus died?

Is it possible that this law of God is still very much in force - today?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS	
I. Do not worship anything or anyone except Me.	VI. Do not murder.
II. Do not make images a part of worship.	VII. Do not have sex outside of marriage.
III. Speak’s God’s name reverently and respectfully.	VIII. Do not steal.
IV. Keep the 7th day Sabbath (Saturday) Holy.	IX. Do not use lies to hurt anyone.
V. Show respect for authority figures.	X. Do not desire what belongs to another.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS BEFORE MT. SINAI

The following examples show that the principles/ and behaviors commanded by God were understood long before they were spoken from the mountain.

- First Adam and Eve are expelled from the garden for disobedience of God.
- Second Jacob commands his household to “put away the strange gods” (Gen. 31:19-34; 35:2-4).
- Third Pharaoh blasphemed God and suffered the consequences (Ex. 5:2).
Job was afraid some of his children might have cursed God in their hearts. (Job 1:5).
- Fourth When some Israelites tried to gather manna on the Sabbath,
God said, “How long do you refuse to keep my laws.” (Ex. 16:4-30).

- Fifth Ham showed disrespect for his father Noah,
and a curse was pronounced on Ham's son Canaan (Gen. 9:20-25).
- Sixth Cain was cursed by God, for the murder of his brother Able (Gen. 4:11,12).
- Seventh "Joseph refused to sin against God by sleeping with Potiphar's wife" (Gen. 39:9).
- Eighth Sons of Jacob refused to steal from Pharaoh by keeping the money they found hidden in
their sacks of grain (Gen. 44:8,16).
- Ninth Jacob deceived his father and had to run for his life (Gen.20:9; 27:2-46).
- Tenth Jacob coveted Esau's birthright, lied to his father,
and suffered the consequences (Gen. 25:29-34).

**THE MORAL LAW WAS IN FORCE LONG BEFORE MT. SINAI.
THIS LAW IS AS OLD AS GOD HIMSELF.**

ROMANS 5:15 "Before the law (was given from Mt Sinai), sin was in the world."

1 JOHN 3:4 "For sin is the transgression of the law."

*Certainly, Lucifer sinned, when he rebelled against God in heaven.
That means there was a LAW in heaven.*

HOSEA 6:7, JOB 31:33 Adam sinned.

GENESIS 6:5 The people of Noah's day sinned.

GENESIS 18:20 Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for their lawlessness (sin).

These people lived long before Mt. Sinai.

GENESIS 26:5 Abraham kept Gods "commandments," statutes and "laws."

EXODUS 16:25 To the children of Israel, before Mt. Sinai, God said
"How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?"

WERE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS GIVEN ONLY FOR THE HEBREWS?

LEVITICUS 24:22 "There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger, as well as the native,
for I am the Lord your God."

NUMBERS 9:14 "You shall have one statute, both for the alien and for the native of the land."

ISAIAH 56:6-8 "Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to Him, and love the
name of the Lord, to be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath, and holds fast

My covenant; Even those I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

Exodus 12:19; Exodus 12:48; Exodus 12:49; Exodus 20:10; Deuteronomy 5:24; Leviticus 16:29; Leviticus 17:10-12; Leviticus 18:26; Leviticus 24:22; Numbers 9:14; Leviticus 17:8; Numbers 15:14-16; 1Kings 8:41-43; 2Chronicles 6:32; Isaiah 56:6-8. These passages speak of non-Israelite participation in worship, and their duty towards the law.

The passage says, “everyone” “who holds fast My covenant.” Gentiles (non-Jews) who joined themselves to Israel were included in the Covenant.

To whom was God speaking when He gave His messages through Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, and Solomon. To the Hebrews, yes. Every covenant promise was made to Israelites. Yet, Christians today claim these promises and lessons as their own.

To whom did Christ address almost all that He said, including the sermon on the mount? To Jews. Christ said “Salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22). Paul said of the Jews: “They are Israelites, and to them belong the son ship, the glory, the covenants (plural), the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises;” (Romans 9:4 RSV). Does this verse mean that non-Israelites are precluded from the New Covenant? Yes it does!!!

But remember - we who are not biological descendants of Jacob, *become* “children of Abraham,”- Israelites by adoption, and part of the greater congregation of Israel, by “faith” in Jesus (Ephesians 2:11-21 & Gal. 3:6-7). We are “grafted” in to the tree which has Christ as it’s root (Romans 11). And remember that not every one who claims to be a Jew, *is* a Jew in the sight of God (Rev. 3:9, John 8:39, Rom. 2:28-29, Gal. 3:6-7).

**THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THEY OBEY THE LAW OF CHRIST (GAL 6:2),
BUT NOT THE COMMANDMENTS OF MOSES.**

These people are surprised to learn that it was Christ

who spoke the Ten Commandments from Mt. Sinai

(1 Cor. 10:1-4, Nehemiah 9:9-14, James 4:12, John 5:22, Acts 10:42, 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb 12:26).

JOHN 1:17 “For the law was given by Moses *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

The “but” was supplied by the King James translators. It is not in the original. Read some of the newer translations. The law was given to Moses by the preincarnate Christ. He has been the “mediator” from the moment of Adam’s sin. The law IS full of grace and truth. Every command, when accepted in faith, is a promise of power to obey.

When Christ gave His commandments in the New Testament, to love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself, He was quoting from the Old Testament (Matt. 22:36-40, Mark 12:28-34, Deut. 6:5, Deut. 10:12, Deut. 30:6, Lev. 19:18).

Commandments 1-4: Show our love for God

Commandments 5-10: Show our love for fellow man

The answers which Christ gave to Satan when he was tempted in the wilderness,
were all quoted from the Old Testament.

The words of the Beatitudes - all were taken from the Old Testament.

The Lord's Prayer (MATT 6:9-13) - all taken from the Old Testament.

I Chron. 29:10,11; Lamentations 3:30,

Deut. 15:7,8; Proverbs 30:8, Proverbs 24:17; Deut. 14:1;

Proverbs 25:21; Isaiah 66:1; Job 31:29; Psalm 37:11; Exodus 23:4,5; Isaiah 50:6

There was nothing wrong with the Ten Commandments. They had been covered with a clutter of tradition. Christ came to clarify the Law and to set it free from tradition. He came to "magnify the Law and make it honorable" (Isaiah 42:21).

Christ taught nothing new. He clarified the law of love which was as old as God Himself.

GOD'S LAW AND CHRIST'S LAW ARE THE SAME.

Christ said, "I and my Father are one." They are one in purpose and thought.

PSALM 40:8 "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yes, thy law is within my heart" (Rom 7:22).

It is HIS will that we keep HIS law.

LOVE AND THE LAW ARE THE SAME.

2 JOHN 6 "And this is love, that we keep His commandments."

ROMANS 13:10 "therefore, love is the fulfilling of the Law."

THE LAW IS A REVELATION OF THE CHARACTER OF GOD!

The same words which are used to describe God, are used to describe God's LAW.

TRUTH (Isaiah 26:12, Psalm 119:142) -- GOOD (Romans 7:16) --- SPIRITUAL (Romans 7:14)

LOVE (1John 4:8, 1John 4:16, Romans 13:10) ---- GOSPEL (2Thessalonians 1:7-9)

HOLY (Romans 7:12) ----JUST (Romans 7:12).

The greatest revelation of God's character was the life of Christ, who kept the Law of God perfectly.

THE LAW IS FOREVER, JUST AS GOD IS FOREVER.

ISAIAH 51:6-7 "For the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment,
... but My salvation (grace) will be forever, and My righteousness (law) will not be abolished."

LUKE 16:17 "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the LAW to fail."

ECCLESIASTES 3:14 "I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever." _____

WHAT WAS CHRIST'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MORAL LAW?

MATTHEW 19:17 Jesus said, "...If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

MATTHEW 7:23 "Depart from me you who practice lawlessness!"

JOHN 15:10 "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love."

Question: If the Father and the Son are "one" then how can the commandments of the Son be different from the commandments of the Father?

FAR FROM THROWING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AWAY,
GOD'S GRACE ENABLES US TO KEEP THEM MORE PERFECTLY SO THAT THE RIGHTEOUS
REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW MAY THEN BE FULFILLED IN US.

ROMANS 6:15 "What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace?
God forbid!"

ROMANS 3:31 "**Do we then make void the law through faith?
God forbid: yea, we establish the law.**"

THE SPIRITUAL MIND IS SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD.

ROMANS 8:6-7 "The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;
The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." NIV

The natural human mind, without the Spirit of God, is selfish (sinful or carnal). It cannot submit to the law of God. This is why it means death to be controlled by the sinful mind.

To be controlled by the Spirit of God on the other hand, is to partake of the divine nature, which is life. God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying out, "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:6). The mind indwelt by the Spirit of Christ reaches out towards God. This mind submits to the law of God, just as Christ submitted to His Father's will (John 15:10). This mind says, "Oh how I love Thy law" (Ps. 119:97).

The law has not been changed. The believer is changed and is brought into harmony with the law.

DO I PAY A PENALTY WHEN I BREAK GOD'S LAW, EVEN IF CHRIST HAS FORGIVEN ME?

Yes, I pay a penalty. (Gal. 6:7).

"Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."
My relationships in this world, my health, perhaps my finances may suffer. God does not change the law of cause and effect. It is the "second death" penalty at the final end of the wicked - This sentence is commuted.

THE CURSE OF THE LAW

GALATIANS 3:10 “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, ‘Cursed is every one who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.’”

This verse is difficult to understand. Let me try to rephrase it.

“Any person who is trying to earn salvation/righteousness through keeping the law, is under the curse, because it is written, (in the Old Testament - Torah) ‘You must keep the law perfectly in every point, or you are cursed.’”

The curse - for disobedience of the LAW - was (and is) death. No one has ever earned salvation by keeping the Law - except Jesus Christ. He “was obedient unto death.” He took the curse - of death - upon Himself, in order to forgive us.

GALATIANS 3:13 Christ “redeemed us from the curse of the law.”

The text does not say that Christ redeemed us “from the law.” It says that Christ has redeemed us from the curse - which is death. The law is not the curse. The curse is that which results from breaking the law. God said, “If you sin - you will die” (Gen 2:17). You will die (physically) - not because I kill you, but because it is a natural consequence. Separated from ME, You will just grow old and wear out.

Upon those who have transgressed, the law pronounces a curse - “You will die” (James 1:15). Christ has set us free from this curse. He will give us eternal life.

“FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH” ROMANS 8:2

ROMANS 7:16,23 Paul said, “I consent unto the law that it is good.” “But I see ANOTHER LAW at work in my members.” This other law, is the “law of sin and death” (also called “the curse of the law”). In fact Paul says, “Who shall deliver me from this body of death” (Romans 7:24). He said this because it is natural for human beings to sin.

We are selfish by nature. Despite this, Paul saw yet another law at work - “**the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus.**” This law “has set me free,” Paul said, “from the law of sin and death.” (ROMANS 8:1,2) The Spirit of Christ, dwelling within us, is stronger than the natural/carnal/selfish nature.

“The LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE - has set me free from the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.”

“LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE”

Healing Grace
Restores Life (New Heart)
Breaking the Cycle
of addiction (slavery) to Sin

“LAW OF SIN AND DEATH”

No Healing
Death Inevitable
Continued slavery
of addiction to Sin

☆☆ **Did you see that God’s grace is also called a law; the “law of the Spirit of Life?”** ☆☆

We have no power within ourselves to love unselfishly, but when we are “filled with the Spirit of Christ,” when we become “partakers of the divine nature,” (2 Peter 1:4) then we become channels for God’s love. No longer slaves of Satan (Gal. 4:7, Rom. 6:16) or our own desires, (Gal 5:17) we have “power to become the sons of God” (John 1:12).

Let me try to put this another way:

The judge is commuting your death sentence (Let’s call this justification.).

So long as you stick with the rehabilitation program you won’t have to die in prison.

(The rehab program would be the sanctification process through the Spirit of Christ.)

If you die physically, even before you are perfectly rehabilitated (living without sinning), you will not be sentenced to eternal spirit death.

The judge has commuted your sentence BECAUSE:

1. Jesus paid the penalty for your crimes.
2. Jesus Christ says that His method of rehabilitation will work - if you stick with it.

This is righteousness by faith.

We are legally free from the penalty for sin - which is death.

Through His indwelling spirit, we overcome the addiction to sin - which results in death.

WHERE DOES GRACE COME IN?

ROMANS 1:5 “We RECEIVED GRACE and apostleship FOR OBEDIENCE to the faith ...”

Did you get that? We received grace, to enable us to obey the law of Christ. Far from throwing out the law. Jesus, through His grace gives us power to obey it.

Strong’s Concordance defines “grace” as “the divine influence or the working of divine power upon the heart, and its reflection in the life.” As the Spirit of Christ works upon the heart (grace), we are gradually changed. We begin to love what we once hated. We begin to give unselfishly of ourselves. We begin to love the law of God - to see its beauty and its truth. We gain little by little, the victory over our old bad habits.

Grace is also defined as “unmerited favor.” The gift of His only begotten Son, and His continued infusion of power into our lives is not something we can earn.

Continued on next page.

PHONY GRACE THE COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL

TRUE GRACE	COUNTERFEIT GRACE
Gives power to keep the LAW.	Says it's not necessary to keep the LAW.
Jesus saves you <i>from</i> your sins.	Jesus saves you <i>in</i> your sins.
Jesus cleanses me from the inside out. I receive a new heart and a new mind	Jesus just covers me with his righteousness, but I'm still dirty on the inside.
"I can do all things through Christ" (Phil. 4:13). I can stop sinning.	I don't have to stop sinning, as long I just keep saying I'm sorry. Confession without repentance.
I always have free will. Jesus cannot heal me if I do not consent to be changed.	Jesus loves me too much to ever let me be lost - no matter what I do. Presumption is the counterfeit of faith.
Salvation is not heaven (that's just the home of the saved). Salvation is freedom from the slavery of sin in my life, forever.	Salvation is heaven and eternal life. (But would you want to live next door to me in heaven if I have not been changed in heart?)

GOD DOES NOT WRITE A NEW MORAL CODE FOR THE PERSON WHO IS SAVED!
HE CHANGES THE HEART,
SO THAT THE NEW CHILD OF GOD NOW LOVES HIS LAW.

HEBREWS 8:10 "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts"
(Ezekiel 36:27,28, Jeremiah 3:33, Hebrews 10:16).

PSALM 40:8 "I delight to do thy will... yea, they law is written within my heart."

ROMANS 7:22 "For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man."

PSALM 119:97 "Oh how I love thy Law!"

PSALM 119:165 "Great peace have they which love thy law."

VICTORY OVER SIN IS PROMISED

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

"For with God, nothing is impossible" (Luke 1:37).

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless"
(Jude 24)

"The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work" (2 Timothy 4:18).

“No temptation has overtaken you but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape ...” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly

He who calls you is faithful, Who also will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, and we are “born again,” Christ Himself by His Spirit comes to dwell in each one of us (John 17:23,26; Col 1:27; 1Cor. 15:45). Through the power which His presence imparts, we begin to live a new life of righteousness (Rom. 6:4). We no longer “fulfill the lusts of the flesh” (Rom. 6:12, Gal.5:16). The law of love is “written in our hearts” (Rom. 2:15; 2 Cor. 3:3). The righteous requirement of the law is then fulfilled for us and “in us.” (Rom. 8:4).

THE NEW COVENANT PROMISE

EZEKIEL 36:26 “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” (NKJ)

JEREMIAH 31:31-34 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make **a new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD.”

He has not thrown out His law - He will write it on our hearts.

IF JESUS HAS PROMISED POWER TO OBEY- THEN WHY AM I STILL SINNING?

Salvation is a process, as well as a legal standing. The Bible calls it justification and sanctification. We stand before God forgiven - now - the moment we ask in faith. We are justified. But our transformation of heart (sanctification) is a gradual process. God does not suddenly take over, forcing us to do His bidding. He wins us gradually - changing our thinking. When He promised that He would write His law on our hearts - He meant that He would so change our understanding, that we would come to agree with Him, in everything. Look at the context of the New Covenant promise in Ezekiel 36:24-27. Our transformation will not be complete until HE has brought us into our “own land” – the earth made new.

WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT?

The rehabilitation process is long, and often very difficult. So why doesn't Jesus just make it instantaneous? Why not make it easy? Now - this is Rachel's opinion. I think that Jesus wants us to get the message - This is what sin does to human beings. That way, we will be less likely to indulge some other sin. It will make us much more aware of consequences.

WHY ARE WE TO BE JUDGED BY OUR WORKS IF WE'RE NOT SAVED BY THEM?

Not everyone will be judged by his or her works. Only those who will not accept Christ's spotless record in place of their own, will find their own works compared with the Law. (Revelation 20:12) The Law cannot save - it can teach and finally condemn those who will not listen.

PAUL SAYS, "WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE" ROMANS 6:14.

"But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law." (Gal. 5:18).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE UNDER THE LAW?

Jesus was "born under the law" (Gal. 4:4).

The Law said, "If you sin - you will die." These words apply to us, and they applied to Jesus. If Jesus had sinned (transgressed the law), He would have died eternally - and we would have no hope. Thank God - Jesus obeyed the law perfectly. "He was obedient unto death-striving against sin." (Phil. 2:8) And because He gave His perfect life as the offering for sins, we can be forgiven. We don't have to die-even though we have sinned. The record of our guilt has been wiped out.

Galatians 4:4 is saying that Christ was born just like us. We are born under the law (sin causes death), and so was He. If we sin - we will die (without Christ). If He had sinned - He would have died eternally.

ANOTHER OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD VERSE

COLOSSIANS 2:14 "... having **wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us**, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to His cross." NKJV

Paul wrote that a person who broke one commandment was a "debtor to the whole law" (Gal. 5:3). (Guilty IS guilty - period, whether you broke one commandment, or all ten.) It was as if you owed a debt to God for breaking His law. If you're going to be saved by keeping the law, Paul wrote - then you'd better keep it perfectly. Otherwise you're in debt - big-time.

And if we look at the Greek words:

"handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us"
we find that **these words can be translated**

"the certificate of indebtedness, that stands against us."

It means - the record of our debt, because we disobeyed the law.

The record of our "debt" was "wiped out." Jesus paid that debt.
It was nailed to His cross.

Compare the wording in the New Revised Standard Version

"erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands [for punishment].
He set this aside, nailing it to the cross." New Revised Standard Version

CONCLUSION:

We have seen that - far from doing away with the Ten Commandments - God sent His Son, who died to pay out debt because we broke His Law. And He has sent the Spirit of Christ to live in our hearts. He gives us strength and wisdom to live in harmony with His law.

Immutable and unchangeable - as God Himself.

Written in stone - for all eternity. The Ten Commandments are the standard for all time, for all people.

Our study of Grace and The Law continues in Part Three: What was abolished?