

Law 1: What are the forms of God's law?

The word, 'law' is used in various senses in scripture, and this has led to much confusion. There are three expressions of God's law.

Moral law

All men are commanded to obey the moral law. This is essentially the will of God for man that was revealed to Adam and the patriarchs so that they knew how to worship God and live righteously and is found in the conscience.

The Law of Moses

The Mosaic Law was later introduced as a temporary measure (Gal 3:24-25) in order to demonstrate the true depths of the sinfulness of man (Rm 3:20) and point out the need for the Messiah/Deliverer, the true Seed of Abraham. The Ten Commandments were the chief summary within the Mosaic Law of the original, eternal moral law of God.

The Law of Christ

When Christ came, he was the fulfilment of all that the Mosaic Law pointed to. He was the man that righteously obeyed God in thought, word and deed. Salvation, through his atonement and the baptism of the Spirit (1 Cor 12:13), unites the elect with Christ. This union with Christ makes believers a new creation – they are no longer human (2 Cor 5:17). The Mosaic Law was only intended for sinful Adamic men, not new creations in Christ. Christians, as new men under the New Covenant, have thus died to the written Old Covenant law (Rm 7:6).

The law for new creations, the new humanity (those with a new nature Gal 6:15), is Christ himself or 'The Law of Christ'. This is worked out in believers through the progressive work of the Holy Spirit. Of course, this standard of righteousness that is Christ incorporates all the moral law of God that has been in evidence since man's creation. Nothing is left out. Thus all the moral principles of the Mosaic Law (i.e. the moral law) are to be evidenced in believers who are submitted to the Spirit.

However, the Law of Christ mediated by the Spirit is far deeper and thorough than the Mosaic Law; inner motivations are judged as well as outward actions. Thus hate as well as murder is condemned; lust as well as fornication (Matt 5:21-22, 27-28, 43-44).

No one is ever outside of the realm of law in one form or another.

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Understanding Ministries

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