

Chapter 5

v. 1-6

Christ has set us free

- If we move away from grace in Christ and move back to the law it is the same as going from a freed person back to a slave voluntarily.
- Not only does it not make theological sense it doesn't make rational sense.
- If the Galatians accepted circumcision as a rite for salvation then they have voluntarily gone back into slavery.

Old vs New Law

Are we obligated to follow the old law that is found in the Old Testament?

- The short answer is no. Jesus did that on our behalf and His righteousness is imputed to us.
- Imputed: to credit to a person or a cause.
- Our salvation was made possible through the perfect obedience, death, and resurrection of Christ.
- Without Christ's perfect obedience to the law then He would not be worthy to be the sacrifice that God required for sin. He Himself would have been a sinner and therefore ineligible.

How then do we relate to the Old Law?

- Since the law of grace has come we are no longer required to be obedient to the laws and rituals in order to remain "clean". We are clean because Christ's "cleanness" has been imputed to us.
- So what do we do with it then?
- The old law reveals the nature of God toward sin. It tells us of things that He takes pleasure in and the things that repulse Him. These things have not changed. Sexual ethics still are very important to God. Idolatry is still a big deal to God. Murder is still a big deal to God. The old law is the very

foundation upon which Christianity is built. Without it we don't know who God is. If we are to know God and His character then we must know the old law as well.

Dietary Restrictions

- Animals that do not chew the cud and do not have cloven hoofs (pigs and horses); fish without fins and scales; the blood of any animal; shellfish (clams, oysters, shrimp, crabs) and all other living creatures that creep; and those fowl enumerated in the Bible (e.g., vultures, hawks, owls, herons)
- This list is not exhaustive.
- The point of the dietary restrictions were to set the Israelites apart from the rest of the world.

1) Holy

- The word *holy* literally means “set apart”.
- God Himself is holy.
- He is higher, greater, better, etc. than anything else in existence.
- We as His people are called holy. We are to be set apart.
- The dietary restrictions helped accomplish that in the Old Testament.

2) Acts 10:9-16

- God releases us from the dietary restrictions.
- What was once unclean is now called clean by God through Christ.

Tithing

- The old covenant required that the Israelites give the first 10% of everything they made.
- This would be money, produce, etc.
- Whatever they gained they were to give the first 10%.
- However, this is not the only tithe required by the Old Testament.
- In fact, the total percentage of the tithe was around 22% or so.
- The purpose for the tithe was several fold.

- 1) Funding the temple.
- 2) Funding the government.
- 3) Providing for the needs of the poor.

Israel was a theocracy. This was more of a tax.

Is tithing part of the New Covenant?

New Covenant Giving

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- The tithe is not mandated in the New Covenant.
- What does this mean for us?
- We are told to be a cheerful giver.
- We should give as we have been blessed.
- In Christ we have been given everything.
- We are to place all of our being under submission to God.
- This includes our finances.
- We should view our possessions, income, family, body, etc. as God's possessions.
- We are simply stewards of the things that God has given us.
- If we believe in a cause we will give our time, our talents, and our treasure to it.
- The Bible doesn't remove giving in the New Covenant. It just changes the format.
- If you feel led by the Holy Spirit to give a 10% tithe every week then be obedient and praise God!
- However, this cannot be the ceiling for our giving. When needs aren't met then it's up to the church to meet them.
- God uses His people to forward the mission of the Kingdom.
- We should all be giving on a regular basis not so that I can remain employed or the power bill paid but so that the Kingdom will move forward as we make disciples.

These are two examples of how the New Covenant has replaced certain things.

There's a lot that made the transition from Old to New.

1) Sexual ethics

- One man, one woman, in the bonds of marriage.
- Anything else is sinful.

2) Idolatry

- We are to bow down before or worship nothing else but God.

3) Honesty

- God hates a lying tongue.

4) Murder

This list is not exhaustive but the New Testament is faithful to explain what is required of us.

Does the freedom of the New Covenant invalidate the Old Covenant?

- Absolutely not!
- We don't know God without the Old Covenant.

Gospel

Closing

Small Group Questions

1) Which couple did God promise a son to?

- Abraham and Sarah

What did they do that was wrong?

- Abraham, at the urging of his wife, took her slave Hagar to be his wife and she conceived a son named Ishmael.

2) What allegory does Paul use when talking about the old covenant vs the new covenant?

- He uses Hagar and Sarah. He tells us that Hagar represents the old covenant in which there is bondage. Hagar is a slave woman. He then goes on to say that we are not children of the slave woman rather we are children of the free woman, Sarah. He tells us that modern Jerusalem is still in bondage but those who are in Christ are from the Jerusalem above and that is Heaven.

3) When will the Jerusalem above be fully realized?

- After Jesus returns and the new Heaven and new Earth are created. That will be a place of no sin, war, death, sickness, etc. There will be no bondage to sin. There will only be freedom in Christ.

4) If the Galatians accept circumcision as a requirement for salvation what does Paul say that they are doing?

- Paul says that they are denying the grace of the Lord Jesus and are voluntarily entering back into slavery. Christ has set us free from the works required so why would we place that yoke on our necks when God doesn't do that?

5) How do we relate to the old law?

- See the notes at the end of page 4 for the answer.