

are as guilty as if we break them all. True, we are not saved by keeping the law, but this text shows we will be judged by it. If Jesus reigns within, He will give us the strength to keep it.

Psalm 111:7,8 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.

God's commandments are eternal.

Revelation 14:12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of _____ and remain faithful to Jesus.

God's last people on earth before the end of time are commandment keepers. There is no thought that the law is abolished, instead they establish it.

Hebrews 8:10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. _____. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

In the New Testament age we no longer need the commandments on stone. We have something better. Those who are led by the Spirit have these laws written in their minds and on their hearts. This is the promise of the New Covenant. They are firmly established in the Christian way of life.

John 14:15 If you love me, you will obey what I command.

The test of love is obedience. Friend, do you love Jesus enough to obey Him? Remember, He loved you enough to die for you. His plea to you today is to keep His commandments. They are not grievous – in fact to keep them, will keep you out of trouble in this life, and bring you happiness. God's way of willing obedience is the best way, and if Jesus is supreme in your life, He will give you the strength to keep the commandments of God. Do you desire, by the grace of God to keep all of God's commandments? _____

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It is commonly believed by many today that God's commandments were meant for those who lived in Old Testament times, and do not apply to Christians who are under grace in the New Testament. The Bible has much to say on the subject of law and grace, but even though it is true that we are saved by faith in Christ, nowhere does it say that God's laws are not binding upon people today. Keeping the commandments is not the method of salvation, but the fruit of it. Obedience to God is the test of the genuine Christian.

1 John 3:4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

Some say that the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross of Christ: but this cannot be so. This text defines sin as the “breaking of God’s law”. You see, if the law is abolished, then so is sin and if sin is abolished, then the need of a Saviour becomes unnecessary. Why did Christ die on the cross? To save us from our sins, which are transgressions of God’s law. If it were possible to do away with the law, Christ need not have died, but the fact that He was prepared to make this supreme sacrifice proves the unchanging character of God’s law.

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

We are saved because of our faith in Jesus Christ, and not because we keep God’s law. This text does not say it is unnecessary to keep the law, but it says we are not justified by keeping it. We are justified by the blood of Jesus. This text in no way says it is unnecessary to obey God’s requirements.

Romans 6:14,15 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? _____!

We are not under the condemnation of the law because of the grace (unmerited favour) of Christ. His blood covers our sins so that the law cannot condemn us. The question is asked by Paul; “Shall we sin (or break the law) because we are not under the law but under grace?” and the reply is most definite - by no means - “God forbid”. God’s forgiveness to us does not give license to sin.

Romans 3:31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

Genuine Christians will not seek to break God’s law; instead they establish it; uphold it and keep it. It is only as we break the law that we come under the condemnation of it. For example, we are not affected by the speed limit law while driving, until we exceed it – then we are

Ten Commandments, however, were written by God Himself. Surely this gives them deep significance.

Where were the Ten Commandments located?

Exodus 25:16 Then put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you.

A small box called the “ark”, which was situated in the sanctuary, was the resting place of the commandments. The law of Moses was placed in the “side” of the ark. The Ten Commandments are often referred to as the “Testimony”.

The first four deal with our love to God, and the last six deal with our love for our fellow humans. They can be divided into these two sections. There is one underlying principle behind these commands – LOVE. In these commands we see a transcript of God’s character: “God is love”. At first they may appear to be a list of “don’ts, but when Christians are motivated by love, they want to please God and respect their fellow humans.

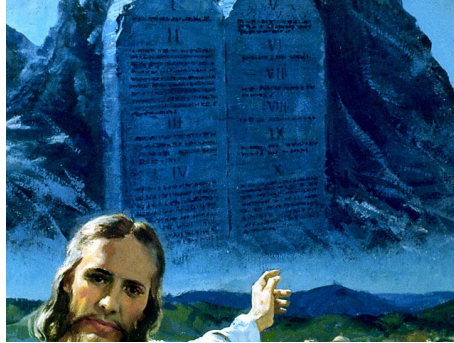
James 2:8-12 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. **For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.** For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. _____



The Ten Commandments were written with God’s own finger. The only part of the Bible written directly by God!

There is no virtue in keeping nine commandments instead of ten. If a person is hanging from a great height by a chain with ten links, and only one link breaks, he/she falls. The strength of the chain is dependent on its weakest link. If we willingly break one of God’s commandments, we

minder to the onlooker that One would come and die for their sins. John the Baptist pointed to our Lord and declared the significant words, “Behold the Lamb of God”. When He died on Calvary’s cross, the veil of the great temple curtain was torn from top to bottom, to signify that the entire ceremonial system was forever finished. (See Matthew 27:50,51). No longer need the priests offer up sacrifices. The One great and perfect Sacrifice was offered that Friday afternoon, when the true Passover Lamb bowed His head and died. When He cried out, “It is finished”, the old Ceremonial Law that pointed the people to His sacrificial death was nailed to the cross. But NOT SO WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. There was nothing temporary about them. They are to last as long as heaven and earth.



Jesus said – Don’t think that I came to destroy the law.

Matthew 5:17-19 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; _____ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Jesus certainly did not have any intentions of making any change, in fact, He condemned those who taught that it was in order to break God’s law, and commended those who taught the necessity of keeping it.

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 24:12; 31:18 The LORD said to Moses, “_____ with the law and commands I have written for their instruction.” ...Then the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

The whole Bible has been written by people, yet inspired by God. The

condemned by it. Simply because we are under grace, does not give us free rein to break the law, rather we are under greater obligation to keep it. We are only under grace so long as we keep the law. For example, if a prisoner is given a pardon and is released from prison, does his freedom allow him/her to break the law? If he/she does he/she is no longer free – the law of the land condemns the person and he/she goes back to prison. In the same way, God’s law will condemn us when we break it.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say, then? _____

_____! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.”



Moses receiving the Ten Commandments.

Paul is emphatic. There is nothing wrong with the law. In fact he says that he would not be conscious of sin without the law to show him his errors.

Here he quotes from the 10th commandment. The commandments can be likened to a mirror. If a boy with a dirty face looks in a mirror, then the mirror reveals to him that his face is dirty – but it won’t clean it for him, he needs soap and water. As we look at the commandments they show us our sins, but they do not cleanse us. We need the blood of Christ to make us clean. When we are cleansed and look into the commandments, they no longer condemn us.

Romans 7:12 So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

God’s law is perfect – it cannot be faulted. What change did take place at the cross concerning the law?

Colossians 2:14-17 ... having _____, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Therefore do

not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.



The sacrificial ceremonies were fulfilled at the cross and blotted out.

This written code of ordinances is a rite or a ceremony. In Old Testament times animal sacrifices were made, symbolising the supreme sacrifice Christ or the Messiah would make one day. There were many ceremonies that revolved around these sacrifices, such as partaking of certain foods and drinks. Why don't we offer animal sacrifices today? Because this would show we have no faith in Christ's sacrifice. Just as it's no longer necessary to shed the blood of animals, so it's unnecessary to partake in the ceremonial system associated with the killing of animals. Christ fulfilled the law of ceremonies. When He died, the temple veil tore in two as an indication that the temple services had come to an end. Generally speaking, the Bible does not try to differentiate between the 10 commandments and the law of Moses. To the Jew there was one law of God, and all details of the law were important, whether ceremonial or moral. However, the New Testament in many instances mentions specific parts of the law. This text mentions the ceremonial system, and not the moral law. Even the sabbaths mentioned were not necessarily the 7th day Sabbath of the 4th commandment. The Jews had several ceremonial sabbaths which fell on certain dates of the year, each one occurring once a year.

The Two Laws

When God led the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage, He delivered to them in fiery majesty the Ten Commandments. This holy law was spoken by God, written by God, recorded on tables of stone, and is of eternal duration. At the same time another law, of temporary usage, was also delivered to the children of Israel. This law dealt with the ceremonial rites of the Jewish sanctuary service, and concerned itself with a system of religion that passed away at the cross. Large sections of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy describe in

detail this temporary ceremonial code. This Law can easily be identified in the Scriptures. It talks about circumcision (a religious Jewish rite), sacrifices, offerings, purifications, ceremonial holy days, and other rites associated with the Hebrew sanctuary service.

The Moral Law	The Ceremonial Law
Spoken by God Himself. Exodus 20:1,22.	Spoken by Moses. Exodus 24:3.
Was written by God. Exodus 31:18; Exodus 32:16.	Written by Moses. Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 31:9.
On stones. Exodus 31:18.	In a book. Exodus 24:3,7; Deuteronomy 31:24.
Handed by God its writer, to Moses. Exodus 31:18.	Handed by Moses, its writer to Levites. Deuteronomy 31:25,26.
Deposited by Moses "in the ark". Deuteronomy 10:5.	Deposited by the Levites "by the side of the ark". Deuteronomy 31:26, ARV.
Should "keep the whole law". James 2:10.	Apostles gave "no such commandment" to "keep the law". Acts 15:24.
Because we "shall be judged" by this law. James 2:12	Not to be judged by it. Colossians 2:16.
The Christian who keeps this law is "blessed in his deed". James 1:25.	The Christian who keeps this law is not blessed. (See for example, Galatians 5:1-6).
"The perfect law of liberty". James 1:25 (Cf. James 2:12).	The Christian who keeps this law loses his liberty. Galatians 5:1,3.
Paul said, "I delight in the law of God". Romans 7:22 (Cf. verse 7).	Paul called this law a "yoke of bondage". Galatians 5:1. (See Acts 15:10).
Established by faith in Christ. Romans 3:31.	Abolished by Christ. Ephesians 2:15.
Christ was to "magnify the law and make it honorable". Isaiah 42:21.	Cancelled the written code with its regulations. Colossians 2:14.

Let the Bible itself explain and clarify the differences between these two laws. Please notice each text carefully:

To the unbiased reader of God's Word, it becomes more than clear that the Ten Commandments are binding upon all people for all time in every place, whereas no one is bound to keep the Ceremonial Law that was fulfilled in Christ. The Ceremonial Law with its sacrificial system pointed the people to the coming of Christ. Every time the blood of a beast was shed in the old Jewish temple, it was a dramatic re-