The Law of God

The Church has frequently been plagued by opposite errors regarding the law. Legalists insist that we are saved by faith and by obedience to the law. Antinomians teach that since we are saved by grace, we are under no obligation to keep the law. What are we to do? How much of the law should we keep? Part of the problem comes from a failure to distinguish between the Moral Law and the Mosaic Law. We need to understand several basic principles.

**1. The *permanent relevance* of the law**

A. The Moral Law is based on God’s unchanging *character*

Psalm 11:4-7

B. The Mosaic Law is based on a temporary *covenant*

Hebrews 8:6-13

**2. The *precepts required* by the law**

The Mosaic Law contains a jumble of different kinds of laws (see Leviticus 19, for example)–

A. *Moral* laws (general principles)

B. *Civil* laws (for living in the land)

C. *Ceremonial* laws (sacrifices, symbols, & shadows)

**3. Christ’s *perfect response* to the law**

He fulfilled all of provisions of the Mosaic Law (Matthew 5:17-19)–

A. By His *active* obedience (throughout His life)

Hebrews 4:15

B. By His *passive* obedience (in His death)

Philippians 2:8

C. By replacing the shadows with the *substance*

Hebrews 8:1-6; Colossians 2:16-17

**4. Our *present relationship* to the law**

A. The Moral Law shows us our sin and *drives* us to Christ

to be justified by faith alone (Romans 3:23, 27-30)

B. The Mosaic Law teaches us *about* Christ

C. The Moral Law teaches us to *live* for Christ

1) The epistles teach us the Moral Law

2) The Spirit enables us to love and obey the Moral Law

Romans 8:1-8; Galatians 5:16-24; 1 John 5:1-4

3) The resurrection will reveal our Spirit-led obedience to the Moral Law (Romans 8:9-14; John 5:24-29)

**Concluding Application**

A. Submit your *conscience* to the revealed Law of God

B. Regard obedience to the Law as an opportunity to *please* your Father and to imitate your Savior

C. Don’t add manmade *traditions* to the Law

Matthew 15:1-6

D. Neither despair over nor be satisfied with *imperfect* obedience to the law

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. I encourage you to look up the Scripture passages for this message in order to solidify your understanding of these important truths. You may need to read a few verses before and after some texts in order to pick up the context.