

The Law of Moses vs. the Law of Christ

By Don Krow
(Discipleship Lesson)

Read the entire lesson and then answer the questions that follow.

One day I was driving from Colorado to Oklahoma, when suddenly, as I arrived in Oklahoma, I was stopped by an Oklahoma Highway Patrolman for speeding. I told the patrolman that he didn't understand – I was no longer in Colorado, where the speed limit is 55 mph. The patrolman shook his head and said, "Sir, you are not in Colorado, but I would like to inform you that the Oklahoma speed limit is also 55 mph. They are the same." There are some laws, however, that are different in Colorado than in Oklahoma.

Technically, as believers, we are not under the law of Moses, but under grace (or the law of Christ). Yet the Apostle Paul quotes the Old Testament (law of Moses) probably one third of the time in his New Testament writings (law of Christ). Why? It's because under both the law and Christ, many of the same principles of righteousness apply. For example, the law of Moses says, "Thou shalt not steal" (Exodus 20:15), and the law of Christ says, "Let him that stole steal no more" (Ephesians 4:28). The principles remain the same. Other examples would be, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3 – the law of Moses) and "Little children, keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21 – the law of Christ); "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14 – the law of Moses) and "Flee fornication [sexual sin including adultery]" (1 Corinthians 6:18 – the law of Christ).

As New Testament believers, we are not under the law (Moses) but under grace (Christ – Romans 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace"). Under the law (Moses), the penalty of our transgressions (breaking the law) was death (Ezekiel 18:20), which results in a person perishing. By not being under the law of Moses but under grace (the law of Christ), if we do violate a principle of God, we don't get the death penalty and perish. The Apostle Paul says, "where sin increased, grace increased all the more" (Romans 5:20 – NIV). Under grace, we are responding to a person – Christ Himself. Under the law, we are responding to the rules. Think about this the next time your flesh wants to do its own thing. My response is not to a set of rules, but to the gracious and loving Savior who laid down His life for me at Calvary.

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(Discipleship Questions)

Answer the following by reading the corresponding discipleship lesson and using your Bible.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:20 (CEV). *“When I am with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to win Jews. They are ruled by the Law of Moses, and I am not. But I live by the Law to win them.”* Paul was not under the law of Moses, but when he was with the Jews he lived like a Jew (under Moses) in order to _____.
2. Read Galatians 2:16. *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”* The Apostle Paul knew that salvation was not derived from keeping the law (not even part of it). How was justification (a right relationship with God) received? _____.
3. Read Romans 10:4. *“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”* Christ ended the law as a means of obtaining _____ before God.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:30. *“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”* God made Jesus Christ to be our _____, _____, _____, and _____.
5. Read Isaiah 12:2. *“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.”* Who is our salvation? _____.
6. Read Philippians 3:9. *“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”* When you go under the law of Moses you are trying to obtain your own _____.
7. Read I Corinthians 11:1. *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”* As Christians we are living under the law of Christ. The law of Christ is not a set of rules to obey; it is living a life in response to a person. That person is _____.
8. Read Galatians 2:20. *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* Paul did not want to live his own life; he wanted to live _____ life.

9. Read Romans 7:12. *“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”* Many principles under the law of Moses and the law of Christ are the same. The reason for this is that the law is _____, _____, and _____.
10. Read Romans 8:3. *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”* The law could never save us, not because the law is wrong, but because in the weakness of our _____ we could not keep it.
11. Read Titus 2:11-12. *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, [12] Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”* God’s grace teaches us to deny _____ and _____.
12. Read Titus 2:12. *“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”* God’s grace teaches us to live. _____, that is, _____, _____, and _____ in this present world.
13. Read Galatians 6:2. *“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”* When we bear one another’s burdens, we fulfill _____.

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(Discipleship Answer Key)

Do not look at the answer key until you have completed the questions.

Compare your answers with the following answers.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:20. Paul was not under the law of Moses, but when he was with the Jews he lived like a Jew (under Moses) in order to **Win them to Christ.**
2. Read Galatians 2:16. The Apostle Paul knew that salvation was not derived from keeping the law (not even part of it). How was justification (a right relationship with God) received? **By faith in (of) Jesus Christ.**

3. Read Romans 10:4. Christ ended the law as a means of obtaining righteousness before God.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:30. God made Jesus Christ to be our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.
5. Read Isaiah 12:2. Who is our salvation? God.
6. Read Philippians 3:9. When you go under the law of Moses you are trying to obtain your own righteousness.
7. Read I Corinthians 11:1. As Christians we are living under the law of Christ. The law of Christ is not a set of rules to obey; it is living a life in response to a person. That person is Christ.
8. Read Galatians 2:20. Paul did not want to live his own life; he wanted to live Christ's life.
9. Read Romans 7:12. Many principles under the law of Moses and the law of Christ are the same. The reason for this is that the law is holy, just, and good.
10. Read Romans 8:3. The law could never save us, not because the law is wrong, but because in the weakness of our flesh we could not keep it.
11. Read Titus 2:11-12. God's grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
12. Read Titus 2:12. God's grace teaches us to live. Soberly, that is, self-controlled, righteously, and godly, in this present world.
13. Read Galatians 6:2. When we bear one another's burdens, we fulfill The law of Christ.

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