

Law of Christ, The

The Law of Moses has been disannulled, so believers are now under a new law. Gal 6:2 calls this new law the Law of Christ; Rom 8:2 refers to it as the Law of the Spirit of Life. This is a brand-new law, totally distinct from the Law of Moses. ***The Law of Christ contains all the individual commandments from Christ and the Apostles applicable to a NT believer.***

A simple comparison of details shows that the Law of Christ is not and cannot be the same as the Law of Moses:

1. Many commandments are the same as those of the Law of Moses. For example, nine of the Ten Commandments are also in the Law of Christ.
2. Many are different from the Law of Moses. For example, there is no Sabbath law now (Rom 14:5; Col 2:16) and no dietary code (Mark 7:19; Rom 14:20).
3. The Law of Christ intensifies some commandments in the Law of Moses. The Law of Moses said: love thy neighbor as thyself (Lev 19:18). This made man the standard. The Law of Christ says: love one another, even as I have loved you (John 15:12). This makes the Messiah the standard; He loved us enough to die for us.
4. The Law of the Messiah provides a new motivation. The conditional Mosaic Covenant was the basis of the Law of Moses, so the motivation was: do, in order to be blessed. The unconditional New Covenant is the basis of the Law of Christ, so the motivation is: you have been (and are) blessed, therefore, do.

The reason so much confusion exists over the relationship of the Law of Moses to the Law of Christ is that each contains many commandments, which are similar to the other's. Therefore, many presume the retention of certain sections of the law. However, the law was an indivisible entity, so the similarity of certain commandments cannot imply a partial retention. The Bible contains a number of legal codes, such as the Edenic, Adamic, Noahic, Mosaic, New, and Kingdom. A new code may contain some commandments resembling the previous code, without suggesting that the previous code is still in effect. While certain commandments of the Adamic Code were also found in the Edenic Code, it did not mean that the Edenic Code was still partially in force: It ceased to function with the fall of man. Likewise, the Law of Christ contains many commandments similar to the Law of Moses. For example, the Law of Christ includes nine of the Ten Commandments (only Sabbath commandment removed), but this does not mean that the Law of Moses is still in force.

Christ's death rendered the Law of Moses inoperative, so we are now under the Law of Christ. There are many different commandments: Under the Law of Moses, pork was forbidden to eat, but under the Law of Christ, no such prohibition exists. There are many similar commandments, but they are nonetheless in two separate systems. Today, if a believer steals, he does not break the Law of Moses, but the Law of Christ.