



The *fascinating* Law of **CHRIST**

In ancient times, God gave His people through Moses His Law. The foundation of God's Law consists of the ten commandments. But God also gave His people many specific federal and civic regulations that brought judgement and resolution to everyday business and life in general.

GOD TAUGHT HIS PEOPLE HIS WAYS OF LOVE

God provided instruction between employers and employees, treatment between all people, farming practices, animal care, clothing manufacturing, honest business practices, caring for one another and your own body.

“Do not hold back wages of a hired man overnight. Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind... Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly... Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life... Do not mate different kinds of animals... Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed... Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material... Do not eat any meat with the blood still in it... Do not practice divination or sorcery... Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves... Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them... Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God... When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt... Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. Use honest scales and honest weights... Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19).

God was teaching His people how to live righteously. He knew their success was limited. He knew they needed His Holy Spirit to fulfill the Law, after all, God's Law is spiritual. It will not be valued by carnal-minded mankind. God would wait for Christ's redemptive sacrifice before tearing the veil from the top down to open entry for individuals to know Him, the Almighty God—Great Creator.

God's plan for creation on earth involves a development and growth into spiritual maturity. This process will ebb and flow like the tide. It was foreknown and inserted into the design, because God is molding a different creation from the first creation in heaven. He is creating a kingdom

of priests, experts in righteousness who suffered from sin and have grown to hate wickedness. God will produce perfection in repentant mankind. The Law of Christ when applied assists this process of spiritual growth where judgement and condemnation are silenced and daily forgiveness through the intercession of Jesus Christ is given.

God's time of rest symbolized in the weekly Sabbath has not yet come; He is hard at work. Mankind will experience to the fullest, the mire of wickedness. A time is coming, a time of great desperation, people will seek laws that protect them, sensitivity that is tangible, compassion that is felt, patience that will bring them to marvel in the light, long suffering that will soften their heart in gratitude. Repentant creation on earth will fully understand the pain and hardship of living in sin. God is both King and Lord. God's first creation in heaven is comprised of kings and princes. His second creation on earth will comprise of lords and priests. Both creations are made in the image of God. Upon completion, creation on earth will radiate the glory of God.

God's family is still in the making both in heaven and on earth. A great rebellion has taken place in heaven where one-third of that creation has fallen into iniquity, lawlessness. There is no saving plan for them; they have sinned knowingly. Their pride and arrogance have poisoned their thinking. God's Holy Spirit is being drained from them; they will be destroyed.

Creation on Earth is a work in progress, also. God is molding people. He is working in stages. First, He will bring His people to their knees; they will become a model nation on earth. He is testing and strengthening them. He will purge and destroy the unrepentant. All the nations on earth will see their example and then God will pour out His Holy Spirit on earth.

During this work in progress, the Law of Christ is actionable. It is the principle of living as Christ lived. He lived by the Law of God, but he did not force that law like a dictator onto people. His leadership style was not tyrannical. He taught according to what the people understood and worked patiently to stimulate their spiritual growth. He healed, forgiving sins. He raised from the dead, giving life again.

THE APOSTLE PAUL SAW THE POWERFUL FORCES LEADING TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

The Apostle Paul knew if he is to reach people and bring them out of darkness and onto the path of righteousness of God, he would have to address their traditions and passionate beliefs in order to rouse actual spiritual growth. He acquired their friendship by sacrificing his freedom, so that he would be a trustworthy guide for them.



He saw all of the laws at work. Not merely the fundamental laws that comprise of ten commandments, but the numerous forces operating to support God's eternal governing structure. He knew Christ's redemptive sacrifice freed him from the grip of spiritual death and from all of the codified opinions of the religious leaders from the past and into the present. All of the heavy burdens placed on the Jewish people disintegrated when Christ died on the cross. The veil ripped from the top down giving the congregation equal access to Almighty God through Jesus Christ. The hierarchical structure collapsed. The Apostle Paul limited his freedom willingly because he wanted to reach all people. He did not judge them, rather worked tirelessly to empower them into spiritual growth that could surpass him.

“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews.” The Apostle Paul entertained discussions on the law, to win the Jews. The Jews were given the oracles of God—God's teachings. They preserved the Law and the Prophets that we today refer to as the Old Testament.

In Acts, Paul's dedication was recorded. “The Jews all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that according to **the strictest sect of our religion, I have lived as a Pharisee**” (Acts 26:4-5)

Paul understood the strict and disciplined practices held by the Jews by keeping the Law of God and their oral traditions of the elders. This quality prompted Paul to write “What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? **Much in every way!** First of all, they have been **entrusted with the very words of God**” (Romans 3:1).

Almighty God entrusted the house of Judah with His Law and the writings of the Prophets. From this house, Jesus was born to be King over all kings. He will enforce the Law of God to ensure that love will become their governing foundation.

“To those under the law [those are the people under the law of sin and death as well as those still practising the oral laws and traditions of men] I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.”

The Apostle Paul may have fasted according to Jewish tradition and restricted his Sabbath travel based on the codified opinions of the elders to prevent grievances, while at the same time, introducing them to the revelation that they are now free from the Law of Sin and eternal death because now, the door is open again for eternal life. There will be a resurrection into eternal life in God's family as equal members.

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:27-28).

The Apostle Paul may have drawn their attention to the mirroring in the practice of animal sacrifices, which demonstrated the need for a Saviour and deep sorrow for their sins. Maybe also, then, pointing to grace.

Recorded in Hebrews, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings You did not desire, nor did You delight in them (although they are offered according to the law)” (Hebrews 10:8). “Instead, those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (Hebrews 10:3). “Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body [the church is the body of Christ] You prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sin offerings You took no delight’” (Hebrews 10:5).

The Apostle Paul worked to unravel the Jewish traditions and separate them from the Law of God. Years of practicing the traditions of the elders brought the Jews into a toxic mindset that they thought they were above all people. Indeed, keeping God’s Law will bring all people close to God, but not to be elevated as to put down people when God has not called all people yet. The returning, repentant ten tribes of Israel play a critical and most important role within God’s grand plan. They were once divorced from the covenant family and yet, they are the first of all nations to receive God’s grace. Law without grace brings tyranny. Grace without law brings compromise.

The Apostle Paul tried to bring the people to understand the spiritual picture and subdue their drive for physical rituals as if to earn salvation. The practice of circumcision was introduced to ancient Israel by God. It is a mirror of an important spiritual principle. It symbolizes the ceasing of walking in the flesh—the cutting away of sinful behaviour to live righteously, walking in the spirit. The eliminating of sinful behaviour is painful. Since only men are circumcised, God is being very specific in the meaning of circumcision. He is declaring that men who live in wickedness will never be able to seed a righteous people. The church (the woman) may conceive, but the children will never walk in God’s ways. That brings meaning to God’s warning in Malachi where He vows to send Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Their wayward leadership has corrupted the children.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome Day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse” (Malachi 4:5-6).

Throughout the Bible, God symbolizes sinful behaviour as actions of the uncircumcised—the wicked. Ezekiel 31 is a record of God describing the fall of one of the once-great leaders in His headquarters in heaven. God is warning the heavenly ruler over Egypt to self-reflect quickly because he is walking in the same footsteps as the fallen heavenly ruler over Assyria.

God said, “Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his hordes: ‘Who can be compared with you in majesty? Consider Assyria, **once a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches overshadowing the forest**” (Ezekiel 31:2-3).

These rulers that God was talking to are not mortals; they are spirit beings. God concluded, “Yet you, too, **will be brought down with the trees of Eden to the earth below; you will lie among the uncircumcised, with those killed by the sword.** ‘This is Pharaoh and all his hordes declares the Sovereign LORD’” (Ezekiel 31:18b).

God is prophesying the fall of the heavenly ruler over Egypt.

- He will be brought down = his kingship will be taken away from him.
- With the trees of Eden = with all the other fallen rulers in God’s family in heaven where the family home is Eden
- To the earth below = they will be cast out of heaven.
- You will lie among the uncircumcised = you will die with the wicked.
- With those killed by the sword = judged, sentenced—receive the death penalty for their violation of the Law of God.

The heavenly ruler of Assyria was already condemned by God.

- Assyria **once** a cedar in Lebanon = once a great law-abiding expert in God’s Law and leader in God’s headquarters.
- With beautiful branches = this leader expanded to provide important and needed supports for other family members in heaven.
- Overshadowing the forest = his leadership surpassed most of the leaders in God’s family.

Sadly, this once-great leader in God’s headquarters in heaven became proud and arrogant. This toxic condition pulled him away from God into a thinking that he was equal to the Almighty God. He tried to overthrow God, Himself.

The heavenly king of Assyria bragged, “With **my many chariots** I have **ascended to the heights of the mountains, the utmost heights of Lebanon.** I have **cut down its tallest cedars, the choicest of its pines. I have reached the remotest heights, the finest of its forests**” (Isaiah 37:24b).

God continues to use imagery when describing events in heaven because He is using earthly imagery to describe the magnitude of heavenly events. The heavenly king of Assyria has a dominion in heaven, likely having the same name as his kingdom on earth.

- His many chariots confirms that he has a military—a vast military.
- He ascended to the heights of the mountains describes his rise to a superpower status
- He ascended to the utmost heights of Lebanon identifies him as a significant member of God’s headquarters in heaven.

- He cut down its tallest cedars unveils his attacks on the other members in God's headquarters and his success.
- The choicest of its pines describes the highly trained and knowledgeable members of God's court.
- He reached the remotest heights reveals the expansion of his military reaching the third heaven where God has His throne and the place where the most righteous leaders are positioned.

This pompous being cannot hide from Almighty God. "I know where you stay and when you come and go and how you rage against me" (Isaiah 37:28). This "uncircumcised" rebel has fallen and is sentenced in the pit with all of the other fallen, judged and sentenced heavenly rulers.

When God dethroned the king of Assyria, He brought down all of the rebel members of His headquarters in heaven. "I brought it [king of Assyria] down to the grave with those who go down to the pit [the Abyss]. Then all the trees of Eden [members of God's family], the choicest and the best of Lebanon [God's headquarters in heaven], all the trees that were well-watered [once filled with God's Holy Spirit], were consoled in the earth below" (Ezekiel 31:16).

The spiritual importance of circumcision is not the physical act but the spiritual devotion and eternal commitment to living righteously.

The Jews kept the practice of circumcision and they endorsed it as part of their signature. When God's Holy Spirit is lacking, the practices implemented by God lose their spiritual meaning and it becomes merely a crude ritual. During the return of the ten tribes back into the covenant family, the Jews were forcing them to become "Jews" where the spiritual meaning of God's practices was absent—unrealized and the practice became one on the list in order for them to qualify for eternal life based on their traditions and beliefs.

It is difficult for 21st century Christians to understand what was endured by the returning ten tribes of Israel because they had forgotten much of their ancient teachings and were heavily relying on the Jews for instruction. Jesus taught against the traditions of the elders because it nullified the Law of God. Paul unraveled the traditions, so that the ten tribes of Israel could focus on what truly constitutes right actions that justify them of sin and the overcoming that God desires for them to enter into His kingdom.

The Apostle Paul unraveled the Jewish push on circumcision. 119 Ministries explain this topic well.

"In the first century, certain sects of Judaism taught that Gentiles could not be "saved" and made part of God's people unless they "became Jewish" through ritual conversion, which was a long process that included getting circumcised. Thus, "circumcision" referred not only to the surgical removal of the foreskin but also to having a "Jewish status" in the minds of many first-century Jews. Likewise, "uncircumcision" refers to having a "Gentile status." With that in mind, we can understand Paul's statement as such:

1 Corinthians 7:18-19

“Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised [Jewish]? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision [become a Gentile]. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised [a Gentile]? Let him not seek circumcision [to become Jewish]. For neither circumcision [being Jewish] counts for anything nor uncircumcision [being a Gentile], but keeping the commandments of God.”

Paul was not speaking against the actual act of circumcision but rather against Gentiles being pressured to convert to Judaism.

The false teachers taught that the Gentile believers must get circumcised in order to be saved and included among God’s people. We see this false doctrine also expressed in Acts 15:

Acts 15:1

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Essentially, the false teachers believed that the only way Gentiles could be “saved” was to “become Jewish” through ritual conversion.”

This controversy sparked what has come to be called the Jerusalem Council, in which the apostles ruled that Gentiles and Jews are “saved” in the same way—by grace through faith in the Messiah (Acts 15:7-11). (119ministries. <https://www.119ministries.com/teachings/>)

The Apostle Paul exercised the Law of Christ in strength to correct and re-establish God’s path of righteousness.

Into the 21st century, the Christians have their own traditions that conflict with the Law of God and hundreds of differing doctrines among themselves. Jesus Christ will bring both houses into unity at the beginning of his millennial reign. The nations of the world will see law and grace come together. These two forces at work will produce righteousness unseen within a kingdom ever on earth previously. A model kingdom will rise in God’s radiance and glory.

“To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law.”

The ten tribes of Israel, once divorced by God, were characteristic of breaking the Law of God. They reveled in lawlessness for hundreds of years. Some of their disdain came from the abuse of God’s Law. In ancient times, they begged for grace, relief from the oppressive taxes imposed by Solomon. Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, listened to his younger advisors and said, “Whereas my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. Whereas my father scourged you with whips, I will scourge you with scorpions” (I Kings 12:11).

That tyrannical response burned into the hearts of the ten tribes and a declaration of war was made, a separation took place but not war by the command of God. The Apostle Paul understood their history clearly. He did all he could to correct the Jews, while guiding a people

healing from ancient hurts to submit and keep God's Law. The Law of Christ gave the Apostle Paul power to be patient, kind, compassionate, long-suffering to bring babes in Christ into maturity.

Into the 21st century, different barriers have risen. Like Naaman, who entered the temple of Rimmon with his master, bowed before that god, not of his free will but because his master leaned on his arm prostrating him as well.

“But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this” (II Kings 5:18).

Naaman's heart was in the right place, but living in this evil age often causes God-fearing and God-serving people into an action that bites their conscience.

Elisha understood the barriers believers endure. When Naaman explained his dilemma, Elisha simply responded, “Go in peace” (II Kings 5:19). His response eased the distress of Naaman's troubled conscience. Barriers are everywhere. The Law of Christ recognizes the barriers; it takes away judgement and condemnation. Each individual will grow at their own pace and dismantle barriers accordingly. The Law of Christ is a focus on loving one another even while we are all still sinners.

“To the weak I became weak, to win the weak.” So many rules and regulations imposed onto the Jewish people over time trapped them into the belief that rituals save. The Apostle Paul didn't eat meat offered to idols when he was with the people who would not eat it. He limited his freedom under God's Law so not to offend those people who remained under laws imposed by man.

Into the 21st century, God-fearing people practicing the Law of Christ will not condemn or judge people observing Christmas and Easter though these celebrations have been Christianized from pagan holidays. They will expose them when they can. They may find it better to teach God's Holy Days instead and the mysteries God has revealed for them and all of mankind. The wisdom of God will direct them. The Law of Christ will search out where truth can rise and shine brightly out of darkness to bring spiritual growth.

“I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”

The Apostle Paul lived the Law of Christ. He sacrificed his freedom to establish friendship and trust. He exercised the new forces that came into action after Christ's death. The outpouring of God's Holy Spirit unveiled powers inaccessible to mankind previously. The offer of eternal life, the ability to overcome to live righteously, the peace that flows knowing God, trusting Him and believing that He will keep His word, and love are now the driving forces of God-fearing and God-serving people.

“I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” (I Corinthians 9:19-23). The Apostle Paul loved as Christ loved. He was driven and self-disciplined to save.

The Law of Christ is the wisdom of living under God’s law while loving and nurturing babes in Christ who cannot distinguish between right and wrong. Caring for people does not require anyone to denounce their faith or break God’s law. It is the gentle walk of love that recognizes the pitfalls and barriers everywhere in this fallen and dark world on earth that hinders repenting people, which at times, causes them to fall. Without judgement or condemnation, reach out and hold fast to help them up again.

CHRIST PROVIDED A DEEPER AND RICHER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD’S LAW

God’s Law is not merely the ten commandments but a relationship with Him and one another. It is a commanding love for one another beyond human capability. Jesus taught God’s Law to his disciples elevating their understanding to see life with God and the depth of relationship it brings with Him and all creation.

Christ did not come to do away with the law or do away with *some* of the law. "Don't ever think that I came to set aside Moses' Teachings or the Prophets. **I didn't come to set them aside but to make them come true**" (Matthew 5:17).

Christ came to amplify the law. To merely refrain from adultery is obedience to the “letter of the Law,” but to obey both the spirit and letter of the Law, self-control must be exercised where even lusting becomes a violation of the spirit in keeping the Law of God.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who **looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart**” (Matthew 5:27-28).

Jesus called out the unjust actions of people in strength and forgave sins in gentility.

Certain scribes and Pharisees were trying to trick Jesus into saying something that they could hold against him. They had brought a woman caught in adultery. The man with her was not brought, which under the Mosaic Law both are guilty. The sin demanded both to be stoned to death. Every one of the scribes and Pharisees accusing the woman were guilty of a crime under the Mosaic Law, that would demand the death sentence. Yet, they ignored their own deadly sins, protected the co-sinner in the affair and demonstrated their bias also breaking the Mosaic law to drag a vulnerable person before Jesus.

“But what do you say?” they asked Jesus. At this point, Jesus stooped down and started to write in the sand. When he finished, he said, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” Then He bent down and wrote again. One by one, the people left (John 8:7–9).

Using the brilliance of God's wisdom in his teaching, Jesus must have amazed the woman, who anticipated death by stoning, instead, she received grace directly from her Saviour. Her accusers did not receive forgiveness of sins nor the partner in the affair; they remain dying under the Law of Sin and Death. Jesus said, "Woman, where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, Lord," she answered.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Now go and sin no more" (John 8:10-11).

Jesus had the authority from Almighty God, the Father, then to forgive sin. Her story of grace would have spread far and wide.

Jesus loved. He wanted to bring the Jewish priesthood out of darkness to become a humble priesthood serving Almighty God.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Matthew 23:37)

CHRIST UNDERSTOOD GOD'S PLAN FOR MANKIND THAT THEY WOULD GROW INTO SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Jesus understands that people begin as babes in Christ, unable to distinguish right from wrong.

"For everyone who lives on milk is still an infant, inexperienced in the message of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained their senses to distinguish good from evil" (Hebrews 5:13-14).

CHRIST UNDERSTOOD THAT FREE AGENTS WILL EACH ACHIEVE VARYING DEGREES OF MATURITY

Regardless, while we were all sinners, Jesus died to save us all. God Almighty gave us His only heir to die for mankind. It was a great demonstration of his love for this creation on earth.

"But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

INDIVIDUAL CHOICE, VARYING GROWTH LEVELS

God does not force the same growth from everyone. He wants free will.

The principle of the varying degrees of spiritual maturity is seen in the parable of the talents. Three servants were given talents. "To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability... The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a

hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time, the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them" (Matthew 25:14-30).

The servant who gained five talents was praised. The master replied, "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."

The servant who gained two talents was praised, also. The master replied the same, "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."

The servant who gained nothing. The master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant!"

The master concluded, "For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And that worthless servant will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:29-30).

When God calls a servant, He will give them His Holy Spirit according to their ability. To squelch God's Holy Spirit is to rob yourself of life eternal. All of the forces that were made available to repentant mankind after Christ's death, can only be activated by choice.

The Law of Christ will bring each repentant individual back under the care of Almighty God. In time, this evil age will come to an end and all of mankind will know their Father in heaven, the only All-Powerful God—the God of Love. In the meantime, live in peace.

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<https://www.119ministries.com>

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