

“Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God’s commands is what counts” (1 Cor. 7:19 *NIV*)

The text of this message comes from the pages of God’s Word. It is a diamond buried in the mountains of great truth. Paul entered into a discussion of Christianity as it relates to life problems. In connection with his discussion, he mentioned that the thing that really matters in relation to all other concerns is keeping the law of God. This is seen in the matters of circumcision, marriage, divorce, and all other areas of life.

The most important law to obey is to have saving faith. Paul commanded that one believe on the name of God’s Son, Jesus Christ. Faith is necessary to please God (Heb 11:6) and for justification (Rom. 5:1). It is necessary to receive answered prayers (James 1:6), to be assured of God’s blessings (2 Chron. 20:20), and to obtain everlasting life (John 5:24).

Faith binds together things on earth with things of heaven. Faith is a person’s reliance on the heavenly Father for all of his or her earthly life as well as the life beyond.

Laws to obey are the laws related to 1 Corinthians 7. Laws concerning the marriage relationship, divine gifts and commandments involving the things of the world.

First, the marriage relationship as it is the fundamental institution of society. Husbands and wives have specific duties toward each other (1 Cor. 7:3-16).

Second is the use divine gifts (1 Cor. 7:17). Paul said in Ephesians 4:1 to “walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.” So, obedience to the law also applies to one’s vocation in life.

Third, the commandments (1 Cor. 7:29-34) concerning the things of the world as they are temporary and will pass away. They are not worth distraction from the Lord.

Then, we have the reasoning given for obeying the laws of God. We should reflect on all God has done for us. Out of appreciation for redemption from sin, we should be diligent in obeying the commandments of God. Out of appreciation for his blessings upon us, we should keep his commandments.

We should reflect on the fact that every commandment the Lord has given is for our own good. This applies to every fact of life (1 John 5:3).

The laws of God are designed for our good. They are laid out in the Bible in such a way that each of us can understand them. Keeping God's commandments is vital to our earthly well-being and eternal happiness.