

Title: Under the Law of Christ  
Text: 1 Corinthians 9: 21  
Date: January 6, 2012  
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

**1 Corinthians 9: 21: To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.**

In verse 19, in the parenthesis, Paul says, “(being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ.)” A better translation is “under the law OF Christ.”

### **What is the law of Christ?**

The law of Christ is the gospel of his grace. It is the gospel of God the Father’s electing grace—we did not choose him, he choose us—unto salvation in Christ. The law of Christ is the gospel of redemption accomplished by Christ. Blood-atonement has been accomplished by Christ, in whom God is just and the justifier of all who believe. To have our sin put away, to be justified, to be robed in Christ’s righteousness means our sin is gone and the law says we are righteous. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to all who believe. The law of Christ is the gospel of the necessity of the regenerating work of God the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit gives life to helpless, dead, sinners, as well as the gift of faith and repentance and the fruit which makes up the new man.

Galatians 5: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The law of Christ is the law of the everlasting, unchangeable, covenant, ordered in all things and sure by Christ, which is written on the heart in the new birth.

Jeremiah 31: 31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34: And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Because the everlasting covenant is made in our hearts when God gives us faith to rest in Christ, the law of Christ is called the law of faith.

Romans 3: 27: Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Because the law of Christ frees us from the law of sin and death it is called the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8: 2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Because the law of Christ frees us from the bondage of the law of Moses, the law of Christ is called the law of liberty in James 1: 25.

The law of Christ is NOT the law of Moses given at Mt. Sinai?—"this do and live" It is the gospel given by Christ from Mt. Zion: which says "the just shall live by faith", "faith which worketh by love"

Isaiah 2: 4:...for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

This is heavenly Zion, heavenly Jerusalem. "Jerusalem which below is in bondage with her children, but Jerusalem which is above is free which is the mother of us all who believe"—this is heavenly Zion, certainly not Mt. Sinai.

John 1: 17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 12: 18: For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,...20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded,)... 22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,...to God the Judge of all,...24: to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. 25: See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.

Believers are the only ones who establish the law and the only ones who teaches others to establish the law. We do so declaring it is impossible for a sinner to establish the law by his obedience. It is by the obedience of Christ that the law is established. And we establish the law through faith in him. Those who would say otherwise, may pretend a zeal for the law, but they are breaking the law and teaching others to break it when they lower the demands of the law and claim believers can keep it.

Yet, there are some—who vainly imagine that being under grace means we dare not preach about character or conduct. When they hear the preacher quote precepts which the Lord Jesus or his apostles gave, it is as if they think the preacher made up when it is clearly what the Lord Jesus taught. But character and conduct do matter—"the believer's body is not our own we are bought with a price, therefore we are to glorify God in our body and our spirit which are the Lords."

**Proposition:** Christ did give his church ordinances and precepts we are to try to observe while we are in this earth. Christ said,

John 14: 15: If ye love me, keep my commandments.

And Christ used his apostle to teach us. He told them to go forth preaching the gospel, baptizing those who believe,

Matthew 28: 20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

He is speaking of what Christ himself taught as he walked this earth. These are the Masters words to his servants, to believers—who are not under the law, but under his grace. Everything written by Christ's apostles in the New Testament is what Christ, either in person or through the Holy Spirit, commanded them to teach us. It is not the letter of the law of Moses, it is grace and truth, it is the spirit of faith which works by love. Believers do these things. But because we have Light from our Savior and see our sin as greater than our faithfulness, we really don't personally see ourselves as doing these things. Remember the sheep on the Lord's right hand, say, "Lord when did we do those things." The goats on the left will say, "when did we

not?” There is different spirit and regard toward self in the believer and in the self-righteous. What are some of the precepts of the law of Christ?

## **I. CHRIST TAUGHT US TO PREACH THE GOSPEL AND AVOID CONTENTIONS AND STRIVING ABOUT THE LAW.**

**Titus 3: 5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6: Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7: That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8: This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. 9: BUT avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. 10: A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;**

The Jews and later those who claimed to believe Christ but kept trying to bring the believer back under the law always asking foolish questions, trying to find some way to glory in the flesh. Such become contentious when they hear the gospel. They stumble and strive about the law trying to keep sinners bound, whipped, motivated by law. All striving with such vain men is unprofitable and vain—“A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject.”

Believers are not motivated by law, we do nothing from a legal principle but from faith which worketh by love. So Paul said what Christ said, “Preach the gospel constantly, maintaining that salvation is not by works of righteousness we have done but by his mercy, and this will cause his people to be careful to maintain good works. The Lord said,

John 14:21: He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Those constrained by the love of Christ serve him not by the will and wisdom and fleshly constraints of men—but by the constraint of his love and sufficiency of God’s grace.

2 Corinthians 9: 8: And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

## **II. CONCERNING THIS WORLD THE LAW OF CHRIST TEACHES US**

### **Do Not Love the World**

1 John 2: 15: Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16: For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17: And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

### **Do Good to Your Enemies**

Matthew 5: 43: Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45: That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46: For if ye love them which love you, what reward

have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47: And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? 48: Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Romans 12: 17: Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18: If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19: Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20: Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21: Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Ephesians 6: 5: Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6: Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7: With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free. 9: And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

### **III. IN OUR FAMILIES**

Colossians 3: 18: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. 19: Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. 20: Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. 21: Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

### **IV. IN THE CHURCH**

#### **Worship and Serve God in Spirit and in Truth**

This is opposed to looking to the exterior, to ceremony, trying to find a sign as to a man's faith by how he measures up to you.

John 4: 23: But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24: God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Philippians 3: 2: Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. 3: For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

#### **Do Not Exalt Self**

Matthew 23: 8: But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. 9: And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. 10: Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

Christ teaches us that to be the greatest is to be the least—"he that is least among you all shall be great."

1 Peter 5: 5...Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty

hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

## **Keep the Ordinances: the Lord's Supper and Baptism**

### **Do All for the Purpose of Edifying**

1 Corinthians 14: 26: How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying...33: For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 34: Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. [it means "so saith the old testament scriptures"—Gen 3: 16-after the fall, God said to Eve, "thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee".] 35: And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church...40: Let all things be done decently and in order.

### **Do Not Forsake Hearing the Gospel**

We are to provoke one another to love and good works by continuing to gather to hear the preaching of the gospel.

Hebrews 10: 24: And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

### **Be of One Mind and Love as Brethren**

John 13: 34: A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35: By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

1 Peter 3:8: Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

### **Concerning Personal Offenses**

Be as a child, try not offend. (Mt 18: 1-14) If offended be longsuffering. (Mt 18:15-17) Then forgive without ceasing. (Mt 18: 21-35)

### **Believe Christ, Love and Bear One Another's Burdens**

Galatians 5: 6: For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Galatians 6: 2: Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

1 John 3: 23: And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

Amen!