

XII. The Harmony of the Law & Gospel

- *We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.*

Biblical Harmony 101

- The Holy Bible contains 66 books (39 Old Testament & 27 New Testament). They were written by over 40 different authors over a time span of 1500 years. Yet, amazingly, they never contradict one another! Many skeptics like to claim certain inconsistencies; however, no accusation has ever gone unanswered by the Word of God. Truly it was divinely inspired! The Old and New Testaments stand side by side showing the revelation of God through time. Therefore, we believe in the inspiration of Old Testament scriptures and that they are still relevant for today! Granted, we no longer make 'animal sacrifices,' however, the reason we do not is found in the New Testament! Therefore, a holy and blessed harmony exists between the two covenants. Let us observe Jesus speaking about the matter on three different occasions:
 1. Matt 5:17- Jesus' teaching was so dynamic that he has to counter upcoming arguments by 'Think Not'... Here Jesus is preaching in his Sermon on the Mount. However, He emphasizes that he is not trying to undo what Moses set in place. We'll explain further.
 2. John 5:39- The scriptures in question was specifically the Old Testament. Jesus argues with the Pharisees that those same scriptures speak of his person! Thus, again we see Jesus refer to the Old Testament.
 3. Luke 4:16-21- Jesus is here in the synagogue for the Sabbath reading of scriptures. It was common to have a young Jewish man stand and read the text that had been preselected. Jesus reads out of Isa 61:1 and claims them as messianic prophecies about him and thus begins his public ministry!

The Law of God and Today's Application

- It is obvious that not all of the law is applicable; but why? What is the basis on what today's Christians ascribe to and deny as applicational and practical? There exist two types of the Mosaic Law: Ceremonial and Moral:
 1. *Ceremonial*: Lev 1:1-3 The Law of Moses is sometimes called the 'Levitical Law' due to the fact that the Levites were the primary executioners of the rituals and ceremonies. God commanded the Jews to keep these ceremonies, feasts, etc to foreshadow the coming Messiah: Heb 10:1. However, the Jewish nation did not fully comprehend this and clung to the law after the time of Christ. Thus, Paul writes Gal 3:21-26. When Paul says that we are not 'saved by works' in Eph 2:8-9 these are the works in question (the works of the law!). This form of the law has ceased in the Christian era as these things were simply types of something greater: Jeremiah 3:16, Luke 16:16, Heb 8:5-6.
 2. *Moral*: Ex 20:2-17- Here is recorded the 'Decalogue' or what we term 'the ten commandments.' These are moral and spiritual obligations in which we are held accountable before God and man. Notice the first 4 commandments concern our relationship with God; the last 6 concern our relationship with fellowman. Note Jesus on Mark 12:29-31. Here Jesus quotes Deut 6:4-7. These moral and spiritual obligations still apply today (hence Jesus' reply to the Pharisee's questions). When Jesus 'fulfilled' the law he fulfilled not only the ceremonial but also the moral, ethical, and spiritual law of God making him the sinless lamb! We are still bound by this moral law: James 2:10-11 & Romans 7:7-12

The Purpose of God's Law in 2007

- Let's examine a few of the reasons the Law is 'holy, just, and good.'
 1. It defines sin: Rom 7:7, I John 3:4
 2. It defines our sinfulness: Rom 7:21-24
 3. It defines the sinless nature of Jesus: John 1:29 (as the lamb)
- Further, we know it's impossible to lead sinless lives based on the following:
 1. Jer 13:23/Ps 51:5- Conceived in sin!
 2. Rom 8:7-8- our carnal mind is enmity against a sinless God

3. Rom 3:10-18- These all demonstrate a universal need for the Savior!
For more information, refer to article II. Concerning the Fall of Man.

The Gospel's Reaction to Old Testament Bondage

- Finally, we observe the fact that the New Testament's message is redemption! Christ is portrayed in Anti-type fashion as is relative to the Old Covenant. Thus, Jesus Christ has become the mediator of a 'new covenant' in which we can be made partakers of. The role of Jesus Christ as Savior comes into foresight as we realize without him, all would be lost and doomed under the condition of the law!
 1. Heb 8:9-10- A new covenant!
 2. Rom 10:4- the end of the law!