

## Handout Summary of New Covenant and Law of God

### I. New Covenant and the Law of God

1. **New Covenant is discontinuous (membership changed) yet continuous (moral law remains): Jeremiah 31:31-34**

  - a. Jeremiah 31:31-34—only OT use of term “new covenant”. This is OC prophecy of NC!
  - b. **New Covenant is new, not according to the old (vv31-32)—a *better covenant with better promises* (Heb. 8:6).**
    1. Members cannot break this one covenant (v32)—it is permanent and perfect.
    2. Members will *all* have My Law put in their minds and written on their hearts (v33), unto obedience.
    3. Members will *all* have God as their God and they will be His people (v33).
    4. Members will *all* know God, from least to the greatest (v34).
    5. Members will *all* have iniquity forgiven and sins remembered no more (v34).
  - c. **New Covenant has ‘old’ Law still** (v33)—*Moral Law is “passed as a baton” from OC to NC.*
    1. *I will...write [My Law] on their hearts* is clear reference to God’s writing of Ten Commandments in Ex. 20.
    2. Rather than writing Law by finger in stone, in NC God will write Law on hearts (regeneration)!
    3. *Note:* All mankind has law written on heart, as in conscience (Rom. 2:15). But not as in regeneration.
    4. *Note:* Writing laws on heart of Jer. 31 corresponds to “cause you to walk in My statutes” of Ezek. 36:25-27.

2. **New Covenant is established by Christ and fulfilled in His Church now: Hebrews 8-10 quotes fr/Jeremiah 31.**

  - a. Christ is the greater, permanent High Priest who establishes the greater, permanent New Covenant!
  - b. Christ is the Mediator of better covenant (Heb. 8:6), old one was “faulty” Heb. 8:7) and now obsolete (Heb. 8:13).
  - c. Christ’s death established the New Covenant now (Heb. 9:15-20; 10:11-18; 12:24).
  - d. Christ declared in the Lord’s Supper: “this cup is the new covenant in My blood” (Mt. 26:28; Mk. 14:23; Lk. 22:20).
  - e. Christians are made ministers of the New Covenant now (2 Cor. 3:4-6; Rom. 11:25-27).

### II. Questions about the Law of God

1. **Can the Old Testament Law be divided into Civil, Ceremonial, and Moral Laws? **Yes.****

  - a. Moral Law > Ceremonial: “To Obey > Sacrifice” (1 Sa. 15:22); “Keep God’s Commandments > Circumcision” (1 Co. 7:19).
  - b. Moral Law written on stone, unlike rest of law (in book) (Ex. 20).
  - c. Moral Law given (Ex. 20), then Civil Law (Ex.21-23), then Ceremonial Law (Ex. 25).
  - d. Civil Law expired as State of Israel expired.
  - e. Ceremonial Law fulfilled in Christ, shadow/types point to Christ (Col. 2:16-17; Heb. 10:1-5).

2. **Are the Ten Commandments still binding on the Christian today? **Yes.****

  - a. All ten seen before Ex. 20. And can find all ten in New Testament. Mt 15:18-20; 1 Tim 1:5-11.
  - b. Matt. 5:17-20—Christ came not destroy but fulfill, then warns of breaking/teaching against Commands.
  - c. Matt. 22:36-40—Two greatest commands—Love God & Love Neighbor—summarized by love (Rom. 13:8-10).
  - d. Lev. 19:18 & Deut. 6:5—And those two commands *first* stated in Old Testament.
  - e. Rom. 13:8-10—Law of God = Law of Love. *Note:* #1-4 = Love God; #5 = Hinge of Authority; #6-10 Love Neighbor
  - f. 1 John 5:3—Love God = keep His commandments. *Law of God = Law of Love = Law of Christ* (Gal. 6:2).
  - g. Quoted in N.T.: Matt 19:17-19 (rich young ruler); Rom 7:7-10 (coveting); Eph. 6:1-3 (obey parents); Rom. 13:8-10 (love is fulfillment of the law); Jam. 2:8-11 (break one, break them all).

3. **What Uses could there possibly be for the Law for the Christian? **Many!****

  - a. Law is our friend! Law sends us to Christ (Gal 3:24) then Christ sends us back to the Law by grace to love/obey.
  - b. Christians are no longer under the Law with respect to condemnation—but still under its authority.
  - c. The Law does not change, but our relationship to the Law does (no longer under its condemnation).
  - d. “Map, Muzzle, Mirror.” Law Shows way to go, Constrains sin, Shows us our sin. *Sanctification.*
  - e. Child Training. Ten Commandments—and Bible’s exposition of them—is wonderful tool for children.
  - f. Evangelism—heart of the Gospel! *Practical* to convict of sin. *Doctrinal* to teach justification.

4. **Did Jesus preach a “new Law” in the Sermon on the Mount? **No.****

  - a. Why come to preach new Law when was Author of old one?
  - b. “You have heard---But I say.” As original Author, was cleaning off the Law to reveal its true brilliance.
  - c. Law of Christ = Law of Love = Moral Law: Rom. 13:8-10; Gal 6:2. Law of Christ is nothing less than the Law of Moses fulfilled in the life of Christ. (New command—As I have loved—Jesus fulfilled, Moses did not).
  - d. If Christ gave a “new” law after fulfilling the “old” one, rug is pulled out from under justification!  
*If the law that Christ obeyed in our place no longer exists, who will obey the “new” one for us? (Active Obedience)*  
*If the law Christ suffered under in our place no longer exists, who will suffer penalty of the “new” one? (Passive Obedience)*

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** <sup>31</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— <sup>32</sup>not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”