



GRACE LIFE CHURCH
GOSPEL | KINGDOM | GLORY

The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith

Chapter 19 – The Law of God – Part 1

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All emphasis added are mine

“One of my very great desires for our church is that we be a people who understand the law of God and fulfill it in the Spirit of love. The law which God gave to Moses at Mount Sinai a few months after bringing the people out of Egypt has been the victim of some very bad press in the past several hundred years. My guess is that there is a good deal of confusion in our minds when we read on the one hand in Romans 6:14, ‘You are no longer under law but under grace,’ but on the other hand in Romans 3:31, ‘Do we then overthrow the law by faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.’” **John Piper**

Outline

1. The Law and the History of Redemption (1-5)
2. The Law in the Life of a Christian (6-7)

Today, we will only get through Paragraph 2.

The Law and the History of Redemption – Creation

1. God gave Adam a law of comprehensive obedience written in his heart and a specific precept not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.¹ By these God obligated him and all his descendants to personal, total, exact, and perpetual obedience.² God promised life if Adam fulfilled it and threatened death if he broke it, and he gave Adam the power and ability to keep it.³

¹[Genesis 1:27](#); [Ecclesiastes 7:29](#). ²[Romans 10:5](#). ³[Galatians 3:10, 12](#).

- **Genesis 1:27** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*
- **Ecclesiastes 7:29** *See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.*

The Law and the History of Redemption –

Creation

Romans 2:14-15 *For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them*

- “The implication of this is obvious. If raw pagans are in possession of the law of God, it can only be because that law was written in the heart of Adam at creation and has not been effaced even by the fall.” **Sam Waldon**

The Law and the History of Redemption – Ten Commandments Given to Israel

2. The same law that was first written in the human heart continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness after the fall.⁴ It was delivered by God on Mount Sinai in ten commandments and was written in two tables. The first four commandments contain our duty to God and the other six our duty to humanity.⁵

⁴[Romans 2:14, 15](#). ⁵[Deuteronomy 10:4](#).

- **Romans 2:12-15** *For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. 14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.*

The Law and the History of Redemption – Ten Commandments Given to Israel

“Though the Gentiles had not the law in form, written on tables, or in a book, yet they had "the work", the matter, the sum and substance of it in their minds; as appears by the practices of many of them, in their external conversation.” **John Gill**

“He means not that it was so engraven on their will, that they sought and diligently pursued it, but that they were so mastered by the power of truth, that they could not disapprove of it. For why did they institute religious rites, except that they were convinced that God ought to be worshipped? Why were they ashamed of adultery and theft, except that they deemed them evils?” **John Calvin**

Question 46: What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

Answer: The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

Question 47: Where is the obedience of faith given in summary form?

Answer: A summary form of the obedience of faith is given in the Ten Commandments.

The Law and the History of Redemption –

Ten Commandments Given to Israel

“In short, then, it can be said that the moral law was present before Sinai, at Sinai, and after Sinai. Indeed the moral law is present throughout Scripture. As a revelation of God’s character, the moral law is timeless, unchanging, and the standard by which God judges man.” **David Jones**

Matthew 22:36-40 *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”*
37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first
commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as
yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the
Prophets.”

MORAL LAW BEFORE
THE DECALOGUE

Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD

"God Almighty, faithful and true, and therefore what was threatened should certainly be performed, and thereby the Egyptians and all others might know that he was Jehovah alone, and that there is no God beside him." **John Gill**

DECALOGUE

1st Commandment - Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

MORAL LAW AS A RULE
OF LIFE FOR
CHRISTIANS

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

**MORAL LAW BEFORE
THE DECALOGUE**

DECALOGUE

**MORAL LAW AS A RULE OF
LIFE FOR CHRISTIANS**

Genesis 35:1-4 *God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." 2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. 3 Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." 4 So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.*

2nd Commandment - Exodus 20:4 *"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.*

1 John 5:21 *Little children, keep yourselves from idols.*

MORAL LAW
BEFORE THE
DECALOGUE

DECALOGUE

MORAL LAW AS A
RULE OF LIFE FOR
CHRISTIANS

Job 1:5 *And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.*

3rd Commandment - Exodus 20:7 *“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.*

1 Timothy 6:1 *Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.*

**MORAL LAW BEFORE
THE DECALOGUE**

DECALOGUE

**MORAL LAW AS A RULE
OF LIFE FOR
CHRISTIANS**

Exodus 16:22-23 *On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers each. And when all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, 23 he said to them, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the morning.’”*

4th Commandment (Rest & Worship) Exodus 20:8 & 10 *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.*

Ephesians 5:19 *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,*

4th Commandment (Work) Exodus 20:9 *Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,*

Ephesians 4:28 *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

**MORAL LAW
BEFORE THE
DECALOGUE**

Genesis 28:6-7 *Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, “You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women,” 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram.*

DECALOGUE

5th Commandment - Exodus 20:12 *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

**MORAL LAW AS A
RULE OF LIFE FOR
CHRISTIANS**

Ephesians 6:1-3 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”*

“The acknowledged authority of the fifth commandment as such in the Christian Church is simply taken for granted.”

Benjamin B. Warfield

**MORAL LAW BEFORE
THE DECALOGUE**

Genesis 9:5-6 *And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. 6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.*

DECALOGUE

**6th Commandment -
Exodus 20:13** *“You shall not murder.*

**MORAL LAW AS A
RULE OF LIFE FOR
CHRISTIANS**

Romans 13:9 *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

MORAL LAW BEFORE
THE DECALOGUE

Genesis 39:7-9 *And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."* 8 *But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. 9 He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"*

DECALOGUE

7th Commandment -
Exodus 20:14 *"You shall not commit adultery.*

MORAL LAW AS A RULE
OF LIFE FOR
CHRISTIANS

Romans 13:9 *For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

MORAL LAW BEFORE
THE DECALOGUE

DECALOGUE

MORAL LAW AS A
RULE OF LIFE FOR
CHRISTIANS

Genesis 30:33 *So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen.*”

8th Commandment -
Exodus 20:15 “You shall not steal.”

Ephesians 4:28 *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

MORAL LAW BEFORE
THE DECALOGUE

Exodus 18:21 *Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.*

trustworthy - men of truth
(NASB)

DECALOGUE

9th Commandment -

Exodus 20:16 *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

MORAL LAW AS A
RULE OF LIFE FOR
CHRISTIANS

Ephesians 4:25 *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

Quote from - **Zechariah 8:16** *These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace;*

MORAL LAW BEFORE
THE DECALOGUE

Genesis 3:6 *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

DECALOGUE

10th Commandment -
Exodus 20:17 *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*

MORAL LAW AS A
RULE OF LIFE FOR
CHRISTIANS

Ephesians 5:3 *But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.*

The Law and the History of Redemption – Ten Commandments Given to Israel

“It is particularly noteworthy that sins which contravene the law (as breaches of the Ten Commandments) are also contrary to the sound doctrine of the gospel. So the moral standards of the gospel do not differ from the moral standards of the law. We must not therefore imagine that, because we have embraced the gospel, we may now repudiate the law!” **John Stott**

Psalm 1:1-2 *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*