

No. 4 The Law of Christ—Why Superior? (Branch representative)

Note to speaker:

While highlighting the benefits of the Mosaic Law, emphasize the superiority of following the law of Christ and the principles on which it is based. Encourage those in the audience to analyze their own motives for their decisions

A LAW THAT SERVED A VALUABLE PURPOSE (4 min.)

In 1513 B.C.E., Jehovah gave Israel the Law, which remained in effect for over 1,500 years

This code, given through Moses, consisted of over 600 laws

It revealed Jehovah's personality, including his dominant quality

Imagine a nation today having a law code that actually required love! (w96 9/1 11 ¶9)

The Mosaic Law prohibited murder and commanded: "You must *love* your fellow man as yourself" (Le 19:18)

The Law commanded regarding the foreigner: "You must *love* him as yourself" (Le 19:34)

The Law gave everyone an opportunity to show love in a very special way (De 6:5)

In 33 C.E., a significant change took place as a new, superior law went into effect—the *law of Christ*

Whereas the Mosaic Law was given only to fleshly Israel, "people of all the nations" could come under the law of Christ (Mt 28:18-20)

The Mosaic Law did serve an important purpose [**Read Galatians 3:23-25**] (w08 3/1 20-21)

But let us consider two ways that the law of Christ proves superior to the Mosaic Law

FIRST: THE LAW OF CHRIST IS *COMPREHENSIVE*—COVERING ALL AREAS OF LIVING (10 min.)

The law of Christ has far fewer direct commands than the Mosaic Law

The law of Christ emphasizes decision-making based on principles

Principles are often much broader than laws and may be applied in numerous situations, making them superior to laws

Laws tend to be narrower, specific, and may need to be amended or even replaced over time

Principles in the law of Christ are timeless and cover all areas of Christian living; they are always beneficial

Are you single? Are you a parent struggling to raise children? Are you coping with old age or infirmities?

Are you wanting to do more for Jehovah but find yourself sorely in debt?

In all of these situations and many more, Bible principles can help you

Your personal responsibility: Identify and then apply the principles that pertain to your situation

Obedying laws in general requires little thought on our part; however, it takes time and effort to consider which Bible principles apply in a given situation

To illustrate: When approaching a red traffic light, the appropriate action has already been determined—you must stop. However, if the light is yellow, you must judge your speed and distance from the intersection, check for crossing traffic, and determine whether it is safer to proceed through the light or to stop. A red light could be likened to a law, and a yellow light, to a principle requiring careful thought

Focusing on principles helps us to understand God's feelings about matters

As Christians, we do not need a rule on everything; nor should we be inclined to probe the edges of the rules, perhaps looking for ways to bend them in an attempt to justify a questionable action

We find an example in Joseph's refusing the immoral advances of Potiphar's wife

Though he had not received a law against adultery, Joseph was aware of the principles of marital faithfulness (Ge 2:24; 12:18-20; 20:6; w02 4/15 20-21 ¶9-10)

Joseph did not reason: *'I am a slave; maybe I should obey my master's wife. Besides, there's no one encouraging me to do what is right; I am a foreigner, away from my family. Who would know if I gave in to her advances?'*

Joseph's appreciation for godly principles powerfully influenced his actions [**Read Genesis 39:9**]

Jehovah will bless your determined efforts to identify and apply Bible principles

SECOND: THE LAW OF CHRIST "*BELONGS TO FREEDOM*" (10 min.)

Laws are not normally associated with *freedom* but, rather, with limits and restrictions

The law of Christ allows for the proper exercise of free will in certain areas (Jas 1:25)

Whereas the Israelites came under the Mosaic Law at birth, this is not the case with those observing the law of Christ

No one observes the law of Christ simply because of his birth or heredity but, rather, out of deep appreciation and affection for Jesus and his teachings, making it "the law of a free people" (Jas 2:12)

Your personal responsibility: Use your Christian freedom wisely [**Read 1 Peter 2:16**]

When exercising your right to choose, you need to consider all of the aspects of the law of Christ, one of which is respecting the conscience of others (Ro 14:13-18; 1Co 8:1-13)

A mature Christian will forgo a right for the sake of the good news (w92 9/1 22 ¶19)

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Our decisions should not cause people to conclude that we are anything other than worshippers of Jehovah (Ro 14:20, 21)

Rather than insist on our rights, we will be moved to “pursue the things making for peace and the things that build one another up” if we properly apply the law of Christ (Ro 14:19)

THE LAW OF CHRIST REFRESHES (5 min.)

The Mosaic Law was distorted by the Jewish religious leaders, who added rules and focused on trivialities

Elders today must take care not to “go beyond the things that are written” (1Co 4:6)

All in the congregation should strive to imitate Jesus, who refreshed those around him and warned against stumbling others **[Read Matthew 11:28; 18:6]**

Our satisfaction in bringing glory to our heavenly Father will more than make up for any inconveniences

Review question: What makes the law of Christ superior to the Mosaic Law?

Answer: 1 Peter 2:16; rather than outlining numerous direct commands, the law of Christ emphasizes making decisions based on godly principles that touch on every aspect of life. This allows its adherents to exercise their Christian freedom in a way that benefits them and others

Applying the law of Christ will refresh us and those around us, and it will draw us closer to Jehovah

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)