



## New Commandment

In the judicial world, a contract may become void if fulfilled or a change in laws occur after an agreement was reached. This is important because it will determine whether the duties you are performing to fulfill the contract are in vain.

### **Hebrews 7:12**

For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

In like manner, Jesus established a new order by fulfilling the Old Covenant and established the New Covenant. Since the Old Covenant has been fulfilled, there has been a change in law by which the New Covenant now operates. The Bible calls this new law, the **Law of Liberty** (also known as the Law of Christ), which is Christ Himself.

- Old Law – Law of Moses
- New Law – Law of Liberty (Christ Himself)

Since the Law of Moses has been changed due to its fulfillment, all the Old Testament commandments, including the ten commandments, have become void (because they have been fulfilled) for the believer in Christ and replaced with a new commandment.

### **1 John 2:7-8**

Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you...

The Apostle John is saying this new commandment is new in the sense that it is not the commandments given by Moses but is not new in the sense that he is not giving you fresh, never-heard-before commandment.

John is clear: The old commandment is the word you heard from the beginning. What beginning? Moses? No. That which was from the beginning, which he has heard, seen with his eyes, looked upon, and his hands have handled – Jesus Christ in the flesh. This is the commandment given by Christ Himself during His earthly ministry.

However, it is quite typical to look at the word *commandment* in John's letters and assume that John is speaking about the Law of Moses. Many even challenge those under grace based on these

verses in John's letters to submit the people back under the Law of Moses. But nothing can be further from the truth.

### **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.

Voila, there it is. It's not 'thou shalt not' but now it's 'only believe and love.' This is precisely what Jesus gave the night of the Passover in the upper room during his farewell party. (John 15)

To the surprise of many, this new commandment is opposite to Moses and the Prophets. These are the commandments which the entire old commandments hang on:

- Love God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, and with all your mind.
- Love your neighbor as you love yourself

But now the new commandments are:

- Believe in Christ
- Love one another as Christ loves you

Our new command is to believe in Christ and everything He accomplished via His finished work. In other words, it is to believe in His Grace. It is the only requirement to receive eternal life, righteousness, and all the blessings of God.

Obedying the first will determine how well we love others as Christ has loved us. So it is needful to find out how much God loves us because to that degree we will reciprocate that love to others.

### **1 John 5:3**

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

This is where Christian dyslexia comes in for many. They say, "I must keep His commandments in order to know God and receive His love." But this is actually saying the opposite, keeping his commands is the result of knowing and believing His love.

A well a great theologian during his time said it like this:

- That love of Christ to us, received into our hearts, and there producing an answering love to Him, will make us, in the measure in which we live in it and let it rule us, love everything and every person that He loves. - Alexander Maclaren

Notice it says that these new commandments are not burdensome. These commandments are not about Moses because the Law of Moses is burdensome. But Christ says His yoke is easy and light. It's about believing Jesus so Jesus can live within. As we soak up on His love and grace, we will love others as Christ loved us. Amen.

**By Joyner Briceno**