

Are you saved by keeping the Ten Commandments?

NO. You are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

You are not saved by keeping the Ten Commandments, but you live your life in harmony with the Ten Commandments because you are saved.

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NIV)

This means that you are not saved BY good works (keeping the law). Instead you are saved FOR good works (living out the gospel life).



sermon notes

If I Could Tell You One Thing
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Pastor John Speight
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As a Christian, Do I Have to Obey the Old Testament Law?

Two Extremes:

- _____ **Churches:** Following Jesus is all about keeping rules.
- _____ **Churches:** Following Jesus is all about grace and forgiveness with no concern for the law of God.

Misquote Romans 6:14 (NIV): “. . . *you are not under the law, but under grace.*”

Actual Verse: “For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.”

Some people say that the Old Testament is all about the law and the New Testament is all about grace. Are the Old Testament and New Testament in conflict with each other? No. God’s law and God’s grace are found in both the Old and New Testaments.

Article VI – Of the Old Testament

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testaments everlasting life is offered to humanity by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and humanity, being both God and Man himself . . . Although the law given from God by Moses that concerns ceremonies, rites and civil precepts are not binding on Christians, no Christian is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral.

—UMC Book of Discipline (paraphrased)

Old Testament—emphasizes law over grace
New Testament—emphasizes grace over law

Still, there is no conflict because both testaments combine to form ONE STORY.

The one story is _____
for humanity.

God gave his people three types of laws:

- _____ laws to organize their life together.
- _____ laws for how they were to worship God.
- _____ laws to make them holy, as God is holy.

Since law and grace are present in both the Old and New Testaments, do we Christians have to obey the law or not?

Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second one is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37–40 (NIV)

- “All the Law and the Prophets” = _____.
- The entire Old Testament is summed up and fulfilled by loving God completely and loving your neighbor as yourself!

Therefore, the ceremonial laws (male circumcision, dietary law) are not binding on Christians. The civil laws (“eye for an eye”) that deal with punishment and restitution are not binding on Christians.

What about the moral laws? The Ten Commandments?

As followers of Jesus, we are to model our life after the moral law of God. It’s how we “Love God, Love Others, and Live Out the Gospel Life.”

LOVING GOD

- By worshipping no other God.
- By not making an idol out of anything or anyone.
- By not misusing the name of God in our conversations.
- By keeping the Sabbath holy as a day of worship.

LOVING OTHERS (NEIGHBOR)

- By honoring our parents.
- By not committing murder.
- By not committing adultery.
- By not stealing.
- By not lying about others.
- By not desiring something or someone with evil intent.

Jesus made it clear that his followers are to live their lives in harmony with these commandments.