

ARE CHRISTIANS TO KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS TODAY?

Introduction

- 1) Many people who consider themselves part of the “Christian” world believe that they should keep the Ten Commandments in some way
- 2) The Ten Commandments are recorded in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21
 - a) They were written on tablets of stone (Ex. 31:18; 32:15-16)
 - b) Called the “Ten Commandments” (Ex. 34:28; Deut. 4:13; 10:4 “ten words”)
- 3) Are not Christians to keep God’s “commandments” (1 Cor. 7:19; 1 Jn. 5:2-3; Rev. 22:14)?
- 4) We must “rightly divide the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - a) Are the form and context of the Ten Commandments for us today?
 - b) Or does the covenant of Christ today contain these same commandments?

I) The “Ten Commandments” were Given to the Nation of Israel

- A) Given as a covenant specifically to the physical nation of Israel (Deut. 5:1-5, 22)
 - 1) Ten Commandments = words of covenant [Law of Moses] (Ex. 34:28)
- B) The covenant to Israel was not given to any other nation (Ex. 19:5-6; Psa. 147:19-20)

II) The Law of Moses (Old Covenant) was Taken Away and Replaced

- A) Jesus came to fulfill the Law (Matt. 5:17)
 - 1) When this was accomplished, the Law came to an end, was taken away, and replaced by a new and better covenant (Rom. 10:4; Heb. 8:6; 10:9)
- B) Old Testament – tablets of stone – ministry of death removed (2 Cor. 3:3, 6-7, 14)
- C) Abolished (Eph. 2:14-15); nailed to cross and taken away (Col. 2:14; see Acts 15:24)

III) Truth and Salvation Now Found in Christ and His Revelation

- A) God speaks to us today through His Son, not Moses (Heb. 1:1-2; 3:3)
- B) Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:17)

IV) Precepts Stated in Ten Commandments Now Taught in New Covenant of Christ

- A) Teaching of “Ten Commandment” precepts in the New Testament of Christ
 - 1) *No other gods* (Eph. 4:6; 1 Cor. 8:4-6)
 - 2) *Not worship idols* (1 Cor. 10:14; 1 Jn. 5:21)
 - 3) *Not take God’s name in vain* (Eph. 4:29)
 - 4) *Honor father and mother* (Eph. 6:2)
 - 5) *Not murder* (Rom. 13:9; Jas. 2:11; Gal. 5:21)
 - 6) *Not commit adultery* (Rom. 13:9; Jas. 2:11; Heb. 13:4)
 - 7) *Not steal* (Rom. 13:9; Eph. 4:28)
 - 8) *Not bear false witness* (Rom. 13:9; Eph. 4:25)
 - 9) *Not covet* (Rom. 13:9; Heb. 13:5)
- B) We follow these precepts by appealing not to Ten Commandments, but to law of Christ!
 - 1) God’s moral principles continue across changing covenants and cultures
- C) The only commandment not commanded in NT is the fourth – *keep the Sabbath day*
 - 1) Holy day of worship now is first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10)
 - 2) Sabbath-keeping part of law “shadows” that have now passed away (Col. 2:16-17)

Conclusion

Christians do not keep the “Ten Commandments” of the old covenant because we are not under the Law of Moses today. Today we hear and follow only the commandments of the new covenant of Christ Jesus that do include nine of those ten commandments.