

Are Christians Still Under the Law?

- 1) **The Jerusalem Controversy** – The Apostolic Counsel considers the question if Gentile Christians must keep the law and be circumcised.
 - a) Acts 15:1-32

- 2) **Scriptures comparing law and grace**
 - a) John 1:17 Law by Moses, But Grace and Truth by Jesus
 - b) Galatians 2:21 Don't Frustrate the Grace of God (Frustrate= GR-set aside, disesteem, neutralize, violate)
 - c) Galatians 3:10 – Everyone under the law is under a curse unless you do EVERYTHING perfectly as the law commands continually.
 - d) Galatians 5:4 – Fallen From Grace
 - e) Romans 4:16
 - f) Romans 6:14 – Not under law but grace
 - g) Gal 2:16 – Knowing that a man is not **justified** by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be **justified** by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: **for by the works (obedience of action) of the law shall no flesh be justified.**
 - h) Gal. 2:21 – If the law is still good Christ is dead in vain
 - i) Gal 3:11 – But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is evident*: for, The just shall live by faith.
 - j) Gal 5:18 – But if you are led of the Spirit, you are not under the law.
 - k) Hebrews 10:1 Law was a shadow of that which was to come

- 3) **Jesus came not to destroy the law but fulfill it.**
 - a) Destroy GR: *kat-al-oo'-o* From G2596 and G3089; to *loosen down (disintegrate)*, that is, (by implication) to *demolish* (literally or figuratively); specifically (compare G2646) to *halt* for the night: - destroy, dissolve, be guest, lodge, come to nought, overthrow, throw down.
 - b) Fulfill GR: *play-ro'-o* From G4134; to *make replete*, that is, (literally) to *cram* (a net), *level* up (a hollow), or (figuratively) to *furnish* (or *imbue, diffuse, influence*), *satisfy, execute* (an office), *finish* (a period or task), *verify* (or *coincide* with a prediction), etc.: - accomplish, X after, (be) complete, end, expire, fill (up), fulfill, (be, make) full (come), fully preach, perfect, supply.
 - c) Possible Interpretations:
 - i) Jesus reaffirmed the entire law (not one jot or tittle shall pass) and was sent to confirm it, living perfectly, to show us it could be done, dying to eliminate animal sacrifices only.
 - ii) Jesus Fulfilled the law and the prophets
 - (1) with his own perfect righteousness (this had NEVER been done before) This in the sense that a covenant or contract is fulfilled; once fulfilled it is no longer necessary.
 - (2) by fulfilling the prophecies about his birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, coronation and subsequent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
 - (3) by continuing to fulfill prophecy (return of Israel in 1948, etc)
 - (4) the consummation of the age and the second coming

- (5) The law and the prophets will not pass away until ALL be fulfilled. The law still serves to show man he can not be righteousness in his own efforts and there are yet prophecies to be fulfilled. It hasn't passed in that sense but it is no longer binding on the Christian to make him/her right with God.

4) The Galatian Controversy

- a) Gal. 2:16-21 – Jerusalem controversy – not justified by the law
- b) Gal. 3:1-29 – Process of righteousness
- c) Gal. 4:1-11 – The law is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ (temporary until faith came)
- d) Gal 4:19-31 – Allegory of Abrahams two sons – bond and free

5) Are Christians to keep OT Rituals Absolutely Essential to the Law?

- a) Circumcision
 - i) Gal 5:1-4 – If you be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. You're a debtor to the whole law.
 - ii) Romans 2:28-29 – Not outward of the flesh, But inward of the heart
 - iii) I Cor 7:19
 - iv) Gal. 6:15
 - v) Col. 2:11-17
 - vi) Col. 3:11
- b) Holy Days (Holidays)
 - i) Col 2:16-17 – OT rituals are shadows of the NT reality
 - ii) Romans 14:4-6
- c) Dietary Laws
 - i) Acts 10:10-16 – Peter's vision
 - ii) I Cor. 8:8 – Food does not gain us favor with God
 - iii) Col 2:14-17 – Let no man judge you
 - iv) Romans 14:1-3 – Notice the ones who don't eat or considered the "weak" ones
 - v) Romans 14:4 – Nothing Unclean
 - vi) Romans 14:17 – The kingdom of God does not consist in what we eat

6) The Old and New Covenants – The entire book of Hebrews argues that the entire OT law, priesthood, temple and sacrificial system is inferior to the Ministry of Christ.

- a) Hebrews 8:10-13 – The New Covenant does away with the old Covenant
- b) Hebrews 7:12
- c) Hebrews 7:22

7) Abraham and righteousness by faith vs. deeds of the law

- a) Romans 4 Righteousness by (through) faith outside of the law and OT covenant of circumcision.
- b) Galatians 3