

History and Survey of the Westminster Confession of Faith

Leadership College: Module 2

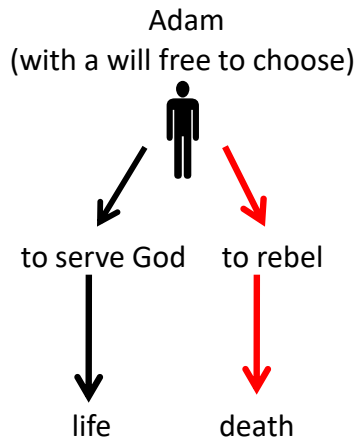
Part 2: The Doctrine of the Confession
Of the Law of God (ch. 19)



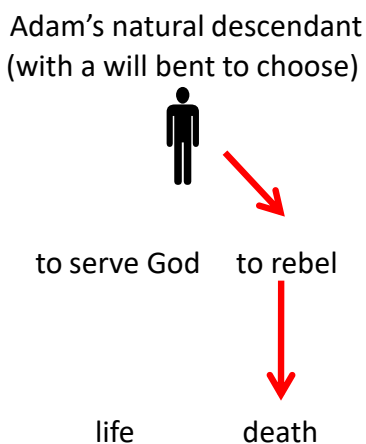
Ch. 19 – Of the Law of God

1. God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience, promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it.

Before the fall ... Adam was *able to sin*.



... but after, Adam now is *not able not to sin*.



Ch. 19 – Of the Law of God



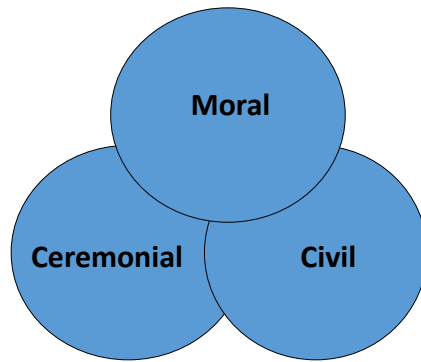
1. God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience, promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it.

2. This law, after his fall, continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness; and, as such, was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in ten commandments, and written in two tables: the first four commandments containing our duty towards God; and the other six, our duty to man.

Ch. 19 – Of the Law of God

3. Beside this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly, holding forth divers instructions of moral duties. All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated, under the new testament.

4. To them also, as a body politic, he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the State of that people; not obliging any other now, further than the general equity thereof may require.



Moral Law – Right & Wrong

Gen. 1:1

Rev. 20:15

Ceremonial Law – anticipating the Messiah

Gen. 3:15

Jn. 19:30



Civil Law – Israel's Unique Theocracy

Ex. 19:12

2 Chron. 26:21



Ch. 19 – Of the Law of God

5. The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that, not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator, who gave it. Neither doth Christ, in the gospel, any way dissolve, but much strengthen this obligation.

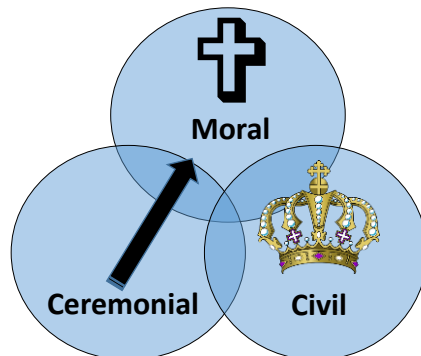
From Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:17-20, ESV)



Moral Law – Right & Wrong

Gen. 1:1

Rev. 20:15

Ceremonial Law – anticipating the Messiah

Gen. 3:15

Jn. 19:30



Civil Law – Israel's Unique Theocracy

Ex. 19:12

2 Chron. 26:21



Ch. 19 – Of the Law of God – 1st Use

6. Although true believers be not under the law, as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified, or condemned; yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life informing them of the will of God, and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly;

Moral Law – Right & Wrong

Gen. 1:1

Rev. 20:15

The Moral Law = ‘Christian Ethics’

Positive Command

5. Honor Father/Mother
6. Do not murder
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not bear false witness
10. Do not covet



Negative Prohibition

5. Do not dishonor parents
6. Protect human life
7. Support/defend marriage
8. Respect private property
9. Protect neighbor's reputation
10. Learn contentment

Ch. 19 – Of the Law of God – 2nd Use

6. Although true believers be not under the law, as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified, or condemned; yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life informing them of the will of God, and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; discovering also the sinful pollutions of their nature, hearts, and lives; so as, examining themselves thereby, they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against sin, together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and the perfection of his obedience.

Ch. 19 – Of the Law of God – 2nd Use

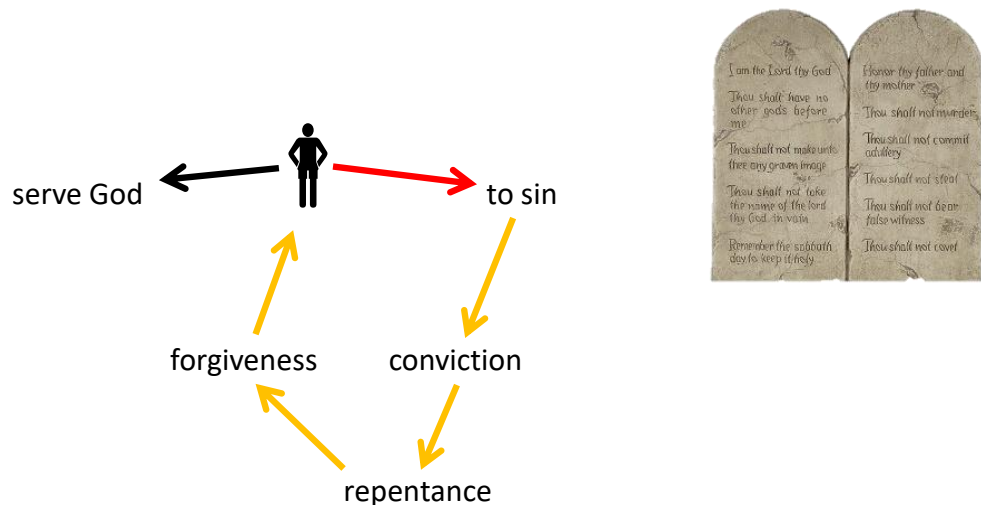
¹ *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Ps. 1:1-2, ESV)*

²¹ *So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (Rom. 7:21-25, ESV)*

Ch. 19 – Of the Law of God – 3rd Use

It is likewise of use to the regenerate, to restrain their corruptions, in that it forbids sin: and the threatenings of it serve to show what even their sins deserve; and what afflictions, in this life, they may expect for them, although freed from the curse there of threatened in the law.

The promises of it, in like manner, show them God's approbation of obedience, and what blessings they may expect upon the performance thereof: although not as due to them by the law as a covenant of works. So as, a man's doing good, and refraining from evil, because the law encourageth to the one, and deterreth from the other, is no evidence of his being under the law; and, not under grace.



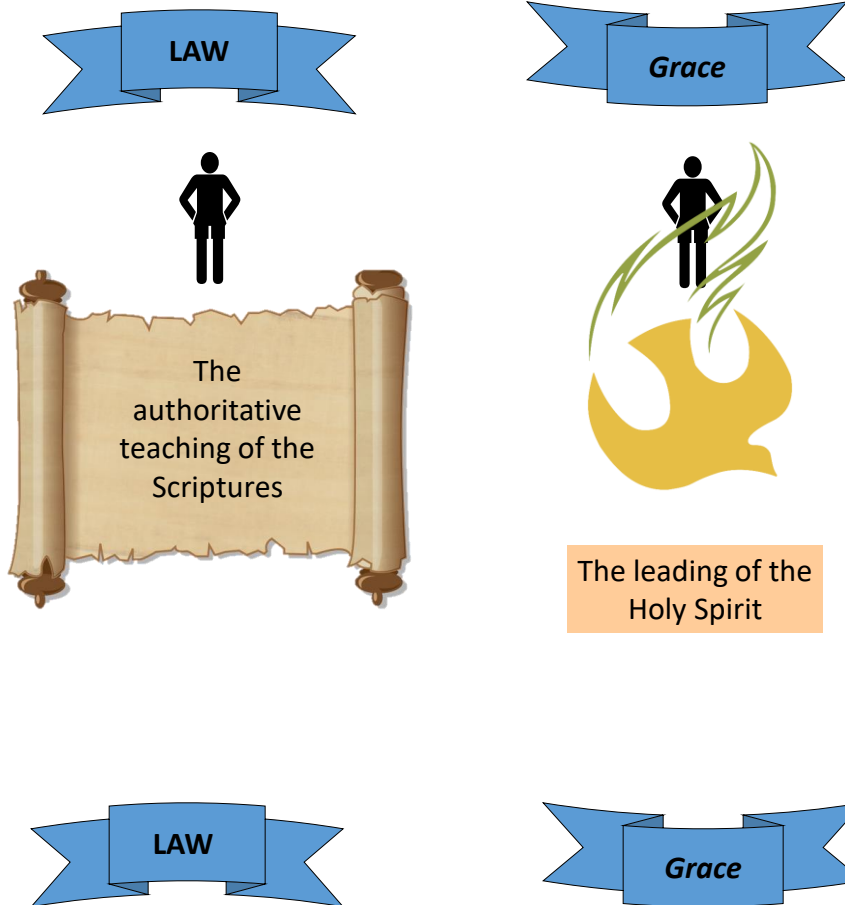
The Moral Law of God guides our way of life.

Ch. 19 – Of the Law of God

7. Neither are the forementioned uses of the law contrary to the grace of the gospel, but do sweetly comply with it; the Spirit of Christ subduing and enabling the will of man to do that freely, and cheerfully, which the will of God, revealed in the law, requireth to be done.

Excurses: Law vs. Grace

*“Isn’t the law done away with
now that we are under grace?”*



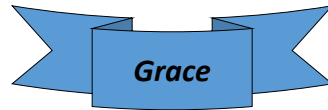
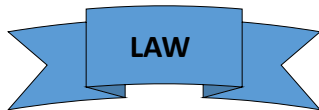
- a) It makes us think that the OT saints had to earn their salvation by obedience.

*“For the law was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*

(Jn. 1:17)

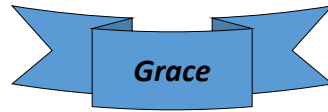
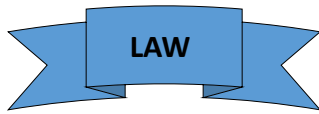
***“For I know
that my Redeemer
lives,
and at the last he
will stand upon
the earth.”***

(Job 19:25)



- b) It makes us think grace frees us from obedience to God.

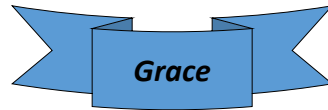
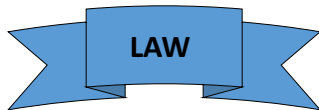
*“What is sin?”
Manmade Legalism is created
to replace God’s law*



- b) It makes us think grace frees us from obedience to God.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

(Mt. 5:17)

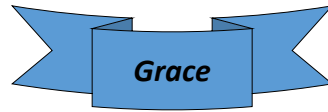
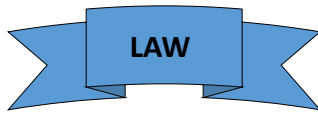


- b) It makes us think grace frees us from obedience to God.

You have heard it said:

do not murder ...

do not commit adultery ...



- c) It suggests we conclude a difference between OT believers and NT believers regarding their relationship to God.

Jewish nation

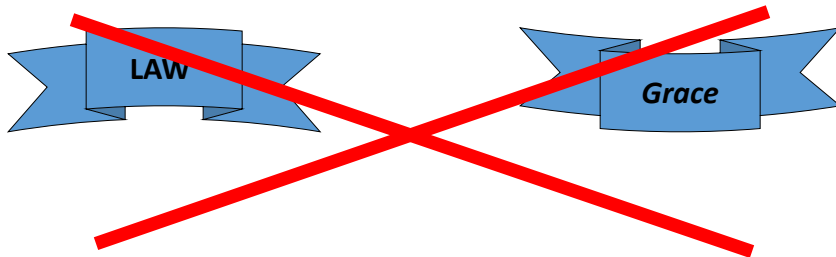
Christian Church

Physical promises

Spiritual promises

Earthly inheritance

Heavenly inheritance



***The opposite of law is not grace,
the opposite of law is lawlessness.***

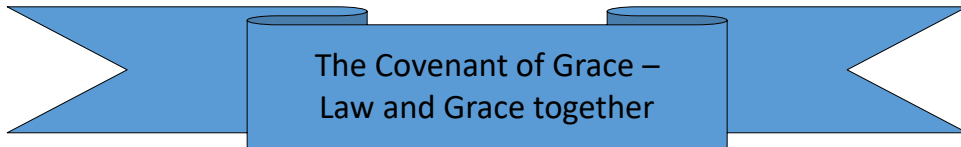
The opposite of grace is justice.

Romans 6:14-15

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?

By no means!



The Moral Law points the unbeliever to Christ
and directs the believer to Christlikeness.

“For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” (Mt. 5:18)

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!
(Ps. 119:1)

Law and grace together
are throughout the entire story
of redemption.

Video Recordings of this Class: www.Ephesians515.com

Look carefully then how you walk,
not as unwise but as wise,
making the most of the time,
because the days are evil. (Eph. 5:15-16, ESV)

Redimete Diem!



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Survey of the
Confession of Faith

Leadership College: Module 2
Outline of the Confession
Christian Liberty
Conscience (ch. 20)

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Video recordings, 2023

Part 1: Doctrine

- 1/8 1. Intro, Chapter 1: Of the Holy Scripture
<https://youtu.be/RILFP6A8vE>
- 1/15 2. Chapter 2: Of God, and of the Holy Trinity
Chapter 3: Of God's Eternal Decree
<https://youtu.be/Q1IE6pU7HevY>
- 1/22 3. Chapter 4: Of Creation
Chapter 5: Of Providence
<https://youtu.be/jruqAw49CV4>
- 1/29 4. Chapter 6: Of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment Thereof
Chapter 7: Of God's Covenant with Man
Chapter 8: Of Christ the Mediator
<https://youtu.be/k3qXF7RH0UU>
- 2/5 5. Chapter 9: Of Free Will
Chapter 10: Of Effectual Calling
Chapter 11: Of Justification
Chapter 12: Of Adoption
Chapter 13: Of Sanctification
Chapter 14: Of Saving Faith
Chapter 15: Of Repentance unto Life
<https://youtu.be/GQc7llk44>
- 2/12 6. Chapter 16: Of Good Works
Chapter 17: Of the Perseverance of the Saints
Chapter 18: Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation
<https://youtu.be/hA9yvc-xmc>
- 2/19 7. Chapter 19: Of the Law of God
Chapter 20: Of Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience
<https://youtu.be/9nYeUNbNug> (2021 recording)

