

Abigail S. Cesar

Professor Emanuel

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Written Assignment 3

There seems to be a recurring doctrine circulating within the Christian community, a generalization of this thought process can be repeated as follows: “There is no need for Christians to obey the Law (Ten Commandments) anymore because we don’t gain our righteousness through it, but only through our faith in Christ.” This tends to be quite a controversial topic due to a solid majority of Christians having opposing views as to whether this statement holds true or not. However, it must be remembered that for this statement to be true it must be in alignment with God’s Word.

The 10 Commandments are located in the Old Testament section of the bible, more specifically, it is first mentioned in Exo 20:2-17. It is a list of rules, given to Moses by God, which the Israelites were instructed to follow. If anyone broke a law or “sinned” in those days, they would have to go to the temple and see the priest or present sacrificial offerings to make amends with God. Salvation wasn’t determined by the Israelites relationship with God at that time, it was determined by their obedience to the law and how righteous they were. If they obeyed the 10 Commandments they were rewarded with their salvation. If not, hellfire.

God realized that this system wasn't working and that His people weren't respecting Him; He wanted to open up salvation to the world, for both Jews and Gentiles alike. To achieve this, He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross. He was offered up as the sacrificial lamb to atone for everyone's sins if they choose to accept His grace. In the New Testament (modern times) if we repent of our sins and believe in the gospel of Christ we will be forgiven. This is a constant recurring theme in the New Testament and we can see an example of this in Mar 16:16 NIV where it states "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Referring back to the original question concerning whether Christians should obey the Ten Commandments or not, the only answer that aligns itself in accordance with the biblical script would be yes! Christians should try to obey the Ten Commandments to the best of their ability. Jesus sacrificed himself to save us from the heavy guilt of our sins -because all men are born into sin and deserving of judgment- however, He didn't tell us to live however we see fit. As He states in Mat 5:19-20 NIV, "19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven." Jesus is clear on His stance regarding the law. One might ask themselves "I thought all we have to do is love each other and we're good in God's eyes?" Technically, this is true. The law was created to protect one another, if we act out of love at all times we'll never hurt anyone. In Rom 13:8-10 NIV, Paul says "8 Let

no debt remains outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” In other words, if we make our decisions based on love we will be obeying the law unintentionally.

Another question one might ask is “If we’re living under grace as Christians, why must we still obey the law?” The answer is simple. Imagine a father telling his child how to live right. The child knows that if he disobeys he will be punished, however, he also knows that the father loves him and will forgive him. The child breaks the father’s heart repeatedly, demanding forgiveness and grace in return. Now imagine the father represents God and the child represents us; we’re taking advantage of the love he’s displaying, showing Him that we don’t love Him back. This is wrong; one of the most basic commandments that God gave us was to “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**” (Mat 22: 37 NIV) to achieve salvation. If we’re abusing the gift of grace He gave us, we don’t love Him. This same concept is mentioned in Heb 10:26-29 NIV where it states, “26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has

trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

Cesar 4

We are living under grace and we will fall to sin from time to time, the enemy knows all of our weaknesses and will try to get us to fall. God understands the battle we face and will forgive us for the mistakes we make, as shown in 1Joh 1:9 NIV which states " 9If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." God knows our innermost thoughts and intentions. If we make a mistake He will show us mercy out of love, however, if we sin intentionally and rationalize with ourselves by saying "Jesus died for my sins," "God will forgive me anyways," or "God knows my heart," we are not only taking advantage of Him but abusing His grace and showing Him that we don't love Him as much as we may proclaim.

Jesus loves us and He would do anything for us, He laid down His life for us so that we might have the chance of joining Him someday. However, He isn't dumb. He knows when He is loved and when he's being abused; He won't tolerate evil hearts in His kingdom. We should follow the 10 Commandments as Christians because it shows that we're trying to abide by His wishes. It shows that we respect Him and most of all, love him.