

## The Law of the Spirit of Life

Hebrews 10:15-16

Hebrews is written for early Jewish (Hebrew) followers of Christ. These Christians went to the Temple and participated in all the customs of the Law (Acts 20:21). The radical nature of the book of Hebrews is seen in Christ fulfilling the Law, then 'setting it aside' (Heb. 10:9) in order to establish a New Covenant. This new agreement is a promise that God gives sinners *"righteousness by grace through faith in Christ."* This is the essence of Christianity. We have seen that the New Covenant has a new people (Jews and Gentiles), a new Temple (*we are the Temple of the Living God*), and new and even better promises. But to know the depth, fullness and richness of the New Covenant, we should study carefully Heb. 10:15-18. ***"This is the covenant ..."*** God is speaking and describing His New Covenant. Listen carefully to His words.

### I. God gives us a new legal system and writes it upon our heart (v. 18).

The Hebrews had a legal system written on stone. The stone tablets were the 'sign of the covenant,' but the Law encompassed everything in the life of the Hebrews—613 laws and regulations for living. Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law and set it aside. We don't sacrifice, observe a Sabbath, or obey the Law. But that does not mean we are a 'lawless people,' as some might accuse followers of Jesus Christ. God has given us a new Law. Not on stone. Not a list of ordinances. He has written His Law within us. *"The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus"* (Romans 8:2). The evidence of grace on you is life in you.

#### A. Focus not on your disappointments, but your desires.

A person who comprehends the New Covenant is not looking to an external code, but is relying on internal life. You are free from "the law of sin and death," because you have the Spirit of life. If I am constantly asking myself, "What should I do?" I may have lost any sense of "Who I am!"

#### B. Feel the Spirit of life within you and follow Him.

You say, "No, no, no! I need somebody to tell me what I should do!" Uh, hum. That's why the power of the Spirit-filled life is foreign to you. *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another"* (John 13:34). When you love the way Christ loves you the entire focus of your relationships will be on the other person.

#### C. Find your fulfillment in God and trust your instincts.

*"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart!"* (Psalm 37:4).

### II. The new legal system is the only thing to which you should ever bind yourself.

Resist any urge or temptation to bind yourself to a set of laws that are not within your heart. Why?

#### A. The Royal Law of the Spirit's love supersedes every other law.

The world, the church and other people will establish for you a system of laws, written and unwritten, and will try to convince you to follow them. Follow what is written in your heart. James 2:8 calls "love your neighbor as yourself" the Royal Law of God. It is evidenced in the story of the good Samaritan. No church should ever bind you to any law but the law of love.

#### B. The Royal Law of the Spirit's love gives you strength in the face of rejection.

When you truly love someone, it is never about what that person can give to you, but it is all about what you can give to that person you love. This is the mark of genuine 'zoe' life in you.

### III. The new legal system within you is the ultimate identifying marker of true Christianity.

*"By this shall all know you are my disciples"* (John 13:35). So I say to believers everywhere, follow your heart. You know deep inside of you that it is love for God, for your family and for others that is life for you. Don't let the world, business or the church attempt to displace that love with rules.