



Our Way (Exodus 20:1-17; Mark 12:28-31)
Welcome to the Story pt. 6
Pastor Tim Peck

THE BIG IDEA

Followers of Jesus are under the “Law of Christ,” which is the way of love: Love for God and love for others.

OPENING

- What comes to your mind when you hear the words “love” and “law” used together?

DIGGING DEEPER

- According to Bible scholar Douglas Moo, *“The entire Mosaic law [of the Sinai Covenant] comes to fulfillment in Christ, and this fulfillment means that this law is no longer a direct and immediate source of, or judge of, the conduct of God’s people. Christian behavior, rather, is now guided directly by ‘the law of Christ.’ This ‘law’ does not consist of legal prescriptions and ordinances, but of the teaching and example of Jesus and the apostles, the central demand of love, and the guiding influence of the indwelling Holy Spirit.”*¹ How does 1 Corinthians 9:20-21 support this conclusion?
- The relationship between the laws of the Sinai Covenant and the “Law of Christ” (1 Corinthians 9:21) is a complex one. In general, we can assume the following two rules when reading the Bible:

Every law from the Sinai Covenant that *is reaffirmed* by Jesus or his apostles in the New Testament is still binding on Christians today.

Every law from the Sinai Covenant that *is not reaffirmed* by Jesus or his apostles in the New Testament can be assumed to be set aside now that the Sinai Covenant has been fulfilled by Jesus.²

How can these two rules be helpful?

¹ Douglas Moo, “The Law of Christ as the Fulfillment of the Law of Moses,” in *Five Views on Law and Gospel* (Zondervan Publishing 1996), p. 343.

²See Moo, “The Law of Christ as the Fulfillment of the Law of Moses,” pp. 319-76.

- Christians in the Reformed tradition often divide the laws of the Sinai Covenant into three categories: moral laws, ceremonial laws, and civil laws.³ Most of the moral laws from the Sinai Covenant are reaffirmed in the New Testament as binding on Christians. However, the ceremonial laws and civil laws are not. How is this helpful for reading the laws of the Old Testament? If these laws are not binding for Christians today, what can we learn from them?
- How does Jesus surprise people in his response to the question about the greatest commandment in Mark 12?
- Why do you think love is so important to the “Law of Christ” for Christians? How do love and moral laws work together?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Spend time this week thinking about a challenging situation in your life. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you what love for God and love for your neighbor might look like in this situation. Share what you sense God saying with your small group. Does your group confirm this direction? What other insights do they add?

PRAYER REQUESTS

³See for example *The Westminster Confession of Faith* XXI “Of the Law of God,” articles 3-5.