

Must Christians keep the Law of Moses?

Paul's answer:

"Tell me, those of you who want to live under the Law: Are you really listening to what the Law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman" (Gal. 4:21-22, ISV).

*"This is being said as an allegory, for these women represent two covenants. The one woman, Hagar, is from **Mount Sinai**, and her children are born into slavery" (Gal. 4:24, ISV, my emphasis).*

(The Law of Moses was given on **Mount Sinai**).

"Drive out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman must never share the inheritance with the son of the free woman. So then, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman but of the free woman" (Gal. 4:30-31, ISV).

"But now that you know God, or rather have been known by God, how can you turn back again to those powerless and bankrupt basic principles? Why do you want to become their slaves all over again? You are observing days, months, seasons, and years. I am afraid for you! I don't want my work for you to have been wasted!" (Gal. 4:9-11, ISV).

"So let no one make rules about what you eat or drink or about holy days or the New Moon Festival or the Sabbath. All such things are only a shadow of things in the future; the reality is Christ" (Col. 2:16-17, GNB).

(The whole context of the Book of Galatians confirms that these scriptures refer to Christians who want to subject themselves to elements of the Law of Moses).

*"Are you so ignorant? Don't you know that nothing that goes into a person from the outside can make him unclean? Because it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and is expelled as waste." **(By this he declared all foods clean.)** He continued, "It's what comes out of a person that makes a person unclean, because it's from within, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come, as well as sexual immorality, stealing, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, cheating, shameless lust, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness. All these things come from inside and make a person unclean" (Mark 7:19-23, ISV, my emphasis).*

(This piece of Scripture contradicts the idea that Christians have to subject themselves to the keeping of certain Old Testament dietary laws. There is nothing wrong, however, with following a healthy diet for hygienic reasons).

A warning to those who selectively want to keep only certain of the more than six hundred Old Testament laws:

"Certainly all who depend on the actions of the Law are under a curse. For it is written, "A curse on everyone who does not obey everything that is written in the Book of the Law!" (Gal. 3:10, ISV).

No longer under the Law!

“And so the Law was our guardian until the Messiah came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come about, we are no longer under a guardian”
(Gal.3:24-25,ISV).

“For Christ has brought the Law to an end, so that everyone who believes is put right with God” **(Rom.10:4,GNB).**

“He abolished the Jewish Law with its commandments and rules, in order to create out of the two races one new people in union with himself, in this way making peace” **(Eph.2:15).**

*“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of **ordinances** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross...”* **(Col.2:13-14, KJV, my emphasis).**

“ordinances” (“dogma” – Greek,Col.2:14,KJV) = “...decree or command of the Mosaic Law” – The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament – Spiros Zodhiates

“handwriting of ordinances” (Col.2:14,KJV) – “It refers to the complete law of Moses”- Dakes Annotated Reference Bible

Conclusion

“A little leaven leavens all the lump” **(Gal. 5:9).**

“A little leaven [a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers] leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church] **(Gal.5:9, Amplified Bible, my emphasis).**

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that person be condemned!” **(Gal.1:8-9, ISV)**

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