

ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD'S LAW #3 (THE GOSPEL AGE)

A. God had laws regulating human conduct from the creation through the Mosaical period.

B. And though the Law was given to Israelites, when that law was in effect, law & sin also existed in the Gentile world.

1. Much of the Old Law applied only to Jews, but there were “things in [that] law” & a “work of [that] law” that also applied to Gentiles.

Rom 2:11-15 – For there is no partiality with God. 12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, & as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law 13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; 14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the *things* [definite article] in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, 15 who show the *work* of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, & between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

C. Are all human beings accountable to the law of Christ?

1. Many things revealed in the NT are obviously directed to the Christian:
 - a. Lord's supper, prayer, singing, spiritual growth....

2. And some things revealed in the NT do NOT apply to all Christians:
 - a. Laws to fathers don't apply to children.
 - b. Laws to wives don't apply to their husbands.
 - c. Laws to elder's don't apply to deacons.
 - d. Some laws regulating spiritual gifts don't apply to us, while some do (1 Cor 14:13; 1 Cor 13).
 - e. We can neither obey nor disobey some laws.

[**Though** certain laws of Christ may not apply to us, that doesn't mean that we are not accountable to the law of Christ. **The** same is true of non Christians. **Though** some laws of Christ do not apply to them, that doesn't mean that they're not accountable to the law of Christ. **Otherwise**, why would anyone become a Christian?]

I. MISSION OF JESUS & PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL

Jn 3:17 [**Mission of Jesus**] – For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be **saved** (cf. **Lk 19:10**).

Rom 1:16 [**Purpose of gospel**] – For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to **salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first & also for the Greek.

Eph 2:1 – And you He made alive, who were **dead** in trespasses & sins,

A. The mission of Jesus IS the purpose of the gospel: salvation.

1. Salvation for the soul of man, being saved from spiritual death caused by trespasses & sins.

2. The world, including Jew & Gentile, was dead in its sins before before Christ came ([Rom 3:9](#)).

3. Since “sin is not imputed [[to charge to one’s account, to lay to one’s charge](#)] when there is no law” ([Rom 5:13](#)), then Jew & Gentile were under divine law.

4. But now that the gospel is in effect, sin is imputed when men disobey Jesus Christ ([Matt 28:18](#); [Acts 17:31](#); [Rom 2:16](#)).
 - a. Because His laws are the single authority remaining in force today in heaven & on earth.

 - b. There is no separate law of the heart as their was in OT times ([Rom 2:14-15](#)).

[In a few minutes, we’ll take a look at the law of Christ & identify some specific sins of those who are not in the body of Christ.]

II. THE UNIVERSAL AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

John 17:1-2 – Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, & said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as **You have given Him authority over all flesh**, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him...” (cf. **Matt 28:18**).

A. Some argue that Jesus only has authority over the church, & that Satan rules the world.

1. The only power Satan has is through the voluntary service of mortal men when they defy the will of God.
 - a. That’s what designates him as “the god of this world” (**2 Cor 4:4**).
 - b. That’s why he tempted Jesus with “the kingdoms of the world & their glory” (**Matt 4:9**).
 - c. But Satan has no power to make men accountable to him.
 - d. He cannot guide the course of human events.
 - e. He does not “determine their preappointed times & the boundaries of their dwellings” (**Acts 17:26**).

B. On the other hand, both old & new testaments inform us that Jesus Christ would have & now has universal authority.

Psa 2:6 – Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You [**resurrection**]. 8 Ask of Me, & **I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, & the ends of the earth for Your possession.** 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ 10 **Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth.** 11 **Serve the LORD with fear, & rejoice with trembling.** 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, & you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Eph 1:20-21 – which He worked in **Christ [God’s mighty power, vs. 19]** when He raised Him from the dead & seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 **far above all principality & power & might & dominion** , & every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

[**All** who are in positions of authority, whether in heaven or on earth, whether it be executive, legislative or judicial power, as well as all subjects of that authority are ultimately answerable to the word of Jesus Christ.]

III. SPECIFIC SINS OF NON CHRISTIANS

A. **Whether one is a Christian or not, only one thing will condemn the soul to the torments of hell, & that is sin.**

1 Cor 5:9-11 – I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the *sexually immoral* people of this world, or with the *covetous*, or **extortioners**, or **idolaters**, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is *sexually immoral*, or *covetous*, or an **idolater**, or a **reviler**, or a **drunkard**, or an **extortioner** -- not even to eat with such a person.

1. The unredeemed, unregenerated people of the world can be guilty of the same sins that a Christian might be; AND they are sins because they are identified as such & condemned by the word of Christ.

1 Cor 6:9-11 – Do you not know **that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived. **Neither *fornicators*, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.** 11 **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus & by the Spirit of our God.

Gal 5:19-21 – Now **the works of the flesh** are evident, which are: *adultery, fornication*, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, & the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, **that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Eph 5:5-6 – 5 For this you know, **that no *fornicator*, unclean person, nor *covetous man*, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ & God.** 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience** [*implying accountability to Christ*].

Col 3:5-9 – Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: *fornication*, uncleanness, *passion, evil desire, & covetousness*, which is idolatry. 6 **Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience**, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: **anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another**, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.

Rev 9:20-21 – But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, & idols..., which can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 **And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their *sexual immorality* or their thefts.**

[**Sexual** sins, including sins against God's marriage laws, are sins that require repentance. **Those** guilty of such sins must bring their lives into compliance with the teaching of Christ].

CLOSING

A. The Hebrew writer separated sexual sins into two groups: fornication & adultery (Heb 13:4).

1. “Fornication” is the broader term & applies to all forms of sexual sins: *adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, & premarital relations*.
2. “Adultery” usually refers to *marital infidelity*.

B. Just as a non Christian can be guilty of murder, stealing & lying, he can also be guilty of *adultery* by being in conflict with the teaching of Christ on marriage & divorce.

C. In our next lesson in this series, we’ll study the divine laws concerning marriage, divorce & remarriage.