

Trends

According to the Pew Research Center many mainline Protestant denominations believe it's "ok" for women to have an abortion (i.e., murder their unborn baby!). These include: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Unitarian Universalist, United Church of Christ, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the United Methodist Church. Roman Catholicism's official stance is anti-abortion, but nearly 50% of its members support abortion. The Scriptures condemn the shedding of innocent blood nearly 50 times. Evidently these folks either don't read the Bible or don't believe, or both!

- data from Pew Research Center; comments from editor

2 Kings 24:4: "and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the LORD would not pardon."

Sentence Sermons

"I go on the principle that a public debt is a public curse, and in a Republican Government a greater curse than any other." —James Madison

Romans 13:8: "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from a brain tumor. She had another successful round of chemo and is due for a scan on 9/16. Please pray for her and her family.

I am so grateful that the good church in Terre Haute invited me to preach in their gospel meeting this past Wednesday. Their was a good crowd, the audience was attentive and many were taking notes. The lesson ("The Starbreather") was well-received. All of this gave me and Dawne so much encouragement! If you ever have the chance, don't hesitate to meet with these wonderful saints!

Please pray for my daughter Dawne. She returned to school on Monday, 8/29. She still has trouble speaking as her mouth remains restricted by rubber bands.

Pray for the all of our students. Schools are back in session and bring many temptations to our young people.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You
have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



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**What is the difference between
the Old and New Testaments?**

Craig Thomas

We know that in order for one to be "good steward" a man must be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). This, of course, involves being able to "rightly divide the word of truth" as Paul instructed the young preacher Timothy to do in 1 Timothy 2:15. This becomes especially important when dealing with the Old and New Testaments. In order to understand anything about the scheme of redemption (God's plan for saving man) one must first understand the difference between the Old and New Testaments. So what is the difference between them?

1) **They involved different parties.** The Law of Moses as contained in the Old Testament was only meant for the Jewish nation. In Deuteronomy 5:2-3 Moses clearly identifies that "The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day." Thus, the Law of Moses was not given to the patriarchs ("fathers") nor was it given to the Gentiles or to Christians. The Old Testament law was never meant for anyone else but the Jews. Since there no longer exists a race of pure Jews in the world today (Jer. 31:35-36; Matt. 23:37-38; 24:29; 1 Tim. 1:4; Titus 3:9) the old law is no longer in force. The old law was "nailed to the cross" (Col. 2:14) and a new "testament" came in force at "the death of the testator," Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:16-17). Unlike the Old Testament, the New Testament is meant for all men, all nations, everywhere (Mk. 16:15-16; Eph. 2:13-22).

2) **They had different purposes.** The old law could never make anyone justified in God's sight (Heb. 10:1-4). As a result, something had to change. Christ came to do this very thing (Jn. 1:17, 29). God promised Abraham in Genesis 12:3 that eventually "all families of the earth" would be blessed through his seed. We learn from Galatians 3:19 that the old law was "added because of transgressions until the seed should come." Since that seed was Christ (Gal. 3:16) and He has already come we are no longer under the old law. Or as Paul states, "the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto

Christ" (Gal. 3:24); therefore, since Christ has come "we are no longer under a schoolmaster." (Gal. 3:25) Everyone on earth can now partake of the blessing of the New Testament which is contained in the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:16-17) and have their sins washed away by His blood (Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5) through a new and better covenant (Heb. 8:6, 8, 13; 12:24).

Consequences of Keeping the Old Law

Craig Thomas

Many religions groups today teach that one must still keep certain aspects of the Old Testament Law. For instance, Sabbatarians teach that we must continue to "remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8). In order to help us understand why it is that we are not responsible for keeping any part of the old law we will look at some consequences that would result from the practice.

1) **Makes the death of Christ vain.** In Acts 15 and Galatians 2 we read of some Jewish Christians who were trying to bind circumcision (one element of the old law). When the apostle Paul learned of it he went to Jerusalem (where this was taking place) to help straighten things out. He said in Galatians 2:21, "for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." As a result, he rebuked them sharply (Titus 1:10-13) so the truth of the gospel could continue (Gal. 2:5).

2) **Makes one a debtor to do the whole law.** If one chooses to keep any part of the law of Moses (e.g., Sabbath keeping, circumcision, religious feasts) he/she must keep all the law. James said, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (Jas. 2:10). In Galatians 5:3 Paul tells us that if we keep even one aspect of the old law we become a "debtor to do the whole law."

3) **Causes one to fall from grace.** Paul said to those same Jewish Christians that were binding circumcision, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Since the grace of God brings salvation (Titus 2:11) anything that would cause one to fall from that grace would be disastrous! Don't become "estranged from Christ" (Gal. 5:4) by holding on to parts of the old law!

Even though we are not under the Old Testament law it can still be profitable to us. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime (i.e., OT) were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Paul also tells us concerning the Old Testament that "all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition" (1 Cor. 10:11). Let us be content to simply use the Old Testament in the way God intended for us to use it.

Have Convictions—Will Stand!

J.W. Evans

Again I say that I thank God for those Christians who are able to make proper discernment on weakness and strength, quantity and quality; who refuse to be swayed from Bible convictions by discouragements that weed

out the weaklings. These know the WHY of "a falling away." (1 Cor. 11:9) They know that part of our warfare must be fought with "spiritual wickedness in high places"; that sin and error crouch in camouflaged corners of even the kingdom of God. It takes a Gideon's army with broken pitchers of light to flush them from their dark hidings. This army has heard the short, sharp blast of the bugle call – "Stand, therefore stand." We are entrenched behind the impregnable citadel of Bible convictions. Too soberly convicted to be flushed out by the tear-gas bombs of sentimentalism; too confident by the majority-that-God-makes to be routed by the bombardment of 'multitudes on the other side,' too near the 'Captain of our salvation' to be intimidated by the screaming mischief-missiles of innuendoes, slander, and prejudicial epithets. Yes, we "Have Convictions—Will Stand."

Help, Don't Hinder

Greg Gwin

What do you do when you see a fellow Christian make a mistake? It may be a simple error of judgment, or it could be a more serious blunder—a sin that can potentially send his soul into eternal hell. What will you do?

Actually there are several options open to you. You could ignore the situation totally. Or you might, in your own mind, ridicule his foolishness. If you're bolder, you could gossip with others about his error—belittling him as you do so. You see, there are a number of things you could do.

But, of course, there is only one thing you should do—there is only one God-ordained course of action. "He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:20). "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

The fact is that we all need the help, encouragement and strengthening that comes from our brethren. Sadly, too often we do things that hinder rather than help our brother when he is down.

The next time you are confronted with such a situation, remember that—if you want to please God—your choice is already made. If your brother has made a mistake, there can be no ignoring of the problem, no backbiting gossip, no thoughts of ridicule or humiliation. Go to your brother with the help he needs. Don't forget that you are certain to need this kind of help in the future, too!

"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

1 John 3:17