

The Law and the Gospel

John Colquhoun (1815)

Chapter 6b (Lesson 9)

The Uses of the Gospel and of the Law in Subsistence to it

Section 2-The uses of the Moral Law in its subsistence to the gospel

In this section Colquhoun gives 6 general uses of the law and then breaks it up to give 5 uses specifically for the unregenerate and 4 uses for the saved.

General uses of the Moral Law

1. **The law of God reveals to men the holy _____ of God**-without the law of God working on the mind, men tend to make gods that are like them. The law of God reveals to man that God is unlike us and exceedingly above us in moral _____.
2. **The law of God reveals to men their _____ to God, themselves, and others and demands that they perform**-We can think we know what God wants from us, but it is in His law that we discover what He wants from us. We can think we know what is best for us, but it is in God's law that we discover what is best for us. We can think that we know what is best for others, but it is in God's law that we discover what is best for others.
3. **The law of God _____ men from much sin**-The terror of a guilty conscience and of the fear of coming consequences will deter many from doing unlawful things. The fear of punishment will stop some from doing things they ought not to do.

"In this view, it serves as a curb to hold sinners within the limits of external decency and to prevent the world from becoming a scene of robbery and blood."

4. **The law of God encourages sinners to _____ obedience for the possession of outward blessings**-Those unsaved people who live according to the law of God often receive the benefit of being seen and praised as a good and virtuous person.
5. **The law of God convinces sinners of their sinfulness and _____ to attain that which God requires**-It is through the law that men become aware of their failings. Apart from the law most people see themselves as "good", but it is through a proper understanding of God's law that awareness of one's sinfulness comes.

"The precepts of the law serve to convince men of their sins of omission, and the prohibitions of it to convince them of their sins of commission. There are various evils that men would never have known to be sins unless the holy law of God had discovered to sinfulness of them."

6. **The law shows sinners their great _____ of Christ**-The law breaks the sinner's hope of attaining righteousness before God and therefore, the sinner is left looking outside himself to Christ for salvation.

Special uses of the law for the unregenerate

1. The law shows the _____ of attaining righteousness by one's own personal obedience
2. The law reveals the _____ of God
3. The law urges and _____ sinners to Jesus Christ as the only Savior

“It serves as a looking glass in which they may contemplate the exceeding sinfulness and demerit of their sins in order that, despairing of life by their own works, they may be necessitated to flee speedily to Jesus Christ, who has fulfilled a perfect righteousness for their justification.”

4. The law shows sinners that _____ are the ones in need of a Savior

“The offers and calls of the gospel are addressed to men as unjust, ungodly; as sinners, enemies, and persons without strength; as lost, dead in trespasses and sins, simple ones, scorers, fools, stouthearted, and far from righteousness; as backsliders and prisoners; as laboring and heavy laden, thirsting for happiness of any kind, spending their money for that which is not bread and their labor for that which satisfies not, disobedient, gain-saying, rebellious, etc. Now the law, under the illuminating influence of the Holy Spirit, is of use to show sinners that these are their very characters and therefore that they are the very persons to whom the Savior is offered and who are invited and commanded to receive Him with His righteousness and salvation.”

5. The law removes all _____ from men-the law reveals to men their guilt so that they cannot claim innocence and the law reveals to men their hard-heartedness in not wanting a Savior. And those who reject the clear offer of Christ are guilty of double treason.

“The punishment of no sinners will be so dreadful as that of them who hear of an only Savior and yet refuse to believe in Him.”

Special uses of the law for the regenerate

As a covenant of _____ - *“In its covenant form, it serves to show them what Christ, the second Adam, did and suffered in their stead... Thus, the law, in subservience to the gospel, teaches believers indirectly what the gospel teaches them in direct terms. It is of use also to show them under what infinite obligations they lie to the Lord Jesus for having fulfilled all the righteousness of it in their stead.”*

As a _____ of life

1. It shows them how far from _____ of holiness they are- Thus growing the saint in humility, dependence upon Christ for forgiveness and mercy, and a greater hatred of the sin that still dwells within.

2. As the saints strive to walk in obedience to it, it serves (with the Spirit) as _____ of their sanctification

“Their habitual desire and endeavor from faith and love, and for the glory of God, to keep all the commandments of it are good evidence to them that they are the children of God and are conformed to the image of His Son.”

3. It shows the saints what duty they owe to God and teaches them how to _____ it

“No sooner does the law as a covenant urge men to Christ for deliverance from the dominion of it in that form than Christ leads them back to the law as a rule for the regulation of their heart and conduct, in order that they may express their gratitude to Him for His perfect obedience to it as a covenant in their stead by their sincere obedience to it as a rule.”

4. It _____ the saints to obedience of these duties- The saints are in no way loosed from the law but are required by the Lord to strive to walk in newness of life. What is the “new life” but a life of faith working through love?