



Of the Law of God

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 19

Growing in Christ, Witnessing to the World

Given and Fulfilled



Chapter 19 of the Confession discusses the purpose of God's law and its application to our lives. God gave the law to Adam, fulfilled it in Christ on our behalf, and empowers us to keep it through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Given to Adam



God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which He bound him and all the posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it; and endued him with power and ability to keep it (19.1).

Continued at Sinai



This law, after his fall, continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness; and, as such, was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai in ten commandments, and written in two tables; the first four commandments containing our duty toward God, and the other six our duty to man (19.2)

Two Tablets



Moses received God's moral law on two tablets.

- Tablet #1 — Law concerning our duty to God
- Tablet #2 — Law concerning our duty to man

Religious and Civil



- God also gave ancient Israel religious and civil laws to govern their worship and society.
 - The ceremonial Laws pointed to them to the coming Messiah (19.3)
 - The civil laws maintained a just society and prevented egregious acts by the people (19.4).

Moral Law Remains



The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it. Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve, but much strengthen, this obligation (19.5).

Uses of the Law



- There are three ways the Bible uses the Law in our lives (19.6).
 - It is a rule of life.
 - It shows us our sins and reveals our need for Jesus.
 - It restrains corruption and immoral behavior.

Promises and Blessings



The promises of it, in like manner, show them God's approbation (approval) of obedience, and what blessings they may expect upon the performance thereof; although not as due to them by the law as a covenant of works: so as a man's doing good, and refraining from evil, because the law encourageth to the one, and deterreth from the other, is no evidence of his being under the law, and not under grace (19.6).