

Study 3

The Influence  
**JESUS**  
commanded

I once had a young man who had been attending church for a few weeks come to my home to see me. He said that he had enjoyed coming to church but had some questions he needed answered before he could commit his life to Christ. He had felt some pressure from his girlfriend who was trying to stop him becoming “religious”. “If I become a Christian does anyone have to know?” “What do you mean?” I asked. “Would I have to witness if I became a Christian?” he added. I answered his question and he thanked me and left. I never saw him again.

1. Why did Jesus say that His followers were to be like “salt” in Matt. 5:13?

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2. How does Matthew 5:16 reveal what Christ meant by “light” in Matthew 5:14-15 and how does this affect the way we follow Christ?

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Followers of Christ are called to care. Throughout the past few hundred years Christians like John Newton, William Wilberforce, William Booth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer have become aware that Christ-followers have a lot to offer their societies by correcting injustices, helping the poor, providing health care and schooling. None of these men forsook the preaching of the Gospel and none of them thought that they could save anyone merely by their efforts.

3. According to Matthew 5:16, what will cause people to glorify God?

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4. Although we are saved by grace through faith in Christ (Eph. 2:8-9), what does Ephesians 2:10 say we saved *for*?

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5. What does Peter say will be the result when people see our “good deeds/works”? (1Peter 2:12)

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# The Law JESUS commanded

When the New Testament speaks of “Law” it usually refers to the Law that God gave through Moses to Israel. This is generally called “the Law of Moses” (eg. Luke 2:22; John 7:23). The Law of Moses had components: *Food Laws*, *Civil Laws*,

*Ceremonial Laws* and *Moral Laws*.

6. Match the law with the type of Law it is-

**(i) Food Law**

\_\_\_ Ex. 22:9 For every breach of trust, whether it is for an ox, for a donkey, for a sheep, for a cloak, or for any kind of lost thing, of which one says, ‘This is it,’ the case of both parties shall come before God. The one whom God condemns shall pay double to his neighbour.

**(ii) Civil Law**

\_\_\_ Ex. 20:17 “You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbour’s.”

**(iii) Ceremonial Law**

\_\_\_ Lev. 11:5 And the rock badger, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you.

**(iv) Moral Law**

\_\_\_ Ex. 29:18 and burn the whole ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD. It is a pleasing aroma, a food offering\* to the LORD.

7. How does Hebrews 10:1 describe the Food/Civil/Ceremonial laws?

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The Moral law is best thought of as the Ten Commandments and those aspects of Moses which expand on them. For example, while the Ten Commandments state that murder is wrong, it goes to explain when a killing should be regarded as accidental (“manslaughter”) and when a killing should be regarded as a violation of the Moral law. Similarly, while the Ten Commandments state that adultery (sexual activity without marriage) is wrong, it expands this to detail what kinds of sexual activity are inappropriate (this includes homosexuality, incest, bestiality, and paedophilia).

8. Select the correct answer that shows us that the Moral law of the Law has been carried over into the New Testament -

- a) This was probably the aspect the Law of Moses that Jesus said He was *not* abolishing
- b) All of the Moral laws of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the New Testament (Do not murder. Do not lie. Do not steal. Do not commit idolatry. Do not Covet. Honour your Father and Mother. Do not commit sexual sin. All except the law of the Sabbath which was a type of the rest to be had in Christ [Hebrews 4])
- c) This is the law that Paul referred to in Romans 2 as being written on each of our consciences, therefore it is still applicable today
- d) All of the above.

9. What role does this law have in our salvation? (Note Romans 7)

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10. Based on Matthew 5:19-20, how did Christ feel about the Moral law?

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Following Christ means that we become keepers of the Moral law – not because we are trying to earn our salvation but - because our salvation has caused His Law to be written on our hearts (Jer. 31:33).

*Amen.*