

Christ. In this sense the Old Covenant was much like the New and in this way we can see continuity. There is a **continuity** between the **Old and New Covenants** in their **redemptive substance, grace and faith**. There is an outward **discontinuity** in the **ceremonial and civil** aspects of worship in the Old Covenant, which have been **abrogated** by the **New Covenant**. Nevertheless, in both covenants the moral aspects of God's Law remain as our guide and teacher, revealing God's will and character, as well as our inability to be righteous before God, driving us to Christ as a schoolmaster. These moral aspects of the Law, of which the Decalogue is a summary, are established and upheld in both the Old and the New Covenants, and are the clearest form of **continuity** between the two.

JV Fesko writes in "The Law is not of Faith" pg 43.... "*Under the Law, grace was administered by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the paschal lamb, and other types and ordinances delivered to the people of the Jews, all foreshadowing Christ to come.... Under the Gospel, when Christ, the substance of the OT was exhibited, it was done with greater fullness, simplicity, and outward glory. There are not therefore two covenants of grace, differing in substance, but one and the same, under various dispensations.*" Surely the Mosaic Covenant is unique because of its legal nature, but it demonstrated man's inability to fulfill the demands of the Law and thus drives people to Christ. But in terms of its place in redemptive history it paints a *prophetic* picture, a **typical prophecy with its types and shadows** of the sufficient and completed salvation to come in the person and work of Christ. Under the Law, the Ceremonies pointed forward to Christ. Under the Gospel, we celebrate the fullness that has come in Him with a simple remembrance of His accomplished work.

Colossians 2:16-17 - 16 Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day — 17 **things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.** NASB

Hebrews 10:1 - 1 For **the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things,** can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near. NASB

But in both covenants, we are commanded to obedience to the **Moral** aspects of the **Law**. These are **forever binding** on us because they are an expression of God character and nature, whom we worship and seek to emulate. When we say that the Moral Law is "binding," what is it that we mean by this? Binding for what purpose? Well it certainly is not a requirement of perfect obedience in order to be saved, for no person can accomplish this even in the New Covenant age with the power of the Holy Spirit indwelling. Therefore we mean that it is the imperative commandment of God to which we are bound to keep, as an expression of true devoted worship unto Him. It serves as our **guide** as to what pleases Him and how it is that we conform to Him practically in our lives.

Matthew 5:17-19 - 17 "**Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.** 18 "For truly I say to you, **until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.** 19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. NASB

Romans 3:31 - 31 Do we then **nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.** NASB

Romans 13:8-11 - 8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, **it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** 10 **Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.** 11 **And this do,** knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. NASB