

☞ *Everything the law tried to accomplish is accomplished when people love. Love really is the more excellent way.*

But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' "This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:34-40 (NASB)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35 (ESV)

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. **These things I command you, so that you will love one another.**

John 15:11-17 (ESV)

☞ *Example 1.*

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." Matt 15:1-2 (ESV)

☞ *Example 2.*

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" John 8:3-5 (NIV)

Robinwood Church

The Real Deal

A Brand New Focus - Part 1

by Henry Marquiss

Don't let anyone tell you what you must eat or drink. Don't let them say that you must celebrate the New Moon festival, the Sabbath, or any other festival. **These things are only a shadow of what was to come. But Christ is real!** Colossians 2:16-17 (CEV)

1. The Old Testament foretold of a coming paradigm shift.

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:31-33 (ESV)

Moses continued, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. Deuteronomy 18:15 (NLT)

2. When Jesus arrived, the paradigm shifted.

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. **But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the

Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:1-7 (NASB)

But if you read the books of the Prophets and God's Law closely, you will see them culminate in John, teaming up with him in preparing the way for the Messiah of the kingdom. Looked at in this way, John is the 'Elijah' you've all been expecting to arrive and introduce the Messiah. Matthew 11:13-14 (Message)

3. The focus moved from a place of God, the temple which contained God's presence, to the people of God, God's presence within us.

May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. I Kings 8:29 (NIV)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and **you together are that temple.** I Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)

Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. ...But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way. I Corinthians 12:27,31 (NASB)

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matt 16:18 (NIV)

4. The focus moved from a human mediator to the divine Mediator.

The people trembled with fear when they heard the thunder and the trumpet and saw the lightning and the smoke coming from the mountain. They stood a long way off and said to Moses, "If you speak to us, we will listen. But don't let God speak to us, or we will die!" Exodus 20:18-19 (CEV)

...God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. Galatians 3:19b (NLT)

and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel. Heb 12:24 (NASB)

For there is one God, and **there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**, who gave himself as a ransom for all (ESV)

☞ ***We are brothers and sisters in the family of God. All called to be priests making spiritual sacrifices to God.***

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Peter 2:4-5 (ESV)

5. The focus moved from ritualistic rules to an emphasis on relationships. The simple life changing, life giving ethic of love became the force of the kingdom.

☞ ***The Law was only a shadow, pointing to what was coming.***

The Law of Moses is like a shadow of the good things to come. This shadow isn't the good things themselves, because it cannot free people from sin by the sacrifices that are offered year after year. Hebrews 10:1 (CEV)

☞ ***The purpose of the Law was to bring us to Christ. The law brought bondage, Christ brought freedom.***

Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised.

Galatians 3:19a (NLT)

Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:24-26 (NASB)

He has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit produces life. II Cor.. 3:6 (HCSB)

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:36 (ESV)