

New Covenant Lifestyle: Lesson 1 – Old and New Covenant Comparison

Welcome to the next module of the New Covenant Bible Study. By now you have a good understanding of blood covenants and how God used them to redeem mankind from Satan’s dominion. We have seen the beauty of what Jesus did in completing the New Covenant for us. In looking at how Jesus completed the steps of the New Covenant you have seen how much the love of God has done for you.

With that understanding we are now going to look at how the New Covenant impacts the way we live. This module will address some key doctrinal lies that have become foundational in “main stream religion”. Theologians who did not understand blood covenant have used human experience and rational to establish these lies. So these lessons will do the proverbial ‘slay some sacred cows’. They will also provide enlightenment on some of the topics that have puzzled both Christians and non-Christians alike.

This first lifestyle lesson looks at the differences between the Old and New Covenants. The intention is to give you the basis for identifying the daily temptations to operate in the Old Covenant. This will enable you to reject those temptations and to choose to operate solely in the New Covenant; receiving and operating in the abundant supply of grace as a righteous child of Abba Daddy.

To begin with I want to remind you that the law (Old Covenant) was given to show men God’s standard of Righteousness. God gave the law for two reasons. The first was to show man that it is totally impossible for him to be righteous by his own performance. The second was to establish the measure of true righteousness so that Jesus could fulfill it as a man. Having lived as a perfect man, Jesus fulfilled all the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17) and qualified to become the kinsman redeemer all men. In doing so he made the Old Covenant obsolete and established the New Covenant for us; established on better promises. So let’s explore the differences.

1. The most fundamental difference between the Old and New Covenants is that the Old placed a **demand** on man to perform while the New **supplies** the grace that enables man to perform. What demand did God place on the people in Exodus 19:5? _____.
How did the people respond to these requirements (Exodus 19:8)? _____.
_____. What two things does Galatians 3:14 say the New Covenant supplies? _____.
_____. What does John 1:16 say about New Covenant supply? _____.
What does 2 Peter 1:3 say about supply? _____.
_____. Who does Philippians 2:13 say is responsible for doing the New Covenant work? _____.
2. The Old Covenant is focused on **man’s performance** where the New Covenant is focused on **God’s performance**. How many times does the demand “you shall/you shall not” appear in the law (Exodus 20:3-17)? _____. How many times does God’s performance “I will” appear in Hebrews 8:10-12? _____.
3. The Old Covenant has been made **obsolete** and the New Covenant established as the **eternal** covenant. What does Hebrews 8:13 say happened to the Old Covenant? _____.
What does Hebrews 10:9 say God did to the Old Covenant? _____.
Why did God do this? _____.
What does Hebrews 13:20 call the covenant cut in the blood of Jesus? _____.

4. The Old Covenant is **focused on sin** whereas the New Covenant is **focused on righteousness**. Read Romans 3:19-26 and answer the following. What does the law do in verse 19? _____

What does the law do in verse 20? _____
How is righteousness manifested in verse 21? _____
According to verse 22, what provided the righteousness of god? _____
Who gets this righteousness (v21)? _____
Notice that verse 23 simply qualifies all men for receipt of God’s righteousness. It is not a condemnatory verse. Unfortunately, evangelism has often used it to put condemnation on people to try and get them to accept Jesus. Rather, evangelism should explain that God has already dealt with the “sin problem” – He offers deliverance from condemnation through what Jesus has done. According to verse 24, how are sinners justified? _____
What eradicated sin and declares people righteous (verse 25)? _____
What does God do for those who believe in Jesus (verse 26)? _____
5. The Old Covenant **strengthens sin in a man’s life**, whereas the New Covenant **frees a man from bondage to sin**. Read Romans 3:20. What can the deeds of the law not do? _____
_____. What does the law give to man? _____
This is the root of man’s conscience. When Adam ate the fruit in the garden, he gained the knowledge of sin (i.e. the difference between good and evil – Genesis 3:20). This knowledge is what produces guilt, fear and condemnation. Now read 1 Corinthians 15:56. What gives sin its strength in a man’s life? _____
The sting of sin is death, which means living under the law strengthens the rule of death in your life. That’s one of the reasons that Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:6-7 that the ministry of the law is death; i.e. the letter kills. It is not surprising therefore that a lot of Christians live subject to the curse and death because they are constantly fed a spiritual and mental diet of law. The New Covenant is opposite to the law and it functions solely by God’s grace in freeing man from sin. Read Romans 6:6-11. What happened to your old man (v6)? _____
_____. What happened to the body of sin (v6)? _____
_____. Verse 7 clearly states that because of this death you are now free from sin. What does verse 8 now say about your state? _____. Write out verse 11:

Now read Romans 6:18-22. What have you been freed from (v18)? _____
What have you become a servant to (v8)? _____
Write out verse 22: _____

6. The Old Covenant is **for the Flesh**, where the New Covenant is **for the Spirit**. Read Romans 7:5-6. When men live in the flesh, what is the thing that causes the “motions (desires) of sins” (v5)? _____

When these desires work in our members, what do they produce (v5)? _____.

This reinforces the truth that it is the law that produces death by strengthening and motivating sin. What delivered us from being held by the law (v6)? _____.

What do you now live in (v6)? _____.

Now read Romans 7:22-8:4. Notice in verses 22-23, Paul talks about the struggle that he faced between the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus and the law of sin and death. He states that in his flesh the law of sin wins. What is his plea in verse 24? _____

_____. What is his answer to this dilemma (v25)?

_____. Note that Paul's dialog of the flesh struggle in Chapter 7 was specifically talking about the time before he had the revelation that he was dead to sin and therefore to the law and the sinful desires it strengthens. The revelation he got of being dead to sin resulted in his conclusion in Romans 8:1. Because we now walk in the spirit and not the flesh, there is absolutely no condemnation for us. Write out Romans 8:2. _____

_____.

_____.

_____.

It is interesting to note that the verbs in these verses 2, 3 and 4 are all in the Aorist tense. This tells you that the day you were born again, you fulfilled the righteousness of the law and were delivered from the law.

7. The Old Covenant brings **Condemnation**, where the New Covenant brings **Grace**. Read Romans 3:20. Why was the law given? _____.

Now read 2 Corinthians 3:7 and 9. What was the ministration of death written and engraved on? _____.

What is this referring to? _____.

What does verse 9 say this ministration of death is? _____.

This clearly tells us that the law (the 10 commandments) is the vessel that brings condemnation. Now read Romans 5:17. What cause death to reign? _____.

Given the equivalency of death and condemnation (1 Corinthians 3:7,9), it is a fact that condemnation reigns in people's lives because of Adam's offence. The Old Covenant strengthens this condemnation and enhances the processes of death in people. The good news of the New Covenant is that condemnation has been eradicated. Romans 5:17 says it has been replaced by the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. What must you do to reign in this life? _____.

8. The Old Covenant produces **Fear and Judgment** where the New Covenant provides **Peace and Acceptance**.

When God appeared on Mount Sinai at the giving of the law it caused the people to "tremble" (Exodus 19:16) and Moses as well (Hebrews 12:21). Exodus 20:18-20 records that their fear caused them to remove themselves from the mountain. This shows that the law causes a distance between people and God. You cannot have intimacy with someone you fear may hurt you. Furthermore, being subject to the law puts a person under judgment. What does Romans 2:12 say happens to those under the law? _____

_____. The opposite is true under the New Covenant. Read Ephesians 2:12-18. What has "being in Jesus" done for us who were afar off (v13)? _____.

Write out verse 14: _____.

What happened to the condemnation of the law (v15)? _____.
Who was man reconciled to (v16)? _____. The result of this reconciliation is given in Hebrews 4:16. The KJV uses the phrase “find grace to help in time of need”. The more literal Greek translation is “find grace that is perfectly timed”. Now read Hebrews 12:18-24 and notice how it contrasts the fear and judgment of the Old Covenant with the peace and acceptance of the New Covenant.

9. Under the Old Covenant the blood of the sacrifice only **covered sin**, whereas the under the New Covenant the blood of Jesus **eradicated sin**. In Exodus 30:10 and Leviticus 17:11, what did the blood do for sin? _____ . This word in Hebrew literally means “covered it”. Now read Ephesians 1:7 and notice how the blood of Jesus has totally forgiven sins. What does Psalms 103:12 tell you what has happened to your sin? _____ .
10. The Old Covenant required the **burnt offering of a spotless lamb** where the New Covenant required the **burnt offering of a sinless man**. The most revelatory instance of this burning was the Passover lamb in Egypt. Read Exodus 12:5-8, 25-27 and Numbers 9:2-4. What was done to the flesh of the lamb on the night of Passover (12:8)? _____. The New Covenant equivalent to Passover is Communion. This celebrates the roasting of Jesus body on the cross by the fire of God’s wrath. Read 1 Corinthians 11:22-30 and Hebrews 10:1-2. We will cover the Communion feast in the next lesson.
11. The Old Covenant shows the **imperfection of man**, whereas the New Covenant shows the **perfection of man** as a result of being born again. Galatians 3:19-27 tells us that the law was given because of transgressions and that its purpose was to lead us to Jesus. This underlines the fact that the perfection of the law was given to show the destitute state of man; his total imperfection. Recognizing that imperfection is what leads people to accepting Jesus. Hebrews 7:11 implies that God’s desire is to return man to perfection and that the law could not do that; a truth reiterated in Hebrews 7:19. Then in Hebrews 10:14 we read that the offering of Jesus as the sacrifice for sin has “perfected forever the sanctified” (all believers). The New Covenant made you perfect; so much so that you should have no more conscience of sins (Hebrews 10:2).
12. The Old Covenant produces **dead works (i.e. works of the law - self effort/flesh)**, whereas the New Covenant produces **living works (i.e. works of the spirit – good/love)**. Hebrews 10:1 tells us that the sacrifices (acts of self effort to fulfill the law) cannot make those who do them perfect. Whereas Ephesians 2:8-10 tells us that those who are led by the Spirit produce good works. In verse 10 the Greek word for ‘unto’, in the phrase “In Christ Jesus unto good works”, literally means ‘unto a superimposition of’. Paul is stating that by following the leading of Holy Spirit (your New Covenant lifestyle) you have the good works that God planned for your life (every good and perfect gift) superimposed upon you. It is grace working in you that causes you to produce good works that edify yourself and others.

13. The Old Covenant **ministers death** by empowering the curse in your life whereas the New Covenant **ministers life** by freeing you from the curse. What does 2 Corinthians 3:6-7 say that the letter (law) does? _____ . What does the spirit give? _____ . What does the law (written and engraved on stones) minister? _____ . According to 1 Corinthians 3:17, what is the result of Holy Spirit's presences in your life? _____ . Now read Galatians 3:10-14. Who is under the curse (v10)? _____ .
What cannot justify a man (v11)? _____ . What does justify a man (v11)? _____ .
How did Jesus deliver you from the curse (v13)? _____ .
What two things do you now have because of your redemption (v14)? _____ .
_____ .
14. Those under the Old Covenant are **totally subject to (slaves of) the law of sin and death**, whereas those under the New Covenant are **totally under the law of Spirit of Life in Jesus**. According to Romans 8:2, what delivered you from the law of sin and death? _____ .
According to Colossians 1:13 how was this deliverance done? _____ .
_____ . The world still operates under the law of sin and death, commonly known as Murphy's law. We are no longer under that system; rather we are under the New Covenant, living under Jesus' law where everything goes from good to better to best.
15. The Old Covenant is **earthly or temporal**, whereas the New Covenant is **supernatural and eternal**. In Galatians 4:21-25 Paul uses the story of Hagar and Ishmael to show that the old covenant is of the earth, fleshy, based in man's work. What does this covenant lead to (v24)? _____ .
What are people who live by the law (self effort) in (v25)? _____ .
According to Galatians 4:26-31, what state are people under the New Covenant in (v26)? _____ .
_____ . Where does this freedom come from (v26)? _____ .
_____ . The New Covenant operates from the supernatural world and changes this natural world for us. What is required to live in the freedom of the New Covenant (v30)? _____ .
Now read Hebrews 9:12-15. What obtained eternal redemption for us (v12)? _____ .
_____ .
What did Jesus blood do to your conscience (v14)? _____ .
What did Jesus death redeem you from (v15)? _____ .
What did his death enable you to receive (v15)? _____ .
We are joint heirs with Jesus. So we are partakers of everything Jesus received when he was raised from the dead, including life, wholeness, anointing, dominion, authority, name above all names, power, might, glory, protection and provision. Time to start enjoying it.
16. The guidance of God under the Old Covenant was provided by the **Urim & Thummim**, whereas under the New Covenant it is by **Holy Spirit living inside us**. Read Leviticus 8:8 and Numbers 27:21. The Hebrew word Urim means lights and Thummim means perfections. The Urim and Thummim were part of the breastplate of the high priests garments. They were 12 precious stones embedded in the breastplate that God used to

provide instructions to the priest. The stones were engraved with the names of the tribes of Israel and God would make specific letters glow in order to give instructions to the people. The only channel for these instructions was through the high priest. To hear from God you had to go to the high priest. Under the Old Covenant God was distant from people and his directions were limited to the Urim and Thummim. How blessed we are under the New Covenant to have Holy Spirit dwelling inside each of us. God's directions are personal, direct from His Spirit to ours. There is total one-to-one intimacy under the New Covenant and the perfection of lights (Holy Spirit) operates in and through us. Jesus taught his disciples the reality of this truth in the upper room before his crucifixion. Read John 14:16-17 & 26. Notice the role of Holy Spirit is to teach and guide. In John 15:26 we see that Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus; testifying of Jesus' completed work in the New Covenant and what Jesus has provided as your inheritance.

17. Those who lived under the Old Covenant were called **servants of God**, whereas those who live under the New Covenant are called **sons of God**. There is a big difference between a servant and a son. Servants perform for the family; sons are part of the family. Servants perform out of obligation, whereas sons perform out of relationship. According to Deuteronomy 10:12, the requirement of God under the law was to serve him with everything of self. Given the fallen state of man, this is an impossible requirement. But it laid the servant mindset on the people and God was always seen as the distant dictator who demanded performance. Now read Romans 8:15-16. Notice that you have not received the spirit of bondage (servitude) to fear (Old Covenant), but what have you received? _____.
- The Greek word translated adoption is much stronger than our understanding of adoption. It literally means "having your state changed to be as though you were born of the adopter's actual seed – born with his DNA". A better translation is "ye have received the spirit of Sonship". Being born again changes your actual DNA to show you are a real child of God; a son or daughter that is part of the family with all the attendant rights and privileges. Now read 1 John 3:1-3. How do you know God loves you (v1)? _____.
- When God calls something a name, what happens to that something? _____.
- How do you fulfill the instruction in verse 3 of "purifieth himself" (be sure to answer as a son, not a servant)? _____.

18. The Old Covenant is a **shadow or a type**, whereas the New Covenant is **the real thing**. What does Hebrews 10:1 say the law (old covenant) is? _____.
- What could the law not do? _____.
- According to Hebrews 10:14, what did the New Covenant offering do? _____.
- Everything in the Old Testament (Covenant) was a picture (shadow or type) of Jesus and what He would do to redeem man. The New Covenant is the summation of Jesus' work. It is the real implementation of God's divine purpose in redeeming us, making us righteous sons and filling us with Holy Spirit.