

No. 1 What Is the Law of Christ? (Local elder)

Note to speaker:

Explain in simple terms what the law of Christ is, and create anticipation for the rest of the program, which will show how we can fulfill it

WHAT IS THE LAW OF CHRIST? (3 min.)

The word “law” may bring to mind numerous detailed rules and regulations, such as found in the Mosaic Law

In the Bible, “law” is not limited to written regulations but can include things taught *orally* and *by example*

In the expressions “the Law of Moses” and “the law of your mother,” the word “law” renders the same Hebrew word; a mother’s “law” was *the instruction* she gave her children (Jos 8:31; Pr 1:8, ftn.)

Jesus did not give us any writings, but he gave superb instruction both orally and by example, putting his law into the hearts of his disciples

The law of Christ includes *all that Jesus taught and commanded* (w08 8/15 26 ¶6)

As our theme scripture shows, *love* is central to “the law of the Christ” **[Read Galatians 6:2]** (cl 153 ¶13)

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM? (2 min.)

The Law of Moses originated, not with Moses, but with Jehovah (Isa 33:22)

Similarly, the law of Christ originates with Jehovah God (Joh 14:10)

We can be sure that it encompasses everything that *Jehovah* requires of us

Knowing this should move us to have deep respect for everything that Christ teaches us!

HOW CAN WE LEARN IT? (3 min.)

Jesus’ teachings and commands were eventually recorded in the Christian Greek Scriptures

Jesus’ words and the inspired writings of the apostles drew heavily on truths already recorded in the Bible

Studying God’s inspired Word, we learn: (1) what Jesus said and did, (2) commands given to the Christian congregation under Jesus’ supervision, and (3) timeless Bible principles (Ps 119:160; w07 6/15 6-7, box)

HOW CAN WE FULFILL IT? (6 min.)

When we were children, obeying ‘the law of our mother’ may have meant eating healthy foods that we did not particularly like and avoiding cherished but unhealthy sweets and snacks

For our own benefit, we needed to put our parent’s will before our own

Here is a fundamental truth: To obey a law, we need to subject our will to the will of the lawgiver

Jesus was unselfish and did exactly that; he subjected himself to his Father’s will (Lu 22:42; Joh 4:34)

Jesus *lived* the law of Christ (cl 154 ¶14)

To fulfill the law of Christ, we need to be unselfish, as Jesus, our Ruler, was (Mt 20:28; Lu 6:37, 38)

This is not easy, since the world around us is selfish, in imitation of its ruler, Satan

As selfishness increases, we must strengthen our determination to keep imitating Jesus

Our assembly will help us in practical ways to endure in fulfilling the law of Christ

[Use the review questions on the printed program to show how the assembly theme will be developed]

Review question: What is “the law of the Christ”?

Answer: Galatians 6:2; “the law of the Christ” includes all that Jesus taught and commanded, both directly and through his followers who wrote the Christian Scriptures. It encompasses all that Jehovah requires of us. Love is central to this body of teachings

Fulfilling the law of Christ safeguards our spiritual health now and will help us remain alive forever!

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text)