

the irreligious CHRIST

Part 6: *The Law Of Christ*

Only when the Law is read through the lens provided by the cross does it become the Law of Christ.

~ Richard B. Hays, *New Testament Professor, Duke University*

For no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his law commands. ... But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight ... We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.

~ Romans 3:19-22 (NLT)

Since I have heard often enough that everyone in the end has his own religion, nothing seemed more natural to me than to fashion my own.

~ Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, *German Philosopher*

For many Canadians, spirituality-often defined as one's personal relationship with a higher being-has become separate from and frequently preferable to religion.

~ Time Magazine

Whereas Christ turned water into wine, the church has succeeded in doing something more difficult; it has turned wine into water.

~ Soren Kierkegaard, *Christian Philosopher*

According to Paul in Galatians 6, the world that is now passé is not Judaism as such, but rather the world of *all* religious differentiation. This must also include "Christianity" as a religion.

~ J. L. Martyn, *Bible Scholar*

Paul's gospel proclaims the demolition of our old world of religion, value, and morality.

~ Richard B. Hays, *New Testament Professor, Duke University*

Christ fulfilled the Law, and made it possible for his followers to see the fulfillment of the Law and its requirements in their own lives simply by following his example.

~ Ben Witherington III, *Historian & Theologian*

Galatians teaches that the Law of Moses came to an abrupt halt for guiding God's people when Christ came to earth.

~ Scot McKnight, *Biblical Scholar*

Christians do not have to live by the law, since they have something better than the law to guide them: they have the Spirit.

~ Scot McKnight, *Biblical Scholar*

Those who charge that without the Law Christians will be left undisciplined and confused do not know the power of the Spirit.

~ Richard B. Hays, *New Testament Professor, Duke University*

Paul insists that the church is to be a community in which believers share responsibility for one another's lives. Life in the Spirit is not a life of lonely striving, not a life restricted to a zone of privacy; rather, it is a life lived in community. The church, like an extended family of brothers and sisters, is characterized by the interdependence of its members.

~ Richard B. Hays, *New Testament Professor, Duke University*

We are called to love each other through accountability and even rebuke. Nothing can be more cruel than the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

German Theologian who was executed for resisting Hitler

One must share one's burden with one's friends, for possibly we may do something to ease you.

~ Socrates

Those who respond to the Gospel in faith are given great privilege. They are "the Israel of God" (chapter 6); they are Abraham's family (chapter 3); they are the Isaac-family rather than the Ishmael-one (chapter 4); they fulfill the whole law in their love for one another (chapter 5). They are God's chosen people.

~ N. T. Wright, *Historian & Theologian*

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"One man's religion is another man's belly laugh."

~ Isaac Asimov

"As I understand the Christian religion, it was, and is, a revelation. But how has it happened that millions of fables, tales, legends, have been blended with both Jewish and Christian revelation that have made them the most bloody religion that ever existed?"

~ John Adams