

# San Juan Church of Christ

1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C  
Montrose, CO 81401 | (970) 249-8116

## **What Does God's Word Say About... Obedience to the New Testament Commandments**

The church began on the day of Pentecost as was prophesied by Isaiah when he said, "In the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as chief of the mountains...for the law [instruction and commandments] will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem," (Isa. 2:2-3). This prophecy was fulfilled when Peter preached on the day of Pentecost and three thousand souls "who had received his word were baptized...And the Lord was adding to the church day by day those who were being saved," (Acts 2:41, 47). Daniel also prophesied that this church [spiritual kingdom] "will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions [nations] will serve and obey Him," (Dan. 7:27).

Since the church began "the dragon was enraged with the woman [church], and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus," (Rev. 12:17). Paul wrote, "to stand firm against the schemes of the devil," (Eph. 6:11). One of Satan's modern day "schemes" is to call Christians who keep the commandments "legalists," a word often used by false teachers to degrade those who are obedient. Legalism is defined as "strict, literal, or excessive conformity to the law or to a religious or moral code" (Webster's Dictionary). Simply put, a legalist follows the rules (Phil. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:13). Since the devil and his angels are always "seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8) he is convincing Christians that legalism is a sin. Just think of that...being convinced that NOT committing sin IS a sin! One should be proud to be a legalist!

Satan noticed that the early disciples "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine," (Acts 2:42), and they were expected to be "obedient in all things," (2 Cor. 2:9). Satan was also aware that the apostles and prophets of Christ were teaching the Jewish Christians that they were not to rely on their obedience to the Law of Moses for their salvation; that it would do no good to strictly follow the Law of Moses. This is when Satan hatched his scheme. Satan, working through false teachers, has convinced New Testament Christians that keeping the apostles' doctrines would be like being "subject again to a yoke of slavery," [the Old Law] (Gal. 5:1).

False teachers say that obeying rules and commandments given by the apostles will not enable a spirit-filled walk, that it often prevents it. To the contrary, Paul referred to the Old Testament Law as a "ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones." The 'letter' is plainly the Law of Moses! The Old Law was written on tablets of stone while Christ's law is written "on tablets of human hearts [spiritual]" (2 Cor. 3:3,7). The apostles of Christ warned that striving to follow the Law of Moses will lead to death, not life! (Gal. 3:10) Nowhere do the apostles state that strictly following the commands of Christ will do the same. Those who love God will keep His commandments (1 John 5:3). Those who do not keep the New Testament commandments do not really know Him (1 John 2:3-4).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
[info@sanjuanchurchofchrist.org](mailto:info@sanjuanchurchofchrist.org)