

## WCF Prayer:

### Chapter 19 - Of The Law Of God

Holy and Majestic God,

You gave to Adam a law to keep. It was a covenant commitment by you that if he kept that law you would give him life but also that the breaking of it would bring death.

We praise you that from the creation of Adam you gave him the power and ability to keep that law and therefore fulfil this covenant.

Lord God we see revealed in your Word that Adam had a special role as the head of humanity and that you bound not only Adam to this covenant, but his offspring. You bound all who would descend from Adam in personal, complete, perfect and perpetual obedience to that law.

Holy God, as we look back, we can see how Adam's disobedience affected not only Adam as you promised, but also his posterity. In his disobedience death came not only to Adam but has come to all.

Lord, this law, written on Adam's heart continued after his Fall to be the perfect rule of righteousness. And so we see your wisdom and mercy displayed as you delivered this law to your people on Mount Sinai in the Ten Commandments.

There on that mountain you revealed how you wanted your people to live in relationship with you and one another. You made this clear through two tables of law. You gave your people four commandments containing their duty towards you their God. You gave them six commandments revealing their duty to one another as human beings.

Eternal God, like young children you were teaching your people how to behave. These Ten Commandments we call "moral law". However, alongside these you also gave to this people Israel at this time, ceremonial laws to guide them.

Heavenly Father, in these ceremonial laws you gave rituals for worship and other notices of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Saviour. You were pointing your people to the graces, actions, sufferings of Jesus and also to the benefits which would flow from Him to all who believe. These ceremonial laws gave your people instructions in how to live in a holy way before you.

We thank you Lord God that all these ceremonial laws are now ended as we see in the New Testament they are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Lord we also see how wonderfully you formed your people into a nation state. In your wisdom you also gave them laws to govern their civil life. We recognised that these civic laws ended with the nation-State of Israel. We acknowledge your wisdom that although these no longer burden your people as laws to live by, they still have much wisdom to offer us in life together.

What a wise and gracious God you are.

Living God though we know these ceremonial laws and civic laws no longer bind us in the way they once did your people, we know that the moral law you gave so many years ago, continues to bind all mankind forever.

Your moral law remains binding for justified believers as it does also for non-believers. Lord we know that we are all to obey the details of your moral law and bow in obedience to you, the One True Living God and Creator who gives these laws.

Lord though children saved by grace through faith Jesus as declared in the gospel, we acknowledge that this grace does not diminish or dissolve our need to follow your Law. Rather Lord we acknowledge it strengthens our obligation to it.

Lord we delight that this moral no longer functions as a covenant of works in order to justify us or even condemn us. Rather we have come to understand that it shows us how to walk according to your will. Like a light shining into our lives it illuminates the sinful corruption of our natures, hearts and lives. In this light we come to hate our sin all the more – your law humbles us.

We do not delight in your law as though striving to keep it could bring life. We delight in it because it informs us of your wonderful and perfect will, our wonderful duty. We praise you that it directs us and binds us to walk in faithfulness to your ways.

Lord in all of this, your law gives us even greater clarity of our need for Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. Your law shows us our failings and so our need of the perfection of his obedience.

We thank you that by your law, all who are born again by your Spirit are helped to restrain the corruptions of our natures as we see so what your law forbids.

We are humbled by this holy standard as we see in its awful judgments what our sins deserve in the afflictions of this life. Yet we also see in the light of this knowledge your grace as all who trust in Jesus are freed from the final judgments as threatened in the law.

Lord your law delights us because of its promises. We see how you approve and praise obedience and although not as a covenant of works, you bring blessing where your law is kept. What wisdom we see in the giving of the law that we see how to do your good and how we should refrain evil.

Lord help us to keep a clear head so that as we are diligently seek to keep your law we remember constantly that we do so under your sweet grace and not with any aim of earning salvation as though it were a covenant of works.

Heavenly Father, as your children help us to delight in your law knowing that to keep your law complies sweetly with the gospel and your Holy Spirit.

Praise you Lord God that the Spirit of Christ helps subdue our sin and enables us to keep your law with a freedom and cheerfulness, which your law requires and which you want from us.

In Jesus Name,

Amen