

I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts

One of the benefits of the New Covenant is the placement of the Law within the Believer by writing it on his heart (Jer 31:33; Isa 59:21; Heb 8:10; 10:16). But what is this Law and what does it mean “writing it on his heart”?

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jer 31:33, ESV)

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

“This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,” (Heb 10:15-16, ESV)

1. What is the law(s) that the passages above referring to? Aside from the Law of Moses, does God mention any other law?

2. When referring to the heart and mind of a person, the English language sees the term “heart” as the seat of emotion or kindness (i.e. good-hearted, hard-hearted, broken-hearted, etc.), and the term “mind” to represent the seat of thought.

In Hebrew, “heart” has a broader meaning to include the thoughts and logic of a person. It is for this reason that there are no Hebrew terms for the English word “mind.” Because the Hebrew definition of heart refers to the heart and mind of a person, it is a term that refers to the essence of a person. To the Jewish audience, how would they understand the above passages?

3. As you keep in mind the benefits of the New Covenant, what observations do you make of the following passages that help you understand God’s statement, “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts?”

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom 12:2, ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Gal 5:22, ESV)

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (1 Cor 3:16-17, ESV)

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Cor 5:15-20, ESV)

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Teacher Notes

One of the benefits of the New Covenant is the placement of the Law within the Believer by writing it on his heart (Jer 31:33; Isa 59:21; Heb 8:10; 10:16). But what is this Law and what does it mean “writing it on his heart”?

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In light of the above passages, review with the student two things:

1. Remind the student one of the important promises of the New Covenant: the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And **I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.** (Ezek 36:26-27, ESV)

2. Remind the student that the New Testament will emphasize important information by repeating something God said in the Old Testament.

1. What is the law(s) that the passages above referring to? Aside from the Law of Moses, does God mention any other law?

If the student is uncertain or does not know, encourage him to consider using a variety of resources such as a Bible dictionary or concordance. While the answer may not be readily found, inform the student that this “digging” is the method to discover what God is saying. With practice, the student will become well equipped to objectively study the Bible.

The Law is in reference to the Law of Moses.

To help the student with an important perspective, have him write down Ezekiel 36:26-27:

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And **I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.** (Ezek 36:26-27, ESV)

2. When referring to the heart and mind of a person, the English language sees the term “heart” as the seat of emotion or kindness (i.e. good-hearted, hard-hearted, broken-hearted, etc.), and the term “mind” to represent the seat of thought.

In Hebrew, “heart” has a broader meaning to include the thoughts and logic of a person. It is for this reason that there are no Hebrew terms for the English word “mind.” Because the Hebrew definition of heart refers to the heart and mind of a person, it is a term that refers to the essence of a person. To the Jewish audience, how would they understand the above passages?

Ask the student: how would a Jew understand Jeremiah 31:33? For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jer 31:33, ESV)

The Jew would understand “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts” as “writing it on their heart, mind and soul” in a manner that encompasses the whole person as God said “within them.”

3. As you keep in mind the benefits of the New Covenant, what observations do you make of the following passages that help you understand God’s statement, “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts?”

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom 12:2, ESV)

Ask the student: what are your observations here about renewing of the mind?

With the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, the Believer learns God’s word and reappraises his worldview and facts about life to include the reality of God, the nature of sin, and His Son who came to atone for mankind’s sin.

By sanctifying one’s mind, the Believer learns what the will of God is, and what is good, acceptable, and perfect.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Gal 5:22, ESV)

Ask the student: what are your observations here about renewing of the mind?

When one cooperates with the Holy Spirit, the Believer produces the fruit of the Spirit – character traits that result when a Believer cooperates with the Holy Spirit by learning and living God’s word.

If you don’t exhibit these character traits, then you know you have to improve your cooperation with the Holy Spirit and spend more time reading and meditating God’s word.

Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple. (1 Cor 3:16-17, ESV)

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Cor 5:15-20, ESV)

Ask the student: what are your observations here about renewing of the mind? Allow time for discussion.

Before God can come into contact with anything on earth, it must be sanctified, set apart, and dedicated to Him just as the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies of the Temple.

Through faith in Jesus' atonement of one's sin, a Believer is sanctified and is consecrated by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

By cooperating with the Holy Spirit by reading the Bible, one learns about the sanctity of their human body.

These examples help us understand what the apostle Paul is saying,

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom 12:2, ESV)

in the context of what God intended:

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jer 31:33, ESV)