

## FL203 The Articles of the New Covenant

**G**od gave Moses the Old Covenant written on two tables of stone: *“And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone”* (De 4:13).

Sometime later, the prophet Jeremiah spoke of a New Covenant to be written on the tables of the heart: *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah . . . I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people”* (Jer 31:31-33).

God began writing the New Covenant in the hearts of His people on Pentecost, and the Book of Hebrews shows the Old Covenant fading away as the New Covenant replaces it (Heb. 8:7-13). The writer continues with many details, but he fails to recite the Articles of the New Covenant. Peter, Paul, James and John also failed to recite the Articles. What are they?

Paul teaches that all the Law is fulfilled in the word love: *“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou*

*shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”* (Ga 5:14). However, the commandment to love your neighbor is not the New Covenant, it’s only an expression that shows a measure of love.

Love fulfills the law by enabling us to walk in the righteousness that the law demands. Even so, we fulfill the law through the spirit of the Law, and not through the letter of the Law (see Ro 2:29).

The New Covenant is the Lord’s Prayer. Like the Old Covenant, it contains 10 Articles. Spiritually, each NT Article fulfills its OT counterpart (see Ro 7:14). Except for Article-3 of both covenants (*“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain”* vs. *“Hallowed be thy name”*), the relationship between each pair is not readily apparent and thus requires additional analysis.

For example, *“thou (you) shalt not”* in the Old Covenant shows individual selfishness, while *our* and *us* in the New Covenant show collective altruism.

Future developments in this lesson will depend on the interest its subject generates. Use the Contact Page on the website to share your comments.

Old Covenant (Ex 20:3-17)	New Covenant (Mt 6:9-13)
1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me	1. Our Father
2. Thou shalt not make ... any graven image	2. which art in heaven,
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain	3. Hallowed be thy name.
4. Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy	4. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother	5. Give us this day our daily bread.
6. Thou shalt not kill	6. And forgive us our debts
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery	7. as we forgive our debtors.
8. Thou shalt not steal	8. And lead us not into temptation,
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness	9. but deliver us from evil:
10. Thou shalt not covet ...	10. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen.