

From the WRF Statement of Faith

NOTE: Translations of the entire Statement in the following languages are available at <http://wrfnet.org/about/statement-of-faith#law>: Afrikaans, French, German, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian.

XI. Law and ethics

1. The natural law

The law of God is the expression of his love and reveals his righteous requirements for the human race. It was written on the hearts of human beings at creation and, despite their fall into sin, they still have an awareness of its requirements through their consciences. In Eden, God also revealed his will for human beings in verbal form, in the command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

2. The law of Moses

The Mosaic Law contained ceremonial elements which foreshadowed the person and work of Christ and the life of his church, and which have now been fulfilled. The law also contained judicial elements which shaped the civic life of Israel and which provide principles of justice that are to be reflected in the life and laws of all nations. The moral elements of the law continue to provide the pattern for godly living. God's law shows sinners their sin and points them to Christ as the only Saviour. The law in addition provides a measure of restraint on the expression of sin in society. It is also the guide for life for Christians as they are renewed in the image of Christ, revealing both the sin to be hated and the righteousness to be pursued.

3. Christ as the fulfilment of the law

Christ has fulfilled the requirements of the law, becoming a curse for his chosen people. Those who have been brought to faith in Christ express their love for the Lord by obeying his commandments through the enabling of the Holy Spirit.

4. Matrimony and sexual ethics

Marriage as heterosexual monogamy was instituted by God, with husband and wife leaving their own families and cleaving to one another in a lifelong relationship. Sexual desires are to be fulfilled within that union, and children born within it are to be cared for and nurtured in Christian knowledge and practice. Owing to human sinfulness, deviations from this pattern occur. The Bible disallows sexual relationships outside the

bond of marriage, as it does same sex unions. Dissolution of a marriage by divorce is permissible if adultery has occurred, or if unbelievers irretrievably desert their Christian spouses. Man is described in Scripture as the 'head' of woman, as Christ is the 'head' of man and God is the 'head' of Christ. That headship in family and in church is demonstrated by loving as Christ loved the church.