

## *What Christian Israelites Believe ...*

### **5. About the Old Testament Laws & Commandments**

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13.

#### ***Uncovenanted & Covenanted Members***

When a member first joins the Christian Israelite Church, they are known as “uncovenanted” members. To become an uncovenanted member, one must believe that the four books of Moses’s laws (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) and the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are written through the divine inspiration of God. Hopefully members believe this of the entire Bible, but these books are particularly important as the foundations of the Christian Israelite faith.

Covenanted members are those who have chosen to enter into an additional covenant with God (see *What Christian Israelites Believe About the New Covenant*). They make a promise to uphold certain laws and commandments with the help of Christ and the Holy Spirit, and with the view of seeking the life of the body. Covenanted members are like the Levi priests who entered into the tabernacle to do the scared work of God (see Numbers 1:50).

While uncovenanted members are not obliged to uphold all of the same laws as covenanted members, joining the church presumes an interest in learning about the faith and working towards following the laws with the view of seeking the salvation of the body.

#### ***Laws that Covenant Members Uphold***

There are many times throughout the Bible wherein God asks us to obey his laws and commandments, and several places where we are told that, if we do, we will be blessed:

“Keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself.” 1 Kings 2:3. (For further examples, see also Deuteronomy 28:1, Joshua 1:8, and Psalm 103:17-18.)

Jesus taught that following God's laws and commandments is a demonstration of our love for him:

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” John 14:21.

As a sign of this love, Covenant members aspire to show such obedience to the Ten Commandments (as listed in Exodus 20) and to the following laws:

### *Clothing*

“Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woollen and linen together.” Deuteronomy 22:11.

“Neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee.” Leviticus 19:19.

Covenant members believe in wearing clothes that are not mingled or not made entirely of one material. This is particularly important in terms of clothes worn in the Sabbath hour (see Lesson 6) or during any church activity, as members are under no obligation as to what they may need to wear when they are working in the world. Wearing clothes made of one material is symbolic of pursuing purity and holiness, as God is holy.

“Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.”  
Leviticus 19:2.

Christian Israelites also generally do not wear items that are solid black in colour, as they believe black to be a symbol of death (as seen at funerals), and they are aspiring to live a life without death. Members also refrain from wearing items that are solid scarlet/red in colour, as it is seen as the colour of sin and blood:

“Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isaiah 1:18.

Covenant members wear a uniform whilst at worship. The main purpose of the uniform is to please God by not following the fashions of the world, these fashions being made by man to be seen of man:

“For the fashion of this world passeth away.”  
1 Corinthians 7:31.

The instruction given from God (through John Wroe) about the uniform was introduced in the early stages of the church's foundation and has been in place since then, with no changes in the design since approximately 1859. The uniform

is worn as an outward sign or test of faith and obedience, and to show love for God. We also believe it to be symbolic of God's protective, spiritual covering. Whilst this uniform sets us apart from the world, we believe that, in showing this obedience to God, we will be strengthened in our fight against the evil of the world and become God's chosen people:

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” 1 Peter 2:9.

### *Images and Likenesses*

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.” Exodus 20:4.

“Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 26:1.

“Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, the likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth. And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them.” Deuteronomy 4:16-19.

Christian Israelites believe in following these commandments to not have any graven (physical or carved) images of anything that God created in their house or on their belongings, body, or clothes, in order to obey the first and second laws of the Ten Commandments. That is, to honour the Creator and not the things created. By observing these instructions, it is hoped that the mind will be single to God, looking to the future and not dwelling in the past:

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.” Isaiah 43:18.

“The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.” Luke 11:34.

Christian Israelites believe God created all things in nature, as per Genesis 1 and as referenced several times throughout the Bible, including in Exodus 20:11:

“For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.”

(Additionally, Christian Israelites also refrain from getting tattoos as it is written, “Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:28).

### *Hair and Beards*

“Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard.” Leviticus 19:27.

“They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard.” Leviticus 21:5.

Covenant members wear their hair (and beards) long and uncut as an outward dedication to God, showing a wish to please God and not man by again not following the fashions of the world. The children of Israel were given the Nazarite vow as outlined in Numbers 6, which included not cutting their hair. This vow could be taken for a period of time, or for life, e.g. Sampson did not cut his hair due to his dedication to God (see Judges 13:3-5), and John the Baptist was also reared according to the Nazarite vow (see Luke 1:11-17).

Christian Israelites believe that long hair and beards were given to man when Adam and Eve fell, as a mark of that fall. Covenant members do not cut their hair or beards so as to appear as God made us after the fall, but have hope of it being removed when our bodies are made immortal and redeemed from the corruption of sin.

### *Eating of Meat*

We believe that God’s original, perfect plan, was to not eat meat at all:

“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.” Genesis 1:29.

The eating of meat was later allowed, but with strict conditions:

“Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beast and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or

any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground which I have separated from you as unclean.” Leviticus 20:25.

Christian Israelites believe that the eating of clean meat is allowable but choose to not partake of the meats that are listed as unclean in Leviticus 11 (see also Deuteronomy 14:6, Exodus 22:31, and Leviticus 7:24, 17:13-15).

In Leviticus 3:14-15, 17, a further explanation is given as to what parts of these clean animals are not considered fit to eat:

“The fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, and the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, which is by the flanks, and the caul that is above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away ... It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood.” (See also Leviticus 7:26-27.)

We believe that God alone has the knowledge to choose what is best for us to eat, as he is the creator of all things. We also believe that by following these instructions, our physical and spiritual health will be preserved. In Genesis 9, we see that God only allowed man to eat of animal flesh after the flood, but Noah was clearly told, “but flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat” (Genesis 9:4). This was also carried into the New Testament:

“But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.” Acts 15:20.

Christian Israelites therefore believe that all meat should be properly bled before cooking. The only ones who bleed their meat appropriately are those who follow the “kosher” method of butchering animals. Most Christian Israelites prefer not to eat meat at all due to the uncertainty of how bought meat is prepared (unless it is prepared personally or by a trusted butcher) and as such generally follow a strict vegetarian diet.

### *The Sabbath*

Christian Israelites follow the law of the Sabbath. For more information, see *What Christian Israelites Believe About the Sabbath.*

### *Tithing*

Christian Israelites follow the principles of tithing. For more information, see *What Christian Israelites Believe About Tithing.*

*Why We Follow These Laws*

For more information on why Christian Israelites uphold these laws, see *What Christian Israelites Believe About the Faith of the Church.*