

But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

Hebrews 8:6 NLT

Under the Old Covenant:

- Blessing was tied to obedience
- Disobedience brought consequences
- Righteousness was demonstrated by keeping the Law
- Identity was shaped by what you did

“I OBEY therefore I am ACCEPTED”

Under the New Covenant:

- Righteousness was received not achieved
- Obedience flows from identity, not fear
- The law is fulfilled in Christ, not imposed on believers

“I am accepted, therefore I obey”

OLD COVENANT

Performance based
Law-centered
External Rules
Fear of Failure
Do → be accepted

NEW COVENANT

Grace based
Christ-centered
Internal Transformation
Confidence in Christ
Accepted → live a transformed life

Slave vs. free is the example Paul used to contrast the 2 covenants: Galatians 4:21 – 31 NLT -- Tell me, you who want to live under the law, do you know what the law actually says? ²² The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave wife and one from his freeborn wife. ²³ The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God’s promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God’s own fulfillment of his promise. ²⁴ These two women serve as an illustration of God’s two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them. ²⁵ And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai in Arabia, because she and her children live in slavery to the law. ²⁶ But the other woman, Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother. ²⁷ As Isaiah said, “Rejoice, O childless woman, you who have never given birth! Break into a joyful shout, you who have never been in labor! For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband!” ²⁸ And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac. ²⁹ But you are now being persecuted by those who want you to keep the law, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit. ³⁰ But what do the Scriptures say about that? “Get rid of the slave and her son, for the son of the slave woman will not share the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” ³¹ So, dear brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman; we are children of the free woman.