7:14: ***"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin".*** Consider carefully this important scripture. The law is spiritual. What does this mean? This means that the law, being spiritual, can be understood and obeyed only by those who walk in the Spirit of Life in Jesus Christ. The carnal man, sold under sin and in bondage to the flesh, cannot keep the law because it is spiritual. Without being born anew in Jesus Christ, washed in His blood and made alive by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit, we cannot keep the law. The Law is spiritual and only those who are alive in Jesus Christ can keep the law. Regenerated Christian man, walking in the Spirit of Life in Jesus Christ, will therefore walk in obedience to the law. The law is spiritual, and those who walk in the Spirit will keep the law and bring forth fruit unto righteousness.

Does the person who is born anew in Jesus Christ and made alive in the power of the Holy Spirit have no desire to walk in obedience to the law? Does a regenerated Christian deny, suppress, or invalidate the letter of the law when living in the Spirit of Life in Jesus Christ? Consider Romans 7:22: ***"For I delight in the law of God after the inward man".*** St. Paul declares that the inward man, the man of the Spirit, the man made alive in Jesus Christ, delights in the law of God. This means, then, that to walk in the Spirit of Life in Jesus Christ means that we want to keep the letter of the law. In the carnal flesh, sold under sin and dead to the Spirit of Life in Jesus Christ, we cannot keep the letter of the law. But when we are made alive in Jesus Christ, we walk in the Spirit of the Law and find that the letter of the law is fulfilled in our new life in Jesus Christ.

The man of the spirit is made alive unto law. Jeremiah 31:31-34 declares the promise that the law under the New Covenant would be put in the inward parts and written in the heart. If the law were to be placed in the inward parts and written on the heart, the New Covenant Israelite has the letter of the law written upon the tablet of the heart by the pen of the Holy Spirit. The letter of the law that was written in stone and which ministered death (II Cor. 3:6-7) is now made alive within our hearts by the new nature given us in Christian regeneration. We now have the law written upon our hearts. The law is no longer inscribed upon stone tablets but has now been written upon our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. The letter of the law is now engraved upon our inward parts by the power of the Holy Spirit. To deny the letter of the law written upon our hearts in Christian regeneration is to deny the promise of the New Covenant promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34.

It is true that no man, even in Christian regeneration, is going to keep the law letter perfect. We are going to fall short of the "mark" of righteousness established in the Law. The reason that we are called to repent and confess our sin and be renewed in our Covenant relationship through the Sacrament of Holy Communion is because we will, in the Spirit of Life in Jesus Christ, stumble at times and fail to keep the law letter perfect. The Sacrament of Penance, old fashioned repentance, continually calls us to come before the Grace of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin. Our Christian regeneration is not license to sin. Sin is defined in Scripture (I John 3:4) as the transgression of the law. If sin is in the world, so is law. If the Christian is called to repentance, it must mean that law is operational when we walk in sin.

We are told in I Timothy 1:8: ***"But we know that the law is good, if a man use if lawfully".*** The law is not good if we use that law as a means of self justification before God. The law is not good if we use the law to judge another brother. The law is not good if we focus upon law and forget Jesus Christ. The law is not good is we claim self righteousness by the works of the law. The law is not good if we use the law to replace the Grace of Jesus Christ in atonement for sin. the law is good, however, when it is used lawfully. The law is good when the spiritual man walks in obedience to the law and yet claims His right standing before God by the blood of Jesus Christ. The law is good when it is used to judge the ungodly and the sinners (I Timothy 1:9). The law is good when it is used as a standard of the righteousness of God's Holiness. The law is good when we remember that it measures the fruits of those who are alive in Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of the Law does not invalidate the letter of the law. When we are made alive in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit writes the law upon our hearts. The law that is written upon our hearts is the same law that was inscribed upon tables of stone in the Old Covenant. We therefore walk in obedience to the Ten Commandments when we walk in the Spirit of the Law. If we fail in our obedience to the Law, we repent, make confession of our sin, stand under the Blood of Jesus Christ, and are restored to Covenant status in the Spirit of Life in Christ. Those who walk in the Spirit of the Law cannot escape the reality of the letter of the law. If you are in Jesus Christ, made new in His image and alive by the Holy Spirit, your heart will be made willing and obedient to keep the law. Your obedience to the law will be the workmanship of Jesus Christ in you (Ephesians 2:10). You are made both to will and to do the good pleasure of God's will by the power of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:13). When you walk in the spirit of the Law and keep the commandments, you are just doing that which is your duty to do (St. Luke 17:10).

Now, a word to those who deny that Christians have an obligation to keep the letter of the Law. All too often there are those who want to evade the letter of the law and claim immunity from obedience. When confronted with the letter of the law, they claim their opponents are walking in "legalism" or that they are "pharisees". In truth, the charge of legalism or Phariseeism is a cop-out for those who want to live lawlessly and with no accountibility before God in keeping the Law. Consider what it means to deny the letter of the law for those who walk in the Spirit of Life in Jesus Christ. What happens when you deny the letter of the law with regard to fornication, adultery, murder, rape, stealing, and other such crimes? Where do you draw the line between the letter and the spirit in such crimes? In truth, the Spirit of the Law means that regenerated Christians will bring forth obedience to the letter of the law and that obedience will be by the Grace of Jesus Christ, which makes us alive in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We assert, then, that those who live in the Spirit of the Law will bring forth the evidence of the letter of the law written in their hearts. The Holy Spirit will make us willing and obedient to the letter of the Law. We will keep the Holy Feast Days, not as an option, not as something to do or not to do at our pleasure, but because we are made willing and obedient in Jesus Christ. We will keep a Sabbath as an evidence of our faith in Jesus Christ, not to take or leave, not to reject or to accept; but the Sabbath observance will become a part of our life in Jesus Christ and the outward evidence of our faith and conversion in Him. We will keep the Dietary Laws of Clean and Unclean not as something to take or leave at our will, but rather as the evidence of our calling and election in Jesus Christ. We will keep all other laws written in the Bible as they are made alive unto us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We do not keep the Law in our own strength, nor do we claim obedience in our own name. We keep the Law by the effectual power of the Holy Spirit, and our obedience is unto Jesus Christ through whom we do all things.

Finally, St. Matthew 5:17 declares that Jesus Christ came not to destroy the law, or the prophets: ***"I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill".*** In the Greek language the English word "fulfill" conveys the idea of putting into force. Jesus Christ came to shed His blood and remove the penalty of sin from the Elect, and He sent the Sanctifying Grace of the Holy Spirit to keep us from the presence and power of sin. The Sanctifying Grace of the Holy Spirit writes the law upon our hearts and makes it alive unto Jesus Christ. The Law is therefore put into force and to practical use, by the presence and power of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. The letter of the law written in our hearts is made alive unto obedience by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us.

Jesus Christ therefore magnified the law. He did not destroy the letter of the law. He enlarged upon murder by charging hatred toward a brother as murder (St. Matthew 5:22 and I John 3:15). He magnified the letter sin of adultery by saying that if a man lusted after a woman in his heart, he was guilty of the letter sin of adultery (St. Matthew 5:27-28). Do not allow yourselves to be trapped into believing that Christians are not responsible to God for the letter of the Law. The spirit of the Law will bring forth the letter of the law written and engraved by the Holy Spirit upon our hearts. Our obedience is unto Jesus Christ. Our good works belong to Him. Our righteousness is His righteousness. Our obedience is His obedience. Because we are empowered by Jesus Christ and the Sanctifying Grace of the Holy Spirit to keep the letter of the Law written upon our hearts, our good works belong to Jesus Christ. We have nothing to glory in. If there be any good whatever in us, it is all because of Jesus Christ who makes us both to will and to do His good works. (Phil. 2:13).

The spirit of the Law in Jesus Christ will put into force the letter of the law which in the carnal flesh cannot be obeyed. You that are in Jesus Christ will bring forth the evidence of your faith by obedience to the Law. Without obedience to the Law, your life is a mockery to Jesus Christ and is an unrighteous witness before the world. Moreover, consider what the Scripture declares of those who were enlightened by Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and then turn from obedience to the Law:

"For if we sin (transgress the Law as in I John 3:4) willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth (The Law is truth, Psalms 119: 142, 151), there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins (transgression of the Law). But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witness: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit (Holy Spirit) of grace?" (Hebrews 10:26-29)

Notice that when we willfully transgress the law (sin) after coming to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, we despise the Sanctifying Spirit of Grace. This means that we sin against the Holy Spirit when we turn from obedience to the law. In St. Matthew 12:32 we are warned that if we speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. It is blasphemy to speak against the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit writes the law in our inward parts and upon the tablets of our heart. The office of