

I John 5:2-3 -- "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."

[1] Note that John does not shrink from calling the will of God "commandments." This is understandable if the Law of God is the will of God in every age, and if the Law of God has commanding force (instead of merely good advice).

[2] Some interpreters have attempted to truncate God's commandments to those that are mentioned in I John 3:22-24 -- "And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him." They thus reduce God's commandments to two: (a) Believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ; (b) Love fellow believers.

[3] The only problem with such a reduction is that the New Testament is filled with commandments which are clearly expressed as the will of God for the present age. In fact, many of these commandments are simply expressions of the values and norms of the Ten Commandments!

Upon reflection, it appears that the moral principles found in the New Testament teaching consist of the values and norms of the Mosaic Law, plus certain values and norms specifically related to the new dispensation. It would thus seem that whatever is reminiscent of or developed from the values and norms of the Mosaic Law forms part of the standard of moral conduct binding on human beings; and that whatever is implied by the additional values and norms of the New Testament also forms part of that standard.