

# LAW

- I. Some representative Biblical references to "Law"
  - A. Old Testament
    - Exod. 24:12 - "I will give you stone tablets with the law"
    - Ps. 119:142 - "Thy Law is truth"
    - Jere. 31:33 - "I will put My Law within them"
    - Dan. 9:11 - "all Israel has transgressed Thy Law"
  - B. New Testament
    - Matt. 5:17 - "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law..."
    - Rom. 3:20 - "by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified"
    - Rom. 7:7 - "Is the Law sin? May it never be!"
    - Rom. 10:4 - "Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness"
    - Rom. 13:10 - "love is the fulfillment of the law" (cf. Gal. 5:14)
    - Gal. 5:18 - "you are not under the Law"
  
- II. Explanation of the Biblical usage of "Law"
  - A. Law in the Old Testament
    - 1. Hebrew word *torah* means "direction, guidance, instruction."
    - 2. *Torah* is used 220 times in Hebrew Old Testament.
    - 3. Synonyms of "Law" in Old Testament
      - a. Commandment - Exod. 16:28
      - b. Ordinance - Lev. 19:37
      - c. Statute - Lev. 18:4,5
      - d. Admonition - Neh. 9:34
      - e. Precept - Ps. 119:168
      - f. Decree - Ps. 2:7
  - B. Law in the New Testament
    - 1. Greek word for "law" is *nomos*.
      - a. Greeks used the word for social law.
      - b. Used 196 times in Greek New Testament.
    - 2. *Nomos* used to refer to Old Testament law.
      - a. Entire Old Testament - John 10:34;12:34; 15:25
      - b. First five books - Lk. 24:44; Rom. 3:21
      - c. Mosaic law; Decalogue - Rom. 5:13,14; Gal. 3:17
  
- III. Judaism interpreted "Law" as a legal codification of behavioral standards
  - A. Law became regulations of external behavioral activity.
  - B. Theological categorizations of behavior
    - 1. Religious, ceremonial, ritual, cultic.
    - 2. Civil, social, political, judicial.
    - 3. Moral, ethical, personal, individual.
  
- IV. Purposes of the "Law" within the historical intents of God
  - A. Instrumental purpose of the Law.
    - 1. To reveal the character of God
    - 2. To reveal sin - Rom. 3:20; 7:7,13
      - a. Not to promote sin - Rom. 5:20; 7:9; I Cor. 15:56
    - 3. To reveal the coming of Messiah/Savior - Preparational
      - a. Pictorial.
        - (1) Promises - Rom. 1:2; 3:21; 16:26
        - (2) Shadows - Heb. 8:5; 9:9; 10:1; 11:19

- b. Custodial.
          - (1) "In custody" - Gal. 3:23
          - (2) *Paidagogos* - Gal. 3:24
            - (a) Guardian, attendant
            - (b) Not educator, teacher, tutor
  - B. NO behavioral purpose of the Law.
    - 1. Law pertained to human behavioral practice, but there was not a divine behavioral purpose.
    - 2. Religious and political man tries to use God's law for functional, behavioral, moral purposes.
  - C. NO vital purpose of the Law.
    - 1. God's Life not made available in God's Law.
      - a. Not in Scripture - John 5:39,40
      - b. Not in Law - Gal. 3:21
      - c. Other verses to consider - Rom. 10:5; Gal. 3:12; Rom. 7:10
    - 2. God's Righteousness not made available in God's Law.
      - a. Jewish religionists thought there was righteousness in the law - Rom. 10:3; Phil. 3:6,9.
      - b. Paul denies - Rom. 3:20,28; 10:4; Gal. 2:16,21; 3:11; 5:4
- V. New Covenant perspective of the Law
- A. Affirmation of the Law.
    - 1. Jesus and the Law.
      - a. Born under the law - Gal. 4:4
      - b. Disassociated Himself from Law - Jn 8:17; 10:34; 15:25
      - c. Reinterpreted Law - Matt. 5:21-48
      - d. Added to Law - John 13:34
    - 2. Law in the rest of the New Testament - Rom. 3:31; 7:12,14,16; 8:4; I Cor. 7:19; Gal. 3:21; James 4:11; I Jn. 2:3,4; 3:4; 5:2,3
  - B. Abrogation of the Law.
    - 1. Inadequacy of the Law
      - a. No life - Gal. 3:21
      - b. No righteousness - Rom. 3:20,28; Gal. 2:16,21
      - c. No freedom - Acts 13:29
      - d. No perfection - Heb. 7:11,12,18,19;8:7
    - 2. Temporality of the Law - Heb. 7:24; 8:13; II Cor. 3:11; Rom. 10:4
    - 3. Abolishing of the Law
      - a. Objective - Eph. 2:14,15; Col. 2:13,14
      - b. Subjective
        - (1) Dead to the Law - Rom. 7:4,6; Gal. 2:19; Col. 2:20
        - (2) Released from the Law - Rom. 7:6
        - (3) Not under Law - Gal. 3:25; I Cor. 9:20; Rom. 6:14,15;6:14,15; Gal. 5:18
  - C. Application of the Law.
    - 1. What purpose would it serve? Instrumental? Behavioral? Vital?
    - 2. To whom would it apply? Jews? Non-Christians? Christians?
    - 3. How should Christians view the Law?
      - a. Connection
      - b. Appreciation
      - c. Not repudiation
      - d. Not legalism
    - 4. The divine directive of God.
      - a. Christ, the living Torah
        - (1) Law of Christ - I Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2

- (2) law of faith - Rom. 6:14
  - (3) law of Spirit - Rom. 8:2
  - (4) perfect law - James 1:25
  - (5) law of liberty - James 1:25;2:12
  - (6) royal law - James 2:8
  - (7) law written on hearts -Heb. 8:10;10:16
- b. Law fulfilled in Christian-Rom. 8:4; 13:8,10; Gal. 5:14; 6:2
- (1) Grace of God
  - (2) Ontological dynamic of Jesus Christ