

SPIRITUAL JURISPRUDENCE

Lesson 1

Introduction

What is Jurisprudence?

Jurisprudence is the study, philosophy, or science of law; literally meaning in the original Latin, *knowledge of the law*.

Law is defined as *a thing regarded as having a binding effect*.

- *The principles and regulations established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision.*
- *Any written or positive rule or collection of rules prescribed under the authority of a governing body, e.g., state, nation, sport association, fraternity, etc.*
- *A statement of fact, deduced from observation to the effect that a particular natural or scientific phenomenon always occurs if certain conditions are present.*

Spiritual jurisprudence is the study of spiritual law. Not just the Law or Laws of God, recorded as “do’s and don’ts” but also the laws of the spirit-realm as dictated and revealed in the Bible. (Note: Violating laws always has negative ramifications.)

EVERYTHING OPERATES ACCORDING TO LAWS

Everything operates according to laws – *everything!*

- **Civilization:** Civilization, or civil society, operates under civil law. These laws govern the behavior of its private citizens. Any nation will also have laws regulating criminality, politics, and military matters. These laws are affecting your life as you read this sentence, e.g., building codes, utility regulations, import tariffs on your clothing, etc.
- **Science:** All of creation is studied through the general field of science. Science itself is broken down into numerous fields: chemistry, physics, biology, geology, etc. With each of those fields being broken down into further subfields, e.g., geochemistry quantum physics, molecular biology, glaciology, etc.
 - Science studies creation to understand how our God made things and how He made them to work. These scientific observations often qualify to be called scientific laws.
 - There are over 165 scientific laws named after people, e.g., Planck’s Constant, Darcy’s Law, etc. (There are many more scientific laws that are not eponymous, e.g., the law of gravity.)
 - The laws can be harnessed to help mankind.
 - Violating these laws would produce some sort of failure.

- **Sports:** Every sport in the world has a system of rules in place to ensure fairness, secure consistent standards in equipment and arena, have fun, and reward the victor.
 - Rules regulate field size, game time limits, equipment requirements, game play technique, player size and weight limits, etc.
 - Game rules allow for competitors to compete fairly and without surprises.
 - No man is crowned unless he strives lawfully (**2 Tim. 2:5**).
 - Violating these rules would call for some form of fine, punishment, or disqualification.

- **Driving:** Driving is regulated by governments all over the world. Wise traffic laws are developed with purpose of balancing both safety and commuter efficiency. If the rules are too loose, chaos and catastrophe can ensue and bring traffic to a halt. If the rules are too strict, traffic can likewise be brought to a halt. Traffic laws must be balanced. Common regulations include:
 - Vehicle size
 - Road dimensions, shoulder dimensions, guardrails, etc.
 - Speed limits
 - Commuter lanes
 - Carpooling
 - Vehicle emissions standards, registration, condition, etc.
 - Violating these rules will call for fines, arrest, accidents, or even death,

When laws are developed by civil governments or sports bodies, they are generally intended to either legislate against a criminal behavior, to protect by promoting safe practices, or to regulate something that has grown out of hand. Laws, by nature, are intended to help civilize society and invoke “fairness.” New laws are written every day because mankind continuously manages to develop new ways to violate his or her fellow man. Laws bring stability and structure when and where there is chaos and decay. Simply put, laws are meant to provide mankind with a peaceful construct within which he can safely enjoy life.

FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS ABOUT LAWS

- Laws set perimeters and boundaries.
- Laws provide safety and defense.
- Laws define acceptable and unacceptable behavior.
- Laws establish systems of rewards and punishment.
- Laws define who is authorized and who is not.
- Laws are established and “set in stone.” They are not suggestions. They are laws.
- Laws do not produce legalism. Man’s heart failing to understand the purpose of the law produces legalism.
- Legalism is the worship of laws by the adherent.
- Lawlessness is the rejection of laws, or picking and choosing which laws you will and will not obey. I call this “the law to lawlessness.”

- Over-regulation is the creation of unnecessary laws in response to lawlessness and loophole exploitation.
- Righteous laws produce peace when obeyed.

****Righteous laws bring peace.****

The whole of polite, safe, and peaceful society rises and falls on its laws. It should then come as no surprise that the Kingdom of God has its own set of laws. The citizens of that Kingdom are likewise bound to obey those laws. The laws of the Kingdom are what separate and distinguish us from the heathen. Not only does the Kingdom have laws, but the spirit realm, with all of its demonic and angelic activity, also has a set of laws that, though not as clearly spelled out in the Scriptures, are nonetheless actively affecting our lives every day. The entirety of our Christian walk will rise and fall on the Law of God.

EXAMPLES OF SPIRITUAL LAWS IN THE BIBLE

Spiritual laws are like natural laws—they are constantly in operation and are affecting our lives whether we realize it or not. We must learn spiritual laws in order to cooperate and benefit from them. Consider the following spiritual laws affecting your life today:

- Law of Seed Time and Harvest—**Genesis 8:22**. Confirmed throughout the entire Bible, e.g., “What a man sows, that shall he reap” (**2 Cor. 9:6; Gal. 6:7-8**). This law is forever in effect.
- Law of Witnesses—**Deuteronomy 19:15b**. Every matter is established by two or three witnesses (**Num. 35:30; Matt. 18:16; John 8:17; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19; Heb. 10:28**). You cannot violate this law.
- Law of Pride and Humility—**Matthew 23:12**. God will promote the humble but resist the proud (**Luke 14:11, 18:14; James 4:6,10; 1 Peter 5:6**). This law is forever in effect.
- Law of Faith—**Romans 10:8**. Faith believes in the heart and confesses with the mouth and you can have what you say (**Deut. 30:14; Mark 11:22-24; 1 Cor. 4:13; Heb. 10:23**). This law cannot be violated.
- Law of Forgiveness—**Matthew 6:14-15**. You must forgive if you want God to forgive you (**Mark 11:25; James 2:13**). This law cannot be violated.

May God grant us the spirit of wisdom as we begin to study His spiritual laws. Amen!

SPIRITUAL JURISPRUDENCE

Lesson 2

The Law of God in the Old Testament

Spiritual Jurisprudence is the study of the Laws of God. These laws are spiritual in nature, having originated in the mind and wisdom of God, who is by self-description, a spirit.

As we saw in the previous lesson, chaos ensues without laws. Civil laws hold society together. Athletic rules hold sports events together. The laws of science explain how creation is held together. The Law of God holds His Kingdom together. Without laws, chaos, pandemonium, and destruction ensue.

The Old Testament

The Old Testament is different than the Old Covenant. The Old Testament contains and reveals God's Old Covenant with His chosen people Israel. By Old Covenant, we are referring to God's covenant with the Jews, or Israelites, the descendants of Abraham. Abraham is the man with whom God initiated His covenant. This covenant contained laws and promises. The rules of God's covenant were simple: Keep the law and obtain the promises, or break the law and forfeit the promises.

Because the Old Testament contains the Old Covenant, which consists of the Law, it is often ignorantly taught that the entire Old Testament is Law. This is a false understanding. The Old Testament contains 39 books. Not everything contained in the Old Testament is Law. The 39 books of the Old Testament can be broken down as follows:

- 5 Books of Law, also known as "The Pentateuch (five scrolls)," "The Law," "The Torah," or "The Law of Moses." Technically, only portions of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy contain laws. In my Bible, that amounts to less than 196 pages out of 1145 pages, or 13% of the total Bible, or about 16% of the Old Testament.
- 12 Books of History—Joshua through Esther.
- 5 Books of Poetry/Wisdom—Job through Song of Solomon.
- 5 Major Prophets—Isaiah through Daniel.
- 12 Minor Prophet—Hosea through Malachi.
- For a deeper study on the books of the Old Testament see *How To Study Your Bible* at www.podschool.org.

Out of 39 books, only four contain the Law. The Law was given through Moses over a period of 40 years as Israel wandered in the Wilderness. The Law was initiated with the Ten Commandments written with the finger of God on stone tablets. The Ten Commandments expanded to 613 commandments collectively called the *Mitzvah*. These 613 laws can be described as a general elaboration of the Ten Commandments. The *Mitzvah* can be broken down into 248 "Do's" and 365 "Do Not's."

God made very clear His purpose for giving His law to His people. He did not give His law to Israel to make them legalistic. He gave Israel His law to set them apart and to make them a light to the nations.

- **Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.**

Exodus 19:5-6a

- **Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.**

Deuteronomy 4:1

- **You have today declared the LORD to be your God, and that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His ordinances, and listen to His voice. The Lord has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments; and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the LORD your God, as He has spoken.**

Deut. 26:17-19 NASB

- **And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.**

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

From these four passages, we see *some* of the reasons God gave Israel His laws and commandments. Obeying God's law makes you:

- A special treasure to God—favored
- A kingdom of priests—usable
- A holy nation—representative of God Almighty
- Alive—protected
- Possess the land promised—strengthened and enabled
- God's people—possessed
- A promoted nation above all nations; for praise, fame, and honor—exalted
- A consecrated people—separated
- Blessed with all the blessings of God—distinguished

God’s Law was given to promote and advance any who will obey it. God’s Law is also God’s proclamation declaring, “If you’re going to be my people, this is how I want you to be” (2 Cor. 6:17-18).

A Breakdown of Mitzvah

The 613 Laws of the Old Covenant can be broken down into three categories:

1. The Moral Laws—These laws taught Israel the holy and moral nature of God, e.g., don’t lie, don’t kill, don’t steal, don’t prostitute your daughter, don’t have sex with a dog, etc. They are a guide to right-living and morality, for they are what God declares is moral and right. These laws reflect God’s nature, and because His nature is unchanging, these laws are still applicable today.
2. The Judicial/Polity Laws—These laws include the precepts given to Israel for the governing of its nation as a civil state. Many of these commandments contain principles adopted by most nations today, e.g., death penalty, the appointment of judges and officers of the court, numerous court and legal laws, property rights, corruption laws, etc. It is commonly held that these laws are not binding or enforceable to the New Testament saint on the basis that they involve polity and governments.
3. The Ceremonial Laws—These include the numerous sacrifices and ceremonial rites that served as types and shadows pointing to the coming Messiah. The New Testament confirms that the ceremonial aspects of the Law were fulfilled in Christ (Heb. 9:9-11; 10:1,9). The ceremonial law was fulfilled, not annulled or abolished (Matt. 5:17-19, Rom. 3:31).

The Mitzvah can be broken down into 17 thematic categories. The number of laws for each theme is shown in parentheses. Laws carried over to the New Testament are shown outside of the parentheses.

17 Categories of Mitzvot

• Laws about God (10)10	• Torah (6)5
• Signs and Symbols (5)0	• Prayer and Blessing (4)3
• Love and Brotherhood (14)13	• The Poor and Unfortunate (13)3
• Treatment of Gentiles (6)4	• Marriage, Divorce and Family (23)6
• Forbidden Sexual Relations (25)24	• Times and Seasons (36)0
• Dietary Laws (27)0	• Business Practices (14)4
• Employees, Servants and Slaves (19)4	• Vows, Oaths and Swearing (7)5
• The Sabbatical and Jubilee Years (17)0	• The Court and Judicial Procedure (36)10
• Injuries and Damages (4)0	• Property and Property Rights (11)8
• Criminal Laws (7)7	• Punishment and Restitution (24)8
• Prophecy (3)2	• Idolatry, Idolaters and Idolatrous Practices (46)36

• Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (7)0	• Clothing (3)0
• The Firstborn (4)0	• Kohanim and Levites (30)9
• T'rumah (heave offering), Tithes and Taxes (24)5	• The Temple, the Sanctuary and Sacred Objects (33)22
• Sacrifices and Offerings (102)17	• Ritual Purity and Impurity (16)0
• Lepers and Leprosy (4)0	• The King (7)4
• Nazarites (10)0	• Wars (16)7

AVOIDING LEGALISM

Legalism is the exaltation and/or strict adherence to laws while failing to discover and understand the heart of those laws. For Christians to avoid becoming legalistic, they must ask, "What is the heart and purpose of God behind this law?" To that end, God explains the purpose behind two of His laws while delivering those laws.

- **Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead. For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.**

Deuteronomy 14:1-2

Here, two new laws, under the category of Idolatry and Idolatrous Practices, are coupled together with two explanations as to *why* God was giving them the commandment. *Why can't I cut myself or make a baldness between my eyes?*

1. Ye are the children of God,
2. For thou art an holy people.

Why were these two seemingly legalistic laws delivered to Israel? Because God wanted His children to stand out from the pagans around them. In this time and cultural setting, these forbidden behaviors were associated with the worship of the dead. Legalism would miss the heart of these commands and probably forbid any form of surgery (because it would require cutting) and no eyebrow waxing—neither of which are a problem with God. Legalism fails to understand the heart behind the law.

The Mitzvah in the New Testament

Approximately 231 of the 613 Old Testament Commandments are found in the New Testament along with the principles of many more. This should not surprise us since the Law of God is how the unchanging God revealed Himself to Old Testament believers. Of the Ten Commandments, only the Fourth Commandment (*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy*) is not directly quoted or observed in the New Testament, though the principle of honoring God on a special day is clearly taught (**Romans 14:5**).

May God help us in our study of His Law that we might be holy and set apart to Him! Amen!

SPIRITUAL JURISPRUDENCE

Lesson 3

The Laws of God in the New Testament

Review

As covered in the previous lesson, there were 613 laws in the Old Testament. They are contained in only four books (Exodus-Deuteronomy), and are collectively called the Mitzvah. The Ten Commandments were the first of the 613 commandments to be given. The additional 603 commandments can be viewed as expositions or explanations of the Ten Commandments. Jesus Christ affirmed this fact:

- **Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**
Matthew 22:37-40

The first commandment here summarizes Commandments One through Four. The second commandment here summarizes Commandments Five through Ten.

The *intent* and *purpose* of the Law of God was given to accomplish several things:

- It proved Israel's obedience and faithfulness to Jehovah God (**James 1:3-5**).
- It taught Israel holiness and the nature of God (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).
- It was intended to make Israel a holy nation, a kingdom of priests, and a special treasure to God (**1 Peter 2:5,9**).
- It was intended to preserve Israel from the consequences of sin (**Romans 2:9-11; 8:13**).
- It was intended as the key to possess the land promised (**Heb. 12:1**).
- Obedience to the Law was intended to make Israel God's people (**2 Cor. 6:17-18**).
- It was intended to promote Israel to a nation above all nations; for praise, fame, and honor (**James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6**).
- Obedience to the Law was intended to consecrate Israel as a people (**John 17:17, Eph. 5:26**).
- It was intended to afford Israel all the blessings of God (**Heb. 6:7-9**).

These were the wonderful intentions, or the heart, behind the Law of God. It was not the purpose or intention of God to make His people legalistic. Legalism occurs when man fails to understand the heart behind a law. Each of the above intentions is found in the New Testament, whether directly or in principle. God still wants to accomplish the same things with His people under the New Covenant.

The New Testament Commandments

The New Testament is built upon the Old Testament. The church did not use the term “New Testament” until the 2nd Century, when the early theologian Tertullian first coined it at least 100 years after the death of the Apostles. In many regards, the New Testament can be viewed as a continuation of the former, with several adjustments. Consider the following Bible facts:

- The New Testament directly quotes the Old Testament 695 times.
- The New Testament references the Old Testament 4,105 times. There are 7,957 verses in the New Testament. That means 51% of the New Testament references the Old Testament.
- Twenty of the 26 New Testament books quote the Old Testament.
- The Torah is quoted 245 times in the New Testament.

The New Testament has 1,050 commands. These commands vary from simple “do’s and don’ts,” to seek this and abstain from that, desire this and reject that, etc. Scores of commands are repeated numerous times, e.g., don’t fornicate, don’t steal, etc. This results in 800 unique (but not unique to the NT) New Testament commandments. Consider the following implications:

- The New Testament has 30% more commandments than the Old Testament.
- More commandments require greater responsibility and less “wiggle room.”
- More commandments reveal more of God’s nature and character.
- More commandments provide more protection and safety.

Other Observations about New Testament Commandments

- New Testament Commandments are often stricter than the Old Testament:
 - Example 1
 - Old Testament: **Thou shalt not commit adultery (Ex. 20:14).**
 - New Testament: **Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart (Matt. 5:28).**
 - Example 2
 - Old Testament: **Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil (Ex. 23:2).**
 - New Testament: **Abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thes. 5:22).**
 - Example 3
 - Old Testament: **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD (Lev. 19:18b).**
 - New Testament: **If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love they neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors (James 2:8-9).**

- New Testament commandments place more responsibilities upon Christians.
- More New Testament commandments infer we are required to mature past the level of Old Testament believers.
- New Testament commandments deal more directly with the heart. The Old Testament generally focused on outward behavior.

Eleven Laws in the New Testament

1. Law of Faith:
 - **Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith (Romans 3:27).**
2. Law of Christ:
 - **Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).**
3. Law of God:
 - **For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (Romans 7:22)**
 - **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be (Romans 8:7).**
4. Law of Sin (and Death):
 - **But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members (Romans 7:23).**
 - **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin (Romans 7:25).**
 - **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).**
5. Perfect Law of Liberty:
 - **But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed (James 1:25).**
 - **So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty (James 2:12).**
6. Law of the Spirit of Life:
 - **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).**
7. Law of Righteousness:
 - **But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; (Romans 9:31-32).**
8. Law of Marriage:
 - **The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:39).**

9. Law of Financial Support:

- **Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen (1 Corinthians 9:8-9).**

10. Law of Spousal Obedience:

- **Let your women (wives) keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law (1 Cor. 14:34).**

11. The Royal Law (of Love):

- **If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: (James 2:8).**

Love is the Fulfillment of the Law

Having fulfilled the Ceremonial Laws, Jesus Christ left us with the Moral Law to fulfill in the New Testament. Paul summarized the Moral Law by saying:

- **Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:10**
- **For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Galatians 5:13-14**

The heart and essence of the Old Testament Moral Laws still apply to us today: Work no ill will against one another and lovingly serve one another. Some may ask, "Okay, but what does that look like?" Fortunately for us, there are a lot of commandments in the New Testament to show us. Godspeed!

SPIRITUAL JURISPRUDENCE

Lesson 4

Delivered from the Law?

Nearly every Christian at some time or another has heard the statement “We’re delivered from the Law” or “We’re not under the Law anymore.” These statements have been made *ad nauseam* without the least bit of qualification or explanation until the average Christian mindlessly retains them as part of their doctrine. Consequently, this may be one of the greatest modern doctrinal misunderstandings, stemming from a few verses taken out of context. These sentiments often mislead believers into thinking they can disregard scriptures, commandments, and even morality and ethics because, after all, “we are free from the law.” This lesson will aim to shed light on the Law’s application to the New Testament believer.

Review

- We have seen there are only 613 Laws in the Old Testament called the Mitzvah. (Note: When a Jewish boy turns 13, he celebrates his Bar Mitzvah, or the time of becoming fully responsible for keeping the Mitzvah. A Jewish girl celebrates her Bat Mitzah at 12.)
- Approximately 231 of the 613 Mitzvah can be found in the New Testament along with the principles of many more mitzvot.
- The New Testament contains 800 commands – 31% more commands than the Old Testament.
- There are 11 specific laws the New Testament applies to the born-again believer:
 - *Law of Faith*
 - *Law of Christ*
 - *Law of God*
 - *Law of Sin and Death*
 - *Law of Liberty*
 - *Law of the Spirit of Life*
 - *Law of Righteousness*
 - *Law of Marriage*
 - *Law of Financial Support*
 - *Law of Spousal Obedience*
 - *Royal Law of Love*
- Nine of the Ten Commandments are taught in the New Testament.
- The New Testament directly quotes the Old Testament 495 times.
- The New Testament references the Old Testament 4105 times. (There are approximately 8,000 verses in the New Testament).
- 20 of the 26 New Testament books quote the Old Testament.
- Only five books of the Old Testament are not quoted in the New Testament (there are 39 Old Testament books.)
- The first five books of the Bible (The Pentateuch) are quoted directly 245 times in the New Testament.

Defining the Law

The Law was given to teach Israel what God expected from them in terms of worship, morality, and civil governance. Concerning morality, the Law taught Israel what holiness looked like, but the Law never had the power to justify Israel by making them righteous before God. In short, the Law did not have the ability to take away sin; it was only intended to reveal what sin looked like (**Rom. 7:7-13**).

- **For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. Romans 10:5 NLT**
- **So you must keep my statutes and my regulations; anyone who does so will live by keeping them. I am the LORD. Leviticus 18:5 NET**

Right standing with God through the Law was an exhausting task of maintaining all 613 Commandments. If an Israelite broke a moral law, they had to obey a ceremonial law in order to atone for their sin. This pattern and principle for redemption is the basis for the New Covenant: the only way out of disobedience is through obedience. Moses and the Prophets pointed towards the coming righteousness that was made available through the long-promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

- **And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27**
- **And when they had appointed him (Paul) a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. Acts 28:23**

Other Scriptures: Luke 16:29-31; 24:44; John 1:45; Acts 26:22

Any strict adherent of The Law would have longed for “a better way.” Fortunately, David prophesied about the coming righteousness of God acquired by faith, and not by the Law:

- **Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. Psalm 32:1-2**

Thankfully, the Apostle Paul was used by God to explain righteousness by faith (as opposed to righteousness by the works of the Law.) Paul used the Old Testament to build the New Testament doctrine of justification or righteousness by faith. “Justified” is the Greek word *dikaioo*, meaning *to render or pronounce one righteous* (Other verses: **Galatians 3:2,5,10**). These terms are used interchangeably in the New Testament.

- **Therefore by the deeds of the law shall there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20**
- **But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. Galatians 3:11**
- **Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Galatians 3:6; Gen. 15:6**
- **For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Romans 4:3,5**

Flawlessly performing the works of The Law would never remove the stain of sin. It was and is futile to try to obtain right standing with God by keeping His Law. Now, under the New Testament, right standing with God is acquired by faith in Jesus Christ, not by strictly maintaining 613 commands.

- **But now is the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: Romans 3:21-22**
- **... God imputeth righteousness without works, Romans 4:6c**
- **But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; Romans 9:31-32**

How We Are Delivered From The Law

Remember, the Law (613 commandments) is divided into 3 categories: ceremonial, moral, and civil government. Keeping the Law meant maintaining the “works of the law.” This was the only way to stay right before God. Sacrifices had to be done perfectly according to the Law. The city/village governments had to be administrated flawlessly according to the Law. Human interaction had to be carried out precisely according to the Law. All of this was in an attempt to be right before God. This was an exhausting and never-ending means to righteousness. However, this mode of justification changed at Calvary. So then, with this understanding we can interpret the following verse more accurately now:

- **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Romans 10:4**

Concerning the search and acquisition for right standing or justification with God, Jesus is the end of the Law. We are freed from the burden of infallibly keeping the Law's ceremonies, morals, and civil rules in order to be right with God. Now, we trust God and believe on Jesus Christ. This by no means implies we are now free to lie, steal, fornicate, worship devils, or communicate with the dead. All these actions strictly forbidden under the Law of Moses, and we are still "**under the law to Christ**" (1 Cor. 9:21).

- **But now we are delivered (released) from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.**
Romans 7:6

Just as a widow is freed from her marriage covenant at the death of her husband, we are released from the Old Covenant and Law by the death of Christ's body. The widow is free to remarry and we are free to be joined to Christ and serve in newness of spirit. We, being dead to the Law, are free to serve Christ. But there's a catch—free to serve. Service requires rules and regulations.

- **Who also hath made us able ministers (servants) of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.**
2 Corinthians 3:6

God calls us to be servants under the New Covenant. We are not servants of the letter of the Law or of the Old Covenant. But notice, we are still servants and under a covenant with 800 commandments (231 of which come from the Old Testament). The letter kills by activating sin (**Rom. 8:10-11**), by imputing sin (**Rom. 5:13**), and by producing a suffocating yoke of an impossible burden (**Acts 15:20**). The letter kills, but so does sin. Without the law we cannot know what sin looks like in order to abstain from it (**1 Thes. 5:22**).

- **For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.**
Ephesians 2:14-16 NASB

The subject here is the unification of Jew and Gentile which Christ accomplished on the cross, making one body in Him. The Old Covenant was the delineator and barrier producing a dividing wall that separated Jew and Gentile. The Law was given to distinguish the Jews from the rest of the world. Jesus abolished the barrier, the Law with its ordinances, which kept people from coming to Him. Now anyone can come to Him by grace through faith.

What the New Testament says about the Law

We will see from the following points that the New Testament does not diminish the Old Testament or the Law. Rather, it says the Law is good, if one knows how to use it lawfully (**1 Tim. 1:8**).

- Instruction in the Law teaches what is more excellent—**Romans 2:18**
- The Law brings knowledge of sin—**Romans 3:20; 5:13; 7:7**
- The Law is not made void—**Romans 3:31**
- The Law leads to grace—**Romans 5:20**
- The Law is holy—**Romans 7:12**
- The Law is spiritual—**Romans 7:14**
- The Law is good—**Romans 7:16; 1 Tim 1:8**
- We delight in the Law of God—**Romans 7:22**
- We serve the Law—**Romans 7:25**
- We are subject to the Law of Christ—**1 Corinthians 9:21 NIV**
- Speaking of the Golden Rule, Jesus proclaimed, “**Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.**”—**Matthew 7:12**

Conclusion

Being “free from the Law” does not mean we are free to commit sin, transgress against our neighbor, or worship Buddha. The Law is good because it shows us how to live holy and honor God through good works. At the same time, we can never be justified before God by means of good works. The atoning *work* of Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the dead is the only work necessary for our justification. Our faith in Him justifies us and equips us to serve Him according to the 800 New Testament commands. So technically, in the New Testament we are not under the Law. However, we are still subject to many, many laws. Amen!

SPIRITUAL JURISPRUDENCE

Lesson 5

Antinomianism and Lawlessness

- **For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.**

2 Thes. 2:7-8 NIV

The main fruit of last days humanity is lawlessness. Lawlessness is the whimsical picking and choosing of which laws a person will and won't abide by. Lawlessness produces rampant sin manifesting in countless ways. Humanity is spiraling out of control with mankind doing as they please, when they please, with or to whom they please. There is a law to lawlessness: *Do as you please!* The first principle in the satanic bible is *Do as you will*. This principle summarizes lawlessness and is the primary fruit of the spirit of antichrist.

The danger behind this demonic philosophy is that it teaches mankind to not feel guilty about their sin. Without guilt, there can be no repentance. Without repentance, there can be no pardon for sin. Without pardon for sin, there can be only judgment. This process is also called the Doctrine of Balaam.

- **But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there (at your church) them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**
- Revelation 2:14**
- **Behold, these (women) caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.**
- Numbers 31:16**

Out of fear, the Midian king Balak hired the soothsayer Balaam to curse Israel. Balaam endeavored to do so several times but could not curse Israel (**Num. 22:12; 24:10**). Balaam could see that his potential paycheck was slipping away so he discovered another option: *No man can curse Israel, for God is with him. But if you can teach and encourage Israel to sin, to do as they are wont to do anyway, God Himself will curse them.* This is exactly what happened.

This doctrine of Balaam was also in the church at Thyatira. A woman in the church (possibly the pastor's wife), was teaching it to her little private group of followers. She was teaching Christians it was okay to fornicate and dabble in idolatry:

- **But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bondservants astray so**

that they commit acts of immorality (fornication) and eat things sacrificed to idols.
Revelation 2:20 NASB

The Doctrine of Balaam teaches people to not feel guilty about their sin. This doctrine will always produce two results: 1) a seared conscience, and 2) the judgment of God.

- **Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;**
1 Timothy 4:1-2
- **I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality (fornication). Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, unless they repent of her deeds. **And I will kill her children with pestilence (death),** and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.**
Revelation 2:21-23 NASB

The Doctrine of Balaam is alive and well today. It has found a new voice among some in the hyper-grace movement. The heart of this doctrine is lawlessness.

Definitions

Lawlessness: **anomia**- the condition of being without the law: 1) ignorance, 2) violation;
Contempt and violation of law; wickedness

anomos- destitute of Mosaic law; to depart from the law; wicked; violators of the law

nomos- anything established; a law or rule producing a state or condition approved of by God

Antinomianism- the teaching that Christians are free from the moral law by virtue of grace as set forth in the Gospel

****There is a law to lawlessness—do as you will.****

- **For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.**
2 Thes. 2:7-8 NIV

Lawlessness is the fruit of the antichrist spirit. Lawlessness is a selective obedience to the Law of God and the laws of man. It breeds attitudes that say, "I will only do what I want to do," "rules were made to be broken," "what they don't know won't hurt them," and "it's easier to get forgiveness rather than permission." Lawlessness views itself as the ultimate

authority and truth as whatever you need it to be in the moment. Lawlessness is unilaterally condemned in the scriptures.

What Jesus Said About Lawlessness

- **And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.'** **Matthew 7:23 NASB**

The great warning of **Matthew 7** is levied against those who practice lawlessness. Lawlessness defines our current generation. Jesus will command those who practice lawlessness to depart from His presence. He will not receive them. He will not hold His arms open wide to them in that day.

- **The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** **Matthew 13:41-42 NASB**

The angels will one day gather the lawless for eternal judgment. This verse reveals that there are those within the Kingdom who are currently practicing lawlessness. They will be sent to hell.

- **So you, too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.** **Matthew 23:28 NASB**

Lawlessness is of the heart. It is within. It is impossible to be lawless if the Word of God is written upon the tables of your heart. You can have a mind full of the Bible and still be lawless.

- **Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.** **Matthew 24:12 NASB**

Lawlessness kills an individual's ability to love. Biblical love is defined by rules and commands (**1 Cor. 13:4-8**). Lawlessness turns true love into selfishness. When lawlessness defines a man, he will only serve himself.

What the Epistles Say About Lawlessness

- **I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.** **Romans 6:19 NASB**

Paul equated our pre-Christ life as a life of slavery to impurity and lawlessness. This was slavery that only resulted in more lawlessness. Lawlessness is how pagans live, and the

opposite of lawlessness is sanctification. You cannot be lawless and holy at the same time. Christians are either choosing to live sanctified or they're living lawlessly. There is no middle ground.

- **Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?**
2 Corinthians 6:14 NASB

Paul sets lawlessness as the opposite of righteousness and holiness, and he equates it with darkness.

- **You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.**
Hebrews 1:9 NASB

God hates lawlessness, and lawlessness will rob you of His anointing.

- **Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.**
1 John 3:4 NIV

Sin is rebellion against the laws of God. Therefore, sin is lawlessness. This is why we must repent every time we sin.

- **Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine.**
1 Timothy 1:9-10 KJV

These two verses show that the law builds sound doctrine and exposes everything that violates sound doctrine. Many modern, lawless Christians commit sins listed in these two verses on a regular basis. They are in need of more law.

- **And if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—**
2 Pet 2:8 NIV

The culture of Sodom was described as “depraved” and its citizens as “lawless.” This behavior should grieve us just as it did Lot. Lawless can be summarized as sinfulness without remorse. May it not be named among us! Amen.

SPIRITUAL JURISPRUDENCE LESSON 6 What the Law Can and Can't Do

We have previously seen that the New Testament does not diminish the Old Testament or the Law. Instead, the New Testament reveals many aspects about the nature of the Law and law in general. Paul is very clear about the Law and its purpose:

- **But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;**
1 Timothy 1:8-10

The Law is good if it is used lawfully. The Law was given with a purpose and intention based upon its inherent, God-ordained ability. We must understand what that intention was and what the Law's ability is if we are to use the law lawfully. Misusing or misapplying the law can produce legalism and death.

THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW

- **Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.**
2 Corinthians 3:6

This verse distinctly compares two things: letter and spirit. We must not forget that the New Testament has more commandments than the Old Testament. So the issue at hand in this verse cannot be laws. I propose a new perspective to this often quoted verse: Instead of interpreting the comparison here to that of the Law vs. the Holy Spirit, I propose we look at it as the *letter* of the Law vs. the *spirit* or *heart* of the Law. "The letter of the law" implies a hang-up on the details while failing to see the big picture. Obsession over the letter will always lead to legalism, but knowing the heart behind any law will always free you up to fulfill it. Don't forget the big picture:

- **Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.**
Romans 13:10

Love (the biblical, godly definition of love that includes both mercy and justice) is the big picture. Legalism is the exaltation and/or strict adherence to laws while failing to discover and understand the heart of those laws. In order for Christians to avoid becoming legalistic, they must ask, "What is the heart and purpose of God behind this law? What is the spirit of

the law?" To that end, God explains the purpose behind two of His laws while delivering them:

- **Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead. For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.**

Deuteronomy 14:1-2

The purpose or spirit behind these two "legalistic" laws is holiness in the midst of a pagan generation. As previously stated in Lesson 2, if a Christian fails to know the heart behind these Old Testament laws, they might develop a doctrine of no surgery and no eyebrow plucking.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LAW

- Jesus is the Law/Word made flesh (**John 1:1**).
- Jesus was a master of the Law.
- The Law is fulfilled in the "Golden Rule" (**Matthew 7:12**).
- The Law and the Prophets hang on two commandments: Love thy God and Love thy neighbor (**Matthew 22:37-40**).
- The Law has weightier matters and lesser matters (**Matthew 23:23**).
- The Law will not fall away or fail (**Luke 16:17**).
- The Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms speak of Jesus Christ (**Luke 24:44**).
- He that loves fulfills the Law (**Romans 13:8,10**).
- The Law had a shadow of the good things that were to come, i.e., Jesus (**Hebrews 10:1**).
- Sin is the transgression of the Law (**1 John 3:4**).
- The Law was given by Moses (**John 1:17**).
- Angels were instrumental in giving the Law (**Acts 7:53**).
- Instruction in the Law teaches what is more excellent (**Romans 2:18**).
- The Law is not made void (**Romans 3:31**).
- The Law is holy (**Romans 7:12**).
- The Law is spiritual (**Romans 7:14**).
- The Law is good (**Romans 7:16; 1 Tim 1:8**).
- The Law is weak through the flesh (**Romans 8:3**).

WHAT THE LAW CAN DO

- The Law brings knowledge of sin and therefore helps define holiness (**Romans 3:20; 5:13; 7:7**).
- The Law produces wrath and punishment (**Romans 4:15**).
- The Law causes offenses to abound and thereby grace also abounds (**Romans 5:20**).
- The Law gives sin an occasion to flare up (**Romans 7:8**).
- The Law produces a revival of sin (**Romans 7:9**).

- The Law strengthens sin (**1 Corinthians 15:56**).
- The Law points to Jesus (**Luke 24:44**).

WHAT THE LAW CANNOT DO

Now, most importantly, in order for us to be able to use the Law lawfully, we must fully understand what the Law cannot do.

- **For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. Hebrews 7:19**

The Law cannot make a man righteous before God. It never has and it never will.

- **For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:2-4**

The Law cannot make us free from sin or death. On the contrary, the Law inflames sin. Only faith in Jesus Christ can make one right with God, hence:

- **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Romans 10:4**

When it comes to right-standing with God, Jesus Christ is the end of the line. There is no other way to obtain righteousness but through faith in Jesus Christ.

- **And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. Acts 13:39**

Paul refers to the reliance on the law for righteousness as “the works of the Law.”

- **Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20**
- **We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. Galatians 2:15-16**

Concerning righteousness, the only righteousness the Law is capable of producing is self-righteousness. As follows:

- **And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **Philippians 3:9****
- **For they (the Jews) being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **Romans 10:3****

Reliance upon the law for righteousness will always fail.

- **For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 5:20****

This "Pharisaical" righteousness is a reference to the works of the law and the attempt to earn right-standing with God.

- **Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. **Galatians 5:4****

To insist on justification through works drives the grace of God out of your course of life.

MODERN-DAY WORKS

New Testament Christians continue to try to find their own righteousness through New Testament works. Though we are commanded numerous times to maintain good works, this is in reference to Christian service *for* God, not right standing *with* God. Examples include:

- Praying longer to appear spiritual.
- Giving outwardly to appear generous, sacrificial, or pious.
- Advertising your "leadings of God" to appear close to God.
- Working extra harder in the ministry after you've sinned to "atone" for your failings.
- Reading your Bible more after you've sinned to try to "make up" for what you did.

These are all good and necessary works, but don't allow the motive to be perverted. The Law and its works can never make you any more righteous with God.

- **For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. **2 Corinthians 5:21****

Amen!