

WHY THERE IS NO LAW

For a law to be effective, there must be consequences for breaking it. Before Jesus' sacrifice, when a person broke the Law, they were required to offer the blood of a bull, lamb, or dove to atone for their sin. Without this offering, the consequence for breaking the Law was death. However, no one could consistently keep even the smallest of the Laws, so people were continually required to offer sacrifices. This system was never meant to make anyone righteous and was only temporary, pointing forward to Jesus' ultimate sacrifice.

“For the Law never made anything perfect—but instead a better hope is introduced through which we [now] come close to God.”

– Hebrews 7:19

God never intended for the Law to remain after Jesus fulfilled its requirements. The Law served as a temporary measure to expose humanity's need for a Savior. Through Jesus, a new law—the law of the Spirit of life—has freed believers from the law of sin and death.

“For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has freed me from the law of sin and of death.”

– Romans 8:2

The Failure of the Law

When people believe they are still under the Law, which includes the Ten Commandments, they deny the sufficiency of Jesus' sacrifice. This mindset assumes that human effort and adherence to rules are necessary for justification. However, this way of thinking has always been flawed, just as it failed the Israelites who attempted to achieve righteousness through obedience.

“And all who depend on the Law [who are seeking to be justified by obedience to the Law of rituals] are under a curse and doomed to disappointment and destruction, for it is written in the Scriptures, ‘Cursed (accursed, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment) be everyone who does not continue to abide (live and remain) by all the precepts and commands written in the Book of the Law and to practice them.’”

– Galatians 3:10

The truth is that Jesus' sacrifice was entirely sufficient. His blood has permanently set us free from the consequences of breaking the Law.

“He went once for all into the [Holy of] Holies [of heaven], not by virtue of the blood of goats and calves [by which to make reconciliation between God and man], but His own blood, having found and secured a complete redemption (an everlasting release for us).”

– Hebrews 9:12

The Law Fulfilled and Is Terminated

Because Jesus has borne the full consequences of the Law, it no longer applies to believers. This includes the Ten Commandments. Jesus fulfilled every requirement of the Law on our behalf, effectively ending its power over us.

“For Christ is the end of the Law [the limit at which it ceases to be, for the Law leads up to Him Who is the fulfillment of its types, and in Him the purpose which it was designed to accomplish is fulfilled. That is, the purpose of the Law is fulfilled in Him] as the means of righteousness (right relationship to God) for everyone who trusts in and adheres to and relies on Him.”

– Romans 10:4

“But now we are discharged from the Law and have terminated all intercourse with it, having died to what once restrained and held us captive. So now we serve not under [obedience to] the old code of written regulations, but [under obedience to the promptings] of the Spirit in newness [of life].”

– Romans 7:6

Believing that the Law, even the Ten Commandments, is still in effect for us leads to captivity. This mindset prevents us from experiencing the freedom and victorious life that Jesus has provided.

“Having cancelled and blotted out and wiped away the handwriting of the note (bond) with its legal decrees and demands which was in force and stood against us (hostile to us). This [note with its regulations, decrees, and demands] He set aside and cleared completely out of our way by nailing it to [His] cross.”

– Colossians 2:14

THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT VS. THE LAW

Paul, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, described the Ten Commandments in stark terms:

“Now if the dispensation of death engraved in letters on stone [the ministration of the Law], was inaugurated with such glory and splendor that the Israelites were not able to look steadily at the face of Moses because of its brilliance, [a glory] that was to fade and pass away...”

– 2 Corinthians 3:7

The Ten Commandments are referred to as "the dispensation of death." Why would anyone want to try to keep something that leads only to death? The Law results in divine wrath, and as believers in Christ, we are not appointed to wrath but to salvation.

“If it is the adherents of the Law who are to be the heirs, then faith is made futile and empty of all meaning and the promise [of God] is made void (is annulled and has no power). For the Law results in [divine] wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression [of it either].”

– Romans 4:14-15

“For God has not appointed us to [incur His] wrath [He did not select us to condemn us], but [that we might] obtain [His] salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).”

– 1 Thessalonians 5:9

LIFE UNDER GRACE

Since the Law has been done away with for believers, what then governs our lives? The answer is grace.

“For sin shall not [any longer] exert dominion over you, since now you are not under Law [as slaves], but under grace [as subjects of God’s favor and mercy].”

– Romans 6:14

We no longer serve God by trying to adhere to rules that no one could keep perfectly. Instead, we live as Jesus lives—empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit.

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Under grace, we live in freedom, strengthened by God's Spirit, not by fleshly wisdom or human effort.

“It is a reason for pride and exultation to which our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world [generally] and especially toward you, with devout and pure motives and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God (the unmerited favor and merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, and keeps, strengthens, and increases them in Christian virtues).”

– 2 Corinthians 1:12

“And He will establish you to the end [keep you steadfast, give you strength, and guarantee your vindication; He will be your warrant against all accusation or indictment so that you will be] guiltless and irreproachable in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).”

– 1 Corinthians 1:8

THE LAW AND LOVE

Believing that we must keep the Law inevitably leads to failure. It results in frustration and a life of constant striving, where we do the very things we wish to avoid. Only when God reveals the truth—that there are no longer any Laws to keep—do we fully trust in the leading of the Holy Spirit.

When we are Spirit-led, we live as Jesus does, even while still in this world.

“In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him], because as He is, so are we in this world.”

– 1 John 4:17

The Law attempted to produce love but was incapable of doing so. However, our union with Jesus enables us to love as He loves. While the Law brought death, Jesus brings life—and life abundantly.

“I have made Your Name known to them and revealed Your character and Your very Self, and I will continue to make [You] known, that the love which You have bestowed upon Me may be in them [felt in their hearts] and that I [Myself] may be in them.”

– John 17:26

CONCLUSION

The Law was glorious in its time, but its purpose was temporary. It revealed humanity’s need for a Savior and pointed to Jesus, who perfectly fulfilled its demands. Now, under grace, we live in the freedom of the Spirit, no longer striving to meet the requirements of the Law but empowered to love and serve as Jesus does.

The abundant life Jesus offers is rooted in His Spirit, which transforms and sustains us in ways the Law never could. Trust in His grace, and live in the confidence that His love and life are at work within you.