

BELIEVERS AND THE LAW – PART 1

ROMANS 7:1-6

God's grace is so amazing and so freeing that it is—at times—***MORE HUMANLY SATISFYING TO BE LEGALISTIC.***

- That way we can attempt to appeal to our egos and attempt to earn God's favor. This is one of the main reasons that people gravitate towards religious works and hyper-legalistic organizations.
- As you study the Old Testament, you cannot help being struck by the dignity and honor in the Law.

O.T. SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE LAW

1. God inspired Moses to write. **DEUT. 6:1-9**
2. Solomon wrote about it. **ECC. 12:13**
3. Isaiah proclaimed. **ISA. 42:21**
4. King David was inspired to pen. **PS. 19:7-10**
5. The last command given by God in the Old Testament:
“Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.” **MAL. 4:4**

SO THE LAW IS GOOD YET!

TO THE JEWS, THE LAW BECAME AN IDOL

- Faithfulness to the law came to supersede faith in the God who had given the law.
- This is illustrated throughout the gospel accounts; such Jews often accused Jesus of contradicting and disobeying the Mosaic law.
- Paul was also vehemently criticized by his unbelieving Jewish opponents for supposedly disregarding the Mosaic law.

THE LAW ITSELF NEARLY BECAME GOD HIMSELF.

THE OPPOSITE WAS ALSO TRUE

- As in every age, many people were looking for a way to be religious without being hampered by a lot of restrictions; this was especially true with the Jews.
- It was a perfect way to have their cake and eat it too.
- The Jews would simply “trust God” and then do as they pleased.
- Jesus declared His own high regard for the divine law was still God’s standard of righteousness. **MATT. 5:17-19**

SO, WHAT’S UP?

SO WHERE DOES THE LAW FIT?

1. THE GOSPEL TRUTH ABOUT THE LAW **ROM. 7:1**

- Example: Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, was never brought to trial for that murderous act because he himself was assassinated before his trial began by Jack Ruby.

2. THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE **v. 4-5**

- Believers are no longer married to the law, but are now married to Jesus Christ, the divine Bridegroom of His church. **EPH. 5:24-27**

ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS

The underlying emphasis of the book of Romans is that salvation produces total transformation.

- The transformed life will *bear fruit for God*.
- *Godly fruit produced by the Spirit* exists basically in two dimensions: Attitude and Action.
- The fruit of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life is manifested
 - **INTERNALLY** in his attitudes of "*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness . . .*" **GAL. 5:22-23**
 - And **OUTWARDLY** as the actions of one's life.

FOUR OLD FRIENDS

- **FIRST**, *they were in the flesh*. The unredeemed, unregenerate person can operate only in the area of ***THE FLESH***.
- **SECOND**, the believer's old life was characterized by ***SINFUL PASSIONS***.
- **THIRD**, the believer's old life was characterized by his sinful passions continually being ***AROUSED BY THE LAW***.
- **FOURTH**, the believer's old life was characterized by the unceasing *work* of his sinful passions ***IN THE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY—your body likes sin!***

THE AFFIRMATION v. 6

The transitional phrase “***but now***” introduces the heart of this passage, presenting a radical contrast to the unregenerate man in **v. 5**.

Although we are no longer under the law’s bondage or penalty, ***we are more genuinely eager to live by its wonderful holy standards than is the most zealous legalist.***

NOW WE KNOW THAT TO OBEY HIS LAW IS TO DO HIS WILL, AND THAT TO DO HIS WILL IS TO GIVE HIM GLORY.

- We are saved by grace through faith and not under the Old Testament law; but the law now becomes obtainable by our new nature in Christ.
- The law is really a picture of how our lives should look.

GRACE AND FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD IS WHAT MAKES LIVING A LAWFUL LIFE POSSIBLE!