

Supplement to: The Land of the Lawless

Does God’s grace free us from keeping the law?

Romans 6:15 “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”

Romans 3:31 “Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”

Isn’t the Old Testament done away with?

Romans 4:3 “For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

Notice that Paul did not write his letters to the churches (Romans, Ephesians, etc...) and go around and preach from them. He was quoting from Genesis 15:6.

2Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Paul called the OT scripture and wrote that all scripture was useful for doctrine or teaching. So that means that the OT is still useful for doctrine and teaching

Are we saved by keeping the 10 Commandments?

Ephesians 2:8-9 (8) “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Galatians 2:20-21 “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith...” (21) I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

So since we are not saved by keeping the law why do we still need it?

Proverbs 29:18. “...Happy is he who keeps the law.”

Proverbs 3:1-2 (1) “Keep my commandments. (2) For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to you.”

“By the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:20.

God’s law is like a strong cage at the zoo, which protects us from fierce, destructive animals. It protects us from

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impurity, falsehood, murder, idolatry, theft, and many other evils that destroy life, peace, and happiness. All good laws protect, and God’s law is no exception. God’s grace is like pardon to a prisoner. It forgives him, but it does not give him freedom to break the law again. The forgiven person, living under grace, is under double obligation to keep the law. His gratitude leads him to be more careful to keep the law in the future.

Are the Ten Commandments of God reaffirmed in the New Testament?

Law of God in the NT	Law of God in the OT
1. "You shall worship the Lord thy God, and him only you shall serve." Matthew 4:10	1. "You shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3
2. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." 1John 5:21	2. "You shall not make unto you any graven image..." Exodus 20:4-6
3. "That the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed." 1 Timothy 6:1	3. "You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Exodus 20:7
4. "For he spoke in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God rested the seventh day from all his works." "There remains therefore a rest ["keeping of a Sabbath," margin] for the people of God..." Hebrews 4:4, 9-10	4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work..." Exodus 20:8-11
5. "Honor thy father and thy mother." Matthew 19:19	5. "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land..." Exodus 20:12
6. "You shall not kill." Romans 13:9	6. "You shall not kill." Exodus 20:13
7. "You shall not commit adultery." Matthew 19:18	7. "You shall not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14
8. "You shall not steal." Romans 13:9	8. "You shall not steal." Exodus 20:15.
9. "You shall not bear false witness." Romans 13:9	9. "You shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Exodus 20:16
10. "You shall not covet." Romans 7:7	10. "You shall not covet..." Exodus 20:17
*There are many other texts that could have been placed in this table.	

Is obedience to God Legalism?

1John 5:2-3 (2) “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”