



Part 8: Do I still have to obey the Old Testament Laws?

1. What is the Law?

"Do you not know, brothers-- for I am speaking to men who know the law..."
Rom. 7:1

- _____ (Heb. 8:13)
- _____ (Eph. 2:11-16)
- _____ (Rom. 6:15, Matt. 5:17-19)

The Law was given to:

- _____ (Gal. 3:19)
- _____ (Rom. 3:20)
- _____ (Gal. 3:24)

2. What's the difference between grace and the law?

"...you are not under the law, but under grace." Rom 6:14

It's about:

- _____ instead of _____
"Do you not know...the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another husband while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man." Rom. 7:1-3

- _____ instead of _____
"So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God." v4

"But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code." v6

- _____ instead of _____
"For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death... What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, 'Do not covet.' But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from the law, sin is dead." vv5, 7-8

"Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death." vv9-11

"So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful." vv12-13

3. So now I'm free to do whatever I want?

- **Grace motivates _____, not _____**
"What shall we say then? Are we to continue to sin that grace might increase? May it never be! Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law." Rom. 6:1-2 & 13:10

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought-provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verses: "So you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God." *Romans 7:4*

Monday

Read through Romans 7:1-13 and your notes from last weekend. Write down one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why.

What is Paul's main theme in this passage?

How can you relate to this passage?

Thank God today for his words to you in the Bible. Thank Him for His kindness and mercy towards you. Ask Him to guide you through the day and give you the desire and strength to live for Him.

Tuesday

Read Romans 5:20-21. How does Rom. 7:1-13 connect with this passage?

So far Paul has used death and life, and slavery and freedom to help illustrate our relationship to the law and grace. What illustration does Paul now use in Romans 7:1-3?

Read Rom. 7:4. What point is Paul trying to make with the marriage illustration?

Thank God today for His grace. Thank Him for releasing us from the burden of the law. Ask Him to help you live as a free, life-filled believer today.

Wednesday

Read Romans 7:4-6. What did the Law produce in those who tried to live by it? How has Jesus changed this?

What is your relationship to the Law?

What are the primary differences between the old life under the Law and the new life in the way of the Spirit?

Do you feel more "married" to the living Christ or to the Law (religious code)? Explain how you experience the difference.

Thank God today for the freedom you have in Christ. Ask Him to make your life an example of God's grace for the people around you. Pray that you will

be willing to allow God's grace and mercy to flow from Christ through you to the people you encounter today.

Thursday

Read Romans 7:4-5 & Gal. 5:16-26. What two types of "fruit" does Paul refer to in Rom. 7:4-5?

How have you seen both types of fruit in your life?

The passage in Galatians (also written by Paul) further describes the two types of fruit. According to Galatians 5:19-21, what are the fruits of death? Which of these are you struggling with in your life right now?

According to Galatians 5:22-23, what are the fruits of the Spirit? Which of these do you see at work in your life? Which of these would like to see more at work in your life?

Thank God today for the opportunity to live in the Spirit. Pray about the areas of your life where you may be struggling with the fruits of the sinful nature. Commit those to God and ask for His strength to live in the Spirit. Pray through the list of the fruits of the Spirit and ask God to help you live those out in your life today.

Friday

Read Romans 7:7-13. (These verses are especially clear in the New Living Translation of the Bible.) What is the purpose of the Law?

When you see a sign that says, "Don't do..." how do you respond in action? How do you respond in your mind?

In what area of your life are seeing a "don't" sign that you're tempted not to obey in action or thought? How can you apply the study of Romans to have victory over that temptation?

Thank God today for the power He gives you to live in victory. Be honest with Him about your struggles. Ask Him for wisdom and strength to walk in freedom and victory. Commit to living as a loved child of God today.

Saturday

Today, polish the memory verse at the top of the previous page, and read Romans 7:14-25 in preparation for the weekend services. Thank God for the new life you have in Christ. Pray that the services this weekend will honor God and communicate His amazing grace.