

**Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation**  
**21 - What about the Law?**

*Can Keeping the Commandments Save Me?*

**Romans 6:14**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Feb. 2, 2014*

**Romans 6:14** "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Christians are the only ones who are no longer 'under law' but 'under grace.'

**I. What Was the Purpose of the Law?**

These are not the only purposes, but I want to give you **Three Purposes** of the law that you see in the Bible.

**A. The Law Was Meant to Control You, But Can Never Change You!**

Only Jesus Christ and the power of the Gospel can change you. The law was just meant to control you to some degree with external threats.

**Galatians 2:16** "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ... for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."

The Bible doesn't have two ways to be right with God. People in the Old Testament were not saved by the Law. They were saved by looking FORWARD in faith to the promised Redeemer-Messiah that was going to come. We look BACK in faith to our Savior-Redeemer who has already died on the cross and rose again!

**Romans 4:2** "For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'

**Romans 4:9** "...for we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness."

No one will be in heaven as a result of keeping the law. The law never saved anybody because that's not what it was designed to do.

**Galatians 5:1** "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

If you read Galatians 3 & 4 you'll find out that the 'yoke of slavery' he's talking about is the Law, the old system of 'Dos' and 'Don'ts.'

One of two things will happen when you see the law as your Savior:

1. **You'll do what you think is a pretty good job** of keeping the law, and you'll become a self-righteous Pharisee that's in worse shape than you were before because you won't even see your need for the Gospel and a Savior!
2. **You'll fail miserably** and spin deeper and deeper into a hopeless pit of depression, and just end up rallying yourself to make occasional stabs at it again from time to time, especially at the start of a New Year.

That's way off the mark as to what you're supposed to be doing with the law!

**Galatians 5:4** "You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by the law; you have fallen from grace."

There are only two options – law or grace. When you run TO the law, you’re running away FROM grace and the Savior of that grace.

## **B. The Law Was Meant to Lead You to Christ, Not Take His Place!**

**Galatians 3:23-25** “But before faith came, we were *kept under guard* by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was *our tutor to bring us to Christ*, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

If you’re a Christian, you don’t need the law to be your tutor once you’ve met the head master! Fall in love with the master – Jesus Christ! He’s not about **regulations**; He’s about **relationship**.

“Whenever authentic, joyful confidence in Christ diminishes, regulations are brought in to preserve what the power of Christ once created.” – John Piper

It’s love for Christ and the grace of Christ that should move us now. Not the thunder of the law breathing down our necks. We’re married to Christ now.

**Romans 7:4** “Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should be fruit to God.”

The law was meant to guide you to Christ and leave you there in a love relationship! Don’t go back to that old tutor and guardian. Stay with Christ. Fall in love with Christ.

## **C. The Law Was Meant to Expose Us But Can Never Clothe Us with the Righteousness of Christ**

The law exposes us and shows our true condition like a mirror, but you don’t look in a mirror to change yourself. You look in a mirror to find out what you look like, but the mirror has no power to change you. It simply exposes you.

**Romans 3:20** “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

*NIV* “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law. Rather through the Law we become conscious of sin.”

## **II. So How Are We "Free" From The Law Now?**

**Romans 7:6** “But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”

*NIV* “But now, by dying to what once bound us we have been released from the Law.”

*The Message* “When Christ died He took the entire rule-dominated way of life down with Him and left it in the tomb, leaving you free to ‘marry’ a resurrection life and bear ‘offspring’ of faith for God... but now that we’re no longer shackled to that domineering mate of sin, and out from under all those oppressive regulations and fine print, we’re free to live a new life in the freedom of God.”

In ch. 7 Paul uses the illustration of marriage to show us our relationship to the law. Paul says that in our lost and sinful condition we were married to the Law, but now we’re married to Christ.

**Galatians 2:19-21** “For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 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 in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

You can have real change from the inside out when you put your faith in Christ and what He did on the cross for you. You can move from a life of fear, guilt, shame and regulations under the law to a life of freedom and love in a marriage relationship with Jesus Christ.