

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LAW AND GOD'S GRACE

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1. **God's law has always been**, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself". *Deut 6:5, Lev 19:18, Mk 12:30,31.*
2. This law is the **expression of God's Person/Character**, for God is love. *Ps 19:7 – 11, 1Jn 4:8, Rom 7:12.*
3. **"The righteousness of the law"**, *Lev 18:5, Rom 10:5*, is fulfilled by acting in love to God and others. *Gal 5:14. The only human person to fully keep the righteousness of the law since the fall of man is Jesus Christ. Heb 4:15.*
4. From creation to Sinai, (or Adam to Moses), *Rom 5:14*, this law was revealed through **the witness of God's goodness in creation**, *Rom 1:19 – 21, Act 14:17, Psalm 19:1*, and through **God's law written in the conscience of every person**. *Rom 2:6 – 16, 26 – 29, Jn 1:9, Act 24:16,25, 2Cor 4:2, Jn 8:9, 1Cor 10:28,29.*
5. At this point, *Rom 5:13, 14*, needs expanding. "For until the law (*public law of Moses*) sin (*against the witness of creation and conscience*) was in the world, but sin (*against the public law*) is not imputed when there is no (*public*) law." "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses (*because of sin against the witness of creation and conscience*) even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, (*who sinned against public law – Gen 2:17*) who is a type of Him who was to come." (*italics added - ekb*)
6. The operation of God's law of love, from creation to the law of Moses, is apparent in, *Gen 4:4,5,7,10,13, Gen 6:5 – 7,8,9 – 12, 13, Gen 9:6, 20 – 27, Gen 11:4 – 7, Gen 12:17 – 20, Gen 13:8 – 13.* God had written His law on the conscience of every person and He expected them to live by it.
7. The law God gave to Moses on Mt Sinai, is found in Exodus to Deuteronomy. Part of this law is the **moral law** and part is the **ceremonial law** of sacrifices and feasts. The ceremonial part of the law has been fulfilled through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ at the Cross and no longer applies to us. *Col 2:16.* Jesus summed up the moral law in *Mk 12:28 – 31.* In Jesus' teaching and the teaching of the New Testament writers, **the moral law of God is stressed and insisted upon**. *Mat 5:21 – 44, Jn 13:34, Jn 14:15, Jn 15:10,12, 14,17, 1Cor 6:9 – 10, 1Cor 7:19, 9:21, 1Thes 4:2.*
8. The law, as in the law of Moses, **was not given to bring salvation to sinful man**. *Rom 3:20, Gal 2:16.*
9. The law, as in the law of Moses, **was given to convince people of sin**. *Rom 3:19,20, 7:7,13, 1Jn 3:4,6,8,10.*
10. Since the "fall of man", (*Gen 3*), and the sinful corruption of his heart that resulted, it has not been possible for a man to obtain salvation by his own obedience to the law of God. *Ps 14:2,3, Eph 2:9, Tit 3:5, Rom 3:9-20.*
11. From the "fall of man", the salvation of a person **has only been through the unmerited mercy and favour, or "grace", of God**. Sinful man could be forgiven, and live in fellowship with Him. Eg Abel and Noah, *Gen 4:4+ Heb11:4, Gen 6:8 + Heb 11:7. God in His great love for sinful man, planned that the Second Person of the Godhead, who we call "Jesus", would pay the price to save man from eternal hell and make a way back to God. Eph 2:8. This is grace. 1Cor 15:3,4, John 3:16, Rev 13:8, 2Tim 1:9, Is 53:4 – 6, 1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, 2Cor 5:21.*
12. **Law and grace are not opposites or mutually exclusive**. From the fall of man, **God's grace, received by faith**, has been the only way of salvation. *Gen 15:6, Deut 30:11 – 14, Rom 10: 6 – 10, Heb 11:4,5,7.* The law is to convince people of sin, along side the way of mercy and grace. *Rom 3:20. God's grace enables us to keep God's law.*
13. **Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it**. *Mat 5:17-44.* Jesus' commands are to act in love. *Jn 13:34*
14. **Faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, does not abolish the law, it establishes the law**. *Rom 3:31.* God's grace enables us to keep God's law.
15. **The righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit**. *Rom 8:4* Love is the fulfilment of the law. *Rom 13:10, Gal 5:14.* The fruit of the Spirit is love. *Gal 5:22.*
16. **The law is holy and just and good**. *Rom 7:12.* The law is spiritual. *Rom 7:14.* I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. *Rom 7:22.* With the mind I serve the law of God. *Rom 7:25*
17. *Rom 10:4* says, "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes". This means that no one can be righteous in God's sight through their own works, *Eph 2:9*, but only through faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. *Ac 4:12.* (*Col 2:11 – 14 and Eph 2:14 – 18 are similar to Rom 10:4.*)