

“The Law of God in the Life of the Christian”

Exodus 20:1-2; Matthew 22:34-40

- Are the 10 Commandments still in effect today? What use is the Law if we're saved by grace?

THE LAW IS A MIRROR

1. The Law reflects the character of God. Psalm 19:7-11

- v.7: The law of the LORD is perfect because the LORD is perfect, etc...
- Jesus summarized the law as loving God and loving our neighbor. Mt 22:35-40; Mk 12:28-31; Lk 10:25-37
- The Law reflects the perfection of Christ. We speak of *obeying* the Law; Jesus spoke of *fulfilling* the Law.

2. The Law reflects our sin—by showing us how we fail to keep its righteous requirements. Rom 3:20; 4:15

- Romans 7:22-25: For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- It is like a stethoscope: Something is wrong with my heart! What must I do to be saved?
-Romans 3:21-22; Mark 10:17-22 (story of the rich young ruler)

THE LAW IS A RESTRAINT

1. The Law helps restrain lawlessness through threat of punishment. Aka. the “civil use” of the law.

- The Law is intended to restrain evil through the threat of punishment from civil government.
-Secures civil order, protects the innocent, and maintains justice in society.
- Romans 13:3-4: For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.
- 1 Peter 2:13-14: kings and governors are messengers of God “to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.”

2. The Law restrains evil through the threat of punishment from God Himself. Matthew 10:28

THE LAW IS A ROADMAP FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. The Law guides followers of Jesus in paths of righteousness—how to live life as God intends. Psalm 1

- The Law is the “family marker”. Mt 28:19-20

→ Is it about relationship and love for God or obeying His Law? YES. Matthew 7:21-23

2. The Law helps discern God's will for us. Ephesians 2:10

- Eph 2:10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

WHAT THE LAW CANNOT DO

1. The Law cannot make us holy. Galatians 2:21; Hebrews 10:1: *For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.*

2. The Law cannot change our heart. Jeremiah 13:23: *Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.*

→ There should be a crying out: What shall I do to be saved? Acts 2:37-39

3. The Law cannot make us right with God/give us salvation. Galatians 2:16b: *by works of the Law no one will be justified.*

"The law bids us, as we try to fulfill its requirements, and become wearied in our weakness under it, to know how to ask the help of grace."
-Augustine

"The man who does not know the nature of the law cannot know the nature of sin. And he who does not know the nature of sin cannot know the nature of the Savior."
-John Bunyan

From the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*:

39. What is the duty which God requires of man?

The duty which God requires of man is obedience to His revealed will.

40. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

The rule which God at first revealed to man for His obedience was the moral law.

41. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments.

42. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

The sum of the Ten Commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

43. What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?

The preface to the Ten Commandments is in these words, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

44. What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?

The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us that because God is the Lord, and our God, and redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all His commandments.