

THE CHRISTIANS' RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAW

GALATIANS 3:19-29

WHAT IS LAW?

- Law is a system of rules and guideline which are enforced through social institutions to govern behavior
 - Its function is to Require and to Limit behavior, to protect society.
 - It is applied to those whose behavior is not acceptable to... God, Society, Family, Self
 - Law is contrary to Freedom

GALATIANS 3

¹⁹ Why the Law then? It was added **because of transgressions**, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until** the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. ²⁰ Now a mediator is not for one *party only*; whereas God is *only one*.

THE LAW CANNOT JUSTIFY

ie: the law cannot create righteousness. It was a way of living God ordained for a time.

Gal.2:16 nevertheless **knowing that** a man is not **justified** by the works of the Law but **through faith** in Christ Jesus, even **we have** believed in Christ Jesus, **so that** we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.**

GALATIANS 3b

²¹ Is the Law then **contrary** to the promises of God? May it never be! For **if a law** had been given which **was able** to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. ²² But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ **might be given** to those who believe.

GALATIANS 3c

²³ But before **faith** came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to **the faith** which was later to be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore **the Law has become our tutor *to lead us to Christ***, so that **we may be justified** by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are **no longer under a tutor**. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND DOING GOOD

- “*Righteousness*” is doing what is ‘straight’.
 - Acting according to God’s design and purposes
 - God’s design and purposes is His Will for them.
 - Good is the result of God’s Will. Gen.1
- **Being** Righteous is desiring to do Right.
 - To do Justly, is doing Righteously (δικαίος)
 - δικά > δικαίος (adj), δικαιοûντα (v), δικαίοςuna (n)
- **Doing** what is **Right**, will **produce Good**.

'GOOD' IS GOD'S GOAL IN CREATION

(day 3) Gen. 1:10 God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; **and God saw that it was good.**

¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; **and God saw that it was good.**

(day 4) ¹⁸ and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; **and God saw that it was good.**

(day 6) ³¹ God saw all that He had made, **and behold, it was very good.** And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

MATTHEW 5

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish **but to fulfill**. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then **annuls** one of the least of these commandments, and **teaches** others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

1 CORINTHIANS 6

¹² All things are **lawful for me**, but not all things are **profitable**. All things are lawful for me, but I will **not be mastered** by anything. ¹³ Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the **body is not for immorality**, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

1 CORINTHIANS 10

²³ All things **are lawful**, but not all things are **profitable**. All things are lawful, but not all things **edify**. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own *good*, but **that of his neighbor**. ²⁵ Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for **conscience'** (?) sake;

²⁶ FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.

1 CORINTHIANS 10b

²⁷ If one of the **unbelievers invites** you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions **for conscience'** sake. ²⁸ But if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat *it*, for the sake of the one who informed *you*, and for conscience' sake; ²⁹ **I mean not your own conscience, but the other *man's***; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience? ³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks? ³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.** ³² Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;

CHRISTIANS' RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAW

- **The place of Law in God's Plan**
 - Needed for Transgressors
 - Lead us to Jesus Christ
- **The Christian's change, is for living in the new covenant of grace & truth:**
 - Freedom from Law, to chose our walk.
 - Walk by the spirit, Renewing the mind, Choosing to believe God.

GALATIANS 5

¹³ For you were **called to freedom**, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an **opportunity for the flesh**, but **through love serve one another**. ¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, “**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

CHRISTIANS FREE TO DO GOOD

- The one who is righteous in Jesus is freed from the law, to do what is righteous, or good.
 - He follows the principles of goodness:
 - Profitable, edifies, morality, love.
 - 1Cor.6:12-13. 10:23-24
- Righteous Believers are to live according to Truth
 - Walk by the spirit, Rom.8:4-7
 - Renew his mind, Rom.12:2
 - Choose to believe God, Heb.10:38