


The Law of Liberty

- 1. James 2: 8-12
- 2. Exodus 20:1-17
- 3. Matthew 22:36-40
- 4. Romans 13:8-10
- 5. Hebrews 10:15,16
- 6. John 14:15
- 7. 1 John 4:8
- 8. 2 Corinthians 3:3,17,18



Purpose: To show that the moral Law of God is a transcript of His character and the embodiment of Divine Love.

- Center It: Christ wins our hearts, and through His love He conforms us to be like Him.

Intro Question:

- The Law of Liberty... sounds like an oxymoron... is it?
- A law that sets us free? Don't laws usually restrain our freedom?
- It almost seems contradictory, but the Bible claims this unashamedly to be one of its greatest truths.
- Today we'll look at the biblical record of the law of liberty.

1. James 2:8-12

- What law is James quoting here?
- God calls the 10 commandments the Law of Liberty.
- Illustration: The United States declared its independence, it's freedom...then it immediately set up laws, so its citizens could exercise their freedom.
- Some laws enable you to exercise your freedom, others disable your freedom.

Transition

- What is this law? What is God's standard?

2. Exodus 20:1-17

- Illustration: What would a game of basketball be like without any rules?
- Just like rules make games meaningful, moral standards make life meaningful.
- God loved us so much he wanted to protect our lives, things, marriages by giving us the 10 commandments.

Transition

- What did Jesus teach about the law when He was here on earth?

3. Matthew 22:36-40

- God asks for you to love who?
Himself and your neighbor

Transition

- Is Jesus replacing the 10 commandments with 2?

4. Romans 13:8-10

- According to Paul, love is the fulfillment of the law...Isn't that exactly what Jesus said?
- Jesus wasn't replacing them, he was just summarizing them. Loving God summarizes the first 4 and loving your neighbor summarizes the last 6
- Illustration: Teachers rules "Respect God, Yourself, Others"

Dictionary Definition


- What about freedom?
- Dictionary Definition: ability to act freely, a state in which someone is able to act and live as he or she chooses, without being subject to anybody, or to any undue restraints and restrictions.

Transition

- How do laws that restrain give us freedom?

5. Hebrews 10:15,16

- He will write his law on our hearts not minds.
- Wants us not to follow because of knowledge/brainpower but because we are moved to by love.
- Illustration: Married Couple

- 
- Before God asks you to keep His law, He asks you to love Him

Transition

- So what would be an outward sign of our love for God?

6. John 14:15

- Does God command things because they are good? Or are things good because God commands them?—
Plato
- Trick question: The law is God and God is the law.
- God's law is a natural expression of Himself. The two concepts are indivisible.

All the character traits that are given to God are given to the law.

- The law is just a transcript of God's character.
- When you spend a lot of time with someone, you become like them and pick up their mannerisms.
- The closer we get to God, we will naturally begin to keep his law without even trying because we will be like him and the law is God.

7. 1 John 4:8

- Knowing God makes you love
- The law is the transcript of God's Character
- God is love.
- Law is love.
- Knowing God= become loving
- Question: Why are we not loving?

Transition


- Do you keep the law perfectly or are you like Paul in Romans where he says What I hate I do and what I love I don't do?
- If you get discouraged this next verse is for you!

8. 2 Corinthians 3:3,17,18

- By beholding God you are transformed into Him, through a process.
- God is working with each of us and getting us ready for heaven!

Illustration

- Man praying in church while hearing chipping noise

- 
- The closer we come to Christ, when we really fall in love with him, keeping the law is so easy because it happens naturally and automatically without you even thinking about keeping this part of the law or that. You do it without trying to “keep the law” because you love Jesus and want to be like him and he is changing you into His image!

Appeal

- What would keep you from wanting the law of love in your heart and allowing God to write His law in your heart and making you a citizen for Heaven?

Defend It: But doesn't the Bible say Christ is the end of the law? (Romans 10:4)

- Help them to understand that they are misinterpreting the word “end”. It does not mean over is this context, it means Christ is the purpose, the fulfillment, THE law.
- Rom. 3:31 Do we make void the law through faith? No Paul says we establish the law!
- Matt. 5:17 Jesus says he came not to abolish the law but to fulfill the law!

Is the moral law (the 10 commandments) and the ceremonial law the same thing?

- Review: There are moral laws, health laws, ceremonials, and civil laws.
- Notice the placement of the laws in these verses
- Deut. 10:4,5- The 10 commandments were placed **inside** the ark (replica of the one in heaven).
- Deut 31: 25,26 Says to put the book of the law **beside** the ark, not in it. (The book of the law is the “Torah” the books that Moses wrote, the ceremonial laws.)

The 2 Laws Continued...

- Answer 2:
- Who communicated each of them?
- Exodus 31:18 / Exodus 20:1-17 the 10 commandments were spoken and **written by God's own finger**. God thought it was that important that he personally had to communicate it and actually wrote it with his finger and before they got it God actually spoke it to them with His own voice.
- Deut. 31:9,24-26 **Moses wrote** the ceremonial laws.
- Answer: **There is a difference between the moral and ceremonial laws.**

What laws should I keep?

- John 18 Jesus says that his kingdom is not of this world, the Jews rejected him so now there was just spiritual Israel so the specific Jewish laws are not valid because there is no Jewish nation.
- The only thing that Jesus death did away with was the ceremonial law because it pointed to him.
- Some of God's laws are principles and some are policies. Illustration: Opening a door is bad if poison gas is outside but ok if there is no poison gas outside. Not opening the door when gas is a policy that stems from the principle thou shall not kill.
- Romans 7:7 Paul shows that the 10 commandments are intrinsically moral. "I would not have known sin except through the law, then talks about covetousness.
- One of the Israelite laws was not to urinate inside the camp of Israel. This was based on the "thou shall not kill" because it would pollute their water and they would get sick and die.
- Summary text: 1 Corinthians 7:19- Circumcision vs. un circumcision... Keeping the 10 commandments is what counts.
- **Look for the intrinsic moral principle. The 10 commandments are our moral compass.**