

What Does the Law Look like so that I can cast it out?

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We died to the law; we are not under the law; the law has been fulfilled in Christ; **we live to newness of life**...therefore cast away the law; however, how can I cast it away? What Does the Law look like so that I can cast it away?

Why Cast out the law?

Paul the apostle wrote to the church at Galatia that grace and the law were two opposing forces in the life of a believer. He used the two sons of Hagar and Sarah to explain it:

Gal. 4: 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

23 But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

24 which things are symbolic. For these are the **two covenants**: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac *was*, are children of promise.

29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now.

30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? **"Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."**

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

The Heart of the Law

Jesus from the gospels clearly included **the two greatest commandments** as under the law:

Mt 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, **for this is the Law and the Prophets.**

Matt. 22: 36 "Teacher, **which is the great commandment in the law?"**

37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

38 "This is *the* first and great commandment.

39 "And *the* second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Mark 12:29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.

30 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

31 "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

On these **two** commandments hang all the law, the heart of the law is to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind; and the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The Law is in its simplest form the standard that evaluates all performance. If we are going to trust in our responsibility to perform good works, to keep the law and

holiness, to measure up, then we need to understand that the **law is what scrutinizes those efforts**. If we are going to **rely on our efforts in any way then we need to know that any of those efforts come under the law's judgment**.

We've been taught that our faith as a Christian means that we have our part to play **in keeping God's commandments** as much as we can or do and *then trust that God's grace makes up the difference*. We are living our Christian lives **with a mixture of what God has done and what we believe God expects us to do**.

The law's Inner Conflict with Us

This seems reasonable to us to mix keeping the law with grace but what have been the results? **The inner conflict** of trying to do our best mixed with *believing God is making up the difference never goes away*. **We see God through the law hold us to account** twenty-four seven **because we are not doing enough**, loving God enough, doing our part enough...

-We feel guilty because we haven't picked up our cross daily enough to follow Him...

-We feel uncertain in our relationship with God because we haven't stopped loving the world enough...

-We feel a lack of confidence in prayers and faith because we haven't lost our life for the gospel's sake enough...

-We feel condemned because we fear what others think, their rejection, and their persecution especially if we refuse to be bolder for the Lord.

-We feel unworthy because we know that we haven't loved God more or enough over our family or even our own life...

There is a saying, "God only helps those who help themselves!" This means that God is *willing* to help us *if* we will do *all we can* to keep His commandments.

We see God disappointed with us, angry at our lack of effort, holding us accountable for not loving Him as we should, for not putting Christ first in our life as Christ put us first. We see God unable to bless us because we are not serving with our whole heart...we have put our shoulder to the plow only to look back many times...we know that a Holy and Righteous God ***can only show us so much mercy***...Surely He is constantly frustrated with our sins...

Our Inner Conflict Affects Relationships

We are so conscious of works and holiness that we **measure each other by piety**. We consider some to be more faithful, more spiritual, more worthy of answers to prayer; others to have great faith and live godly lives, (they know the Bible and scripture more)...statements like, "I could never be a Billy Graham." Or "I will never match up to this or that minister or brother or sister so and so..." We honestly believe that God loves others much more because ***they are just better Christians***...God must be pleased with them more and will answer their prayers more...

All of this is returning to live back under the law and back under bondage. **What is the bondage?** I must examine myself, I must judge myself to see if there is any evil thing, I must measure

up, I must pray, read, do the right things more, so that God will be pleased and help me. ***This is the bondage that I never really find rest and peace for any length of time.*** My heart is always troubled, worried, struggling, and at war with my own failure to measure up. I do not love God with all my heart nor do I love my neighbor as myself! I honestly will never be able to do it ***but I know it's my responsibility***, I know it is God's commandment and (I believe) ***I am not what God wants me to be.*** I am always uncertain of my standing with God; I am always unsure, lacking confidence that God hears and answers me because I am not good enough or worthy enough...

Identifying the Bondage to the Law

I describe all of this in order to identify what the bondage is to the law. Whenever we revert back to operating as mere men, as natural man, back under our own efforts to do what is right and measure up, **we are back under the law.** ***The battle is the indicator*** and it is never over, it is never won, we can excuse ourselves, and we can try to justify ourselves ***but it never ends, we may find some relief but never release!***...we are ***entangled*** again and estranged from Christ. In other words, we are ***walking according to the flesh*** and in this place or position Christ profits us nothing (Gal. 5:1-4). How do we know this? We know this by the inner battle and turmoil within us.

Isn't that what we seen and experienced? We live powerless Christian lives in turmoil, uncertain of the truth, unsure of God's love in us or for us, uncertain about answers to prayer, lacking faith, lacking confidence in God's grace all the while

maintaining *a vague sense of God's working* on our behalf somehow and some way.

We can't very well **find victory** over something if we don't know what it is...we can't come out from under the law **if we don't recognize we are dealing with it**. If we lack peace and our heart is troubled we are back under the law and carrying the burden of life—this is an indicator.

Jesus said:

Matt. 11: 28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, **and I will give you rest**."

29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, **and you will find rest for your souls**."

30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

This verse sounds soothing to us but its reality is often **not experienced**. Our born again life has received some rest **in that we know** we are bound for heaven; however, when it comes to living in this life rest seems often like a fantasy. We sing songs that tell us to hang on until we get to the other side. We tell each other that God never promised us a rose garden. For the most part Christians aren't living in actual victory and rest now but expect it only when we reach the pearly gates. **I believe the reason this promise is not being experienced more is because we are still living our life under the law!**

We have not forsaken the law, we are still trying to keep it, live to it, measure up as if we have our work cut out for us. Yet, all of this is wrong if we believe that Jesus fulfilled the law!

Ro 8:4 that the righteous requirement of the law **might be fulfilled** in us **who do not walk according to the flesh** but according to the Spirit.

We Keep Relating to the law

What I have described is life **walking according to the flesh**. The law is not fulfilled in us when we go back under it. It is as if we have divorced our first mate and having been married to another (Jesus) we are going back to related to **and live under the influence of the first marriage**. We died to the law when we became born again. **We now live to newness of life in Christ Jesus** (Gal. 2:20). We are to walk after the Spirit and remain under grace!

The law measures, scrutinizes, judges, **all efforts on our part and then brings it back to us (Gal. 6:7)**. As long as we are going to trust *in any way* on what we do *we are under the law*. The law is natural and deals with this realm, the flesh, the sense world, the fall, and the curse. To live as a mere man, to think, act, and speak *as a natural man does*, to seek answers only in the natural realm is to remain UNDER LAW.

The Law and the spirit of this World

The law and the spirit of this world are coexisting. The spirit of this world is what you see is what you get; there are only natural answers. The spirit of this world is there are no free lunches. You must earn your way. You have to prove yourself. It is performance based acceptance and love. Failure and condemnation await no compliance...and the law measures this

spirit and finds *us all deficient and short of God's glory*. We know this and so our heart and conscience *never rest*...while if we understand our salvation and grace according to the gospel, *all things are freely given in Christ Jesus*.

We were born into the world under law. The law and the prophets written requirements and commandments placed the burden upon us to PERFORM. Or maybe it is better said; the law exposed the complete failure of our efforts to measure up to God's love.

The Message Has Always Been, "It's On Us!"

Approval, acceptance, righteousness, even love, was on us, "You shall...you shall not..." Accordingly then the blessing of God or the curse of the law was based *upon our efforts to perform*.

What is the burden of life but that we are responsible to measure up!

The law's whole purpose wasn't to show us how to do it and make it work *but to show us how bad the situation is*. The law's purpose was to make it clear to all that we do not *have the resource within us* to be righteous. **The law's purpose then was to expose sin nature and bring condemnation.**

All of this is to say that being born under the law means we are constantly evaluating our life based upon our performance. The law demands, requires, puts upon us, and our own heart is burdened with performance based acceptance by others and of self...especially how we see God accepting or not accepting us.

It becomes important then to recognize the laws applications to our life. The law is far more intrusive, far more involved, far more connected, far more in contact with our being than we realize. We can see it in the world in the physical realm around us. The law is gravity, sowing and reaping, consequences of cause and effect, action and reaction, the interconnectedness of all things.

When it comes to our heart and soul, our mind, will, and emotions, I'm not sure we see how penetrating the law is. We often consider our inner *life as private* because we know no human being can see into our heart, read our mind, and feel our emotions with us. We feel quite secure that our inner life is ours and no one else's. **However, the law penetrates our very being.** The law of love for example constantly shows us up. We are constantly feeling inadequate, insecure, hiding, keeping the doors closed in certain areas and unwilling to expose who we are. The guilt and condemnation we feel inside; the shame and reproach of not stacking up *show us that our performance is lacking.* We know from our own conscience because our own hearts condemn us as lawbreakers.

Why We Are Too Hard On Ourselves

We are constantly justifying or excusing ourselves to ourselves. This manifests as an **inner war**, lack of peace, struggle, conflict, stress, fear, worry, and anxiety. **It manifests as we are being too hard on ourselves.** Why do we prosecute, criticize, judge, and condemn our own heart? It is the law's standards as we know we do not love God with all our heart nor do we love our neighbor as our self.

When Jesus was brought the woman caught in adultery and when confronted by the Pharisees to judge her by stoning, he said, “He who is without sin cast the first stone.” If the law did not already penetrate the heart of every man, this effort would have fallen on deaf ears. Because they already knew they were not perfect, they dropped their stones. **What told them they were sinners?** Did Jesus begin to write all of their sins in the dirt and when they saw them they were convicted of sin? Even if Jesus did write their sins in the ground, he would have had to convince them, argue with them, but that didn’t happen because their hearts **were already convinced**. What told them they were sinners was the law already written within. The Holy Spirit simply reminded them of what they already knew.

We can’t judge anyone and get away with it...not with the law. The law shows no partiality. The law treats everyone the same. Gravity is the same in all situations for the great and the small alike.

The law is judging us

The law is showing us we do not love. The law is exclaiming to us that we are **deficient of righteousness**. We are guilty. We are not good enough. We feel the need to hide and not be honest because we **know we are condemned already**. We cover up because of guilt. We cover up because we have no excuse. **We cover up because of pride!** We know we are empty. We know we are falling short. We are constantly wrestling with right and wrong, grey, black and white...Why do we feel burdened? Why do we feel the need to justify our actions and life to ourselves? Why do we judge others so that we don’t feel the

judgment...why do we expose others so we can feel good about ourselves?

Why do we not have peace within? Even as Christians we often live with an inner war going on...

It is because of our propensity to want to justify ourselves, to account for our efforts, to earn something some way, to make ourselves worthy...any effort to work for God's blessings is missing grace in Christ completely.

We Have to Stop the Nonsense!

We have to stop the nonsense of living under the law and we do this by realizing that God's grace has already given to us **everything we are trying to seek and earn under the law!** We, through the blood atonement of the cross and by the life of Jesus in us, have been made righteous and given the gift of no condemnation **forever (Heb. 10:14).**

As we recognize this and accept our complete acceptance in the Lord, **we'll walk out and away from the inner war to find peace in God's grace.** We no longer need to judge any one or even our self because all our sins have already been judged in Christ. We no longer need to condemn anyone or even our self because God no longer condemns us in His Spirit which He has given to us. As we stand in the **gift of righteousness** we are walking in grace and in the Spirit. We can now let go of sin consciousness, of guilt and shame, of failure and lack, because God has saved us to the uttermost. We are redeemed, we are sanctified, and we are made like Him, joined in the Lord, in our

spirit man. We are a new creation made in true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:24).

Let the Holy Spirit be the Spirit of Conviction

We become insecure, anxious, and stressed as we consider the circumstances of life and the behavior of others. We see wrongs, injustices, and favoritism, and want to correct, rebuke, and admonish. We take on and become entangled trying to fix the bad and make good on the wrongs. We become in a sense the prosecutor, jury, and judge. We struggle to believe God cares about the details of life.

1Pe 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, **for He cares for you.**

The Holy Spirit is well able to judge, prosecute, and convict as He did when Jesus spoke “He who is without sin; cast the first stone.” Jesus did not revile when reviled, He did not threatened when mistreated (suffered), but gave himself over to the one who judges righteously (1 Pet. 2:23). **We get entangled by trying to be the Holy Spirit to others.** We get frustrated and angry and begin to jump to conclusions and make judgments thinking we are judging righteously. It is foolish for us to do this but we do all the time. ***We defend ourselves and others and when we do we become entangled—falling from grace.*** We must restrain our sin nature, the natural man, from taking over again and putting Christ aside. Put on the new man in holiness and righteousness and **REST in God’s provision, protection, guidance, grace, and let the Spirit handle it.** Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” That is exactly what we do, we get entangled and trouble our heart because we are afraid that someone will get the best of us, that we will be cheated, snubbed, robbed, or kept from

what is ours. ***We must choose to change our inner responses to stay in the peace of Christ.*** Let the peace of God rule that He cares for us, that He knows what we have need of even before we ask, that His love for us is intimate and involved. Let us trust and have faith in God starting from within that God desires and will take care of all things.

We Work Because of the Blessing

We must stop reverting to works for God's approval, blessing, answers, and grace **and turn to His life in us through Christ (that has already established these things in us when we became born again).** We no longer work for anything; **we work because** we have been given them. We no longer wrestle with the law and the burden of life **but rest** in the complete work of Christ on our behalf. ***We fight the good fight of faith by staying grace minded.*** We overcome our weakness to not believe, not accept, and declare the truth that Christ is our intercessor and has mediated making us ***accepted in the beloved.*** We no longer are bound to the responsibility to be right, do right, or hold others or ourselves accountable, because God has saved us from the law's requirement against us and others. ***We are now responsible to believe the finished work and walk in it.*** We are responsible to accept (Matt. 11:30) "**...My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**"

His Yoke (easy) is Grace and His burden (light) is the Spirit

How can this verse be true? It is because **we no longer mix** keeping the law, remaining under the law, dealing with the law, being scrutinized by the law ***with faith; but take upon us His yoke*** which is His life, His love, His joy, His presence, His Spirit, His grace, His acceptance, His redemption, His forgiveness, His strength, His peace ***in its place!*** We can't do both it doesn't work

that way ***we must choose to live according to the Spirit*** and not walk according to the flesh.

It's About His Love for Us

This means is it no longer ***our responsibility to meet the requirements of the law*** which is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and body, or to love our neighbor as our self. These are requirements of the law which no one could meet. What this means is that it is no longer *about us trying to love God* but it is about us receiving, acknowledging, and ***staying in His love for us!***

-It is no longer about our efforts to get anything from the Lord; ***it is about accepting what His efforts accomplished for us in the cross.***

-It is no longer about our measuring up to anything; ***it is about His life in us being measured in us with full grace and truth—the free gift of righteousness.***

-It is no longer about us *trying to live right*; ***it is about us believing right and therefore manifesting the right life of Christ in us.***

We no longer *focus of our efforts to do for the Lord*; ***we focus on His effort and accomplished work in His son***, the truth that *His love has been poured out* into our life when we received the Holy Spirit in the new birth.

Consider now again what Jesus meant in His teaching on the ***True Vine and we are the Branches***. In other words look at it from grace eyes.

John Chapter 15 “The True Vine” From the Eyes of Grace!

1 "I am the true vine (the source), and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 "Every branch in Me (in grace) that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 "Abide in Me (in my grace), and I in you. ***As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.***

This explains perfectly why we have ***no strength*** to love God with all our heart, nor love our neighbor as our self. We always fall short of the law's requirements ***because we do not have His love in us until we are born again. Our responsibility is to abide in His love, His grace,*** His Spirit, His life in us forget the law, forget falling short, forget our short comings, stop judging anyone...let go and let God because we died to the law.

[Ro 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.

Ga 2:19 "For I through the **law died to the law** that I might live to God.]

5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me (in grace), and I in him, bears much fruit; ***for without Me you can do nothing.***

Fruit is grown through the branches. God's desire is for us to let the sap of God's love manifest through our life and that produces the fruit in this world. ***Our responsibility is to recognize and abide in His love.*** God has made us (the vehicle) the branches to manifest His love in the earth. ***We cannot bear fruit without the vine; neither can the vine produce fruit without the branches.*** We haven't been able to abide in His love because we have ***mixed***

law and grace. Law and grace are two opposing forces in life because of sin nature. The law is tied to the flesh and natural man; grace is tied to the Spirit. The law brings condemnation and death while the Spirit gives life and peace.

We have made the mistake of keeping our focus (in the Christian life) based on our efforts to love God with all our heart in front of us so that we can't see it's about His love for us. This mistake keeps us on the **wrong channel** so to speak we need to **change channels** and see, think, and speak spiritually. We must put aside our misguided efforts to love Him under the law **and place His love for us as THE PRIORITY of our life.** This change removes our blindness under the law and places us in grace to begin to see His love and **know it** to abide in it.

6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered (Christ becomes unprofitable) ; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned (they return to the bondage of the law and burn for it).

7 "If you abide in Me (in grace), and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

If we abide in grace and truth; **know His word**, grow in confidence of His will, **know His leading** and Spirit, we will ask the right things, acknowledge what He's done, stand in the gift of righteousness, walk in freedom from the law and condemnation, **we'll know faith** and answers that have already been given to meet our needs. We'll see far better results because we will be aligned with God's Word and truth. **This may explain why we see mixed results because we have been taught, trained, and led to live Christian lives that are mixed with the law and some grace.** In this state we are making the faith of Christ void. We are negating faith because we are not abiding in His love.

8 “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

This is our focus to realize how much the Father loves us and live life like Jesus did by abiding in that love. Then He turns to us ***not to obey the law’s requirements*** of trying to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as our self, ***but to abide in His love just as the branch receives the sap to grow and produce fruit.*** We will negate faith and grace by trying to live outside of this truth—the sap flows to the branch as the Love of the Father flows to us!

10 “If you keep My commandments, ***you will abide in My love, just as*** I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

12 “**This is My commandment**, that you love one another ***as I have loved you.***

When we hear this verse (vs. 10) we often revert back to the first and second great commandments required by the law. ***We begin to put it back on us*** (the responsibility) to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as our self—***but this is missing it completely.*** Put on grace eyes: His commandment is that we love God and others AS WE HAVE BEEN LOVED. We cannot produce love ***until we receive from the vine the sap that is the source of life and love!*** We love because He first loved us—constantly (I John 4:19)! The joy of the Lord is not that *we would produce* a work of love for Him but that we would ***receive His love and become fruitful.*** God is the vinedresser, the gardener, the seed planter, the source; He is not looking for us to *mimic Him* by trying to become our own vinedresser, gardener, seed planter and

source. He wants us to manifest His seed, His Word, His Spirit and His love.

A Concluding Thought

Jesus said:

(John 13:34) "**A new commandment** I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

As a new commandment that would make it different from the first and second greatest commandments that all of the law and prophets hang on. This is a new commandment because it is **a new covenant based in truth and grace**. It is new because the old commandments placed the responsibility and burden on us to love; while the new commandment places the responsibility and burden on His love being received and lived to...it's new because it's no longer based on our performance it is **now upon His yoke** making it easy and light. It is what He's done not based on any works of the flesh lest anyone should boast. Amen.