

So Long, Babylon

Part 5: The Law and Lawlessness

{6} The lines have
fallen for me in
pleasant places;
indeed, I have a
beautiful inheritance.

[Psalm 16:6 ESV]

The Purpose of the Mosaic Law

1. Reveal the holy character of the eternal God to the nation of Israel ([Leviticus 19:2](#); [20:7–8](#)).
2. Set apart the nation of Israel as distinct from all the other nations ([Exodus 19:5](#)).
3. Reveal the sinfulness of man (cf. [Galatians 3:19](#)). Although the Law was good and holy ([Romans 7:12](#)), it did not provide salvation for the nation of Israel. “No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin” ([Romans 3:20](#); cf. [Acts 13:38–39](#)).

The Purpose of the Mosaic Law

4. Provide forgiveness through the sacrifice/offerings ([Leviticus 1—7](#)) for the people who had faith in the Lord in the nation of Israel.
5. Provide a way of worship for the community of faith through the yearly feasts ([Leviticus 23](#)).
6. Provide God's direction for the physical and spiritual health of the nation ([Exodus 21—23](#); [Deuteronomy 6:4—19](#); [Psalm 119:97—104](#)).

The Purpose of the Mosaic Law

7. Cause people, after Christ came, to see that they couldn't keep the Law but needed to accept Christ as personal Savior, for He had fulfilled the Law in His life and paid the penalty for our breaking it in His death, burial, and bodily resurrection ([Galatians 3:24](#); [Romans 10:4](#)). The believer in Christ has the very righteousness of the Law fulfilled in him as he obeys the Holy Spirit who lives within him ([Romans 8:4](#)).

What Did Boundaries Look Like in Eden?

- There was complete freedom in Eden.
- Adam had Eve had one “no” from God - do not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of the Good and Evil.
- God knew that if they ate from The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that man would try to redefine what is right, good and true.
- Why was the tree there? Love is not love without an alternative choice because love involves laying your life down.

The New Testament Law

- *{17} "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. {18} For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. [Matthew 5:17-18 ESV]*
- *{12} "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. [Matthew 7:12 ESV]*

Anything that
violates God's
definition of love is
sin or lawlessness.

{26} And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." {27} This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. {28} Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; {29} for our God is a consuming fire. [Hebrews 12:26-29 NASB]

God's "shaking" is
the removal of
everything that
hinders love.

The New Testament Law

- *{23} And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. {24} Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. [1 John 3:23-24 ESV]*

The New Testament Law

- *{8} Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. {9} For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." {10} Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. [Romans 13:8-10 ESV; James 2:8]*

The New Testament Law

{14} For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ... {18} But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. {19} Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, {20} idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

{21} envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told [you] in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. {22} But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. {24} And those [who are] Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. [Galatians 5:14, 18-24 NKJV]

Lawlessness

{10} Do not move the ancient boundary Or go into the fields of the fatherless, [Proverbs 23:10 NASB]

- Lawlessness is making God in your own image.
- Lawlessness is moving ancient boundary lines (right & wrong).
- Idolatry is worshiping something that has been created, not the Creator.
- Lawlessness is —rebellion.

Lawlessness is
rebellion against
authority greater
than yourself.

Lawless Deeds

{8} But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, {9} realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers {10} and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, {11} according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted. [1 Timothy 1:8-11 NASB]

Lawless Deeds

{11} For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, {12} instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, {13} looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, {14} who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. [Titus 2:11-14 NASB]

Lawlessness hinders love.

{9} Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, {10} nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. {11} Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. {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....

{18} Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. {19} Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? {20} For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. [1 Corinthians 6:9-12, 18-20 NASB]