

LESSON 9- SIN, THE GOSPEL, AND THE LAW

The Law and the Gospel

Jesus Himself explained very powerfully and succinctly what His relationship to the law was.

In Matthew 5:17, 18, what did Jesus say about the law?

In a similar way to how parents' boundaries for their child reveal what they value, God's law tells us about His character and what is important to Him. God gave us His law to protect our relationship with Him and with each other, knowing that His law would guide every aspect of

our lives as we grow in Him. After all, who hasn't suffered the terrible consequences of what sin, a violation of the law, has caused to each of us?

Love for Jesus is at the very center of the law. Jesus said, " 'If you love me, you will obey my commandments' " (*John 14:15, NET*). When we genuinely love Jesus, we will be naturally compelled to keep His law. When we see His law clearly, we will feel compelled to love Jesus more. And, even more important, keeping a vision of the Cross and Christ's substitutionary death there for us always before our eyes is the best way to foster our love for God.

That's why the gospel goes hand in hand with the law. That is, however much we believe in the law and in the importance of keeping it, we must always remember that in terms of our legal standing before God, the law only condemns. The law never forgives, never

justifies, and never atones. On the contrary, it points out why we need to be forgiven, why we need to be justified, and why we need atonement. That's why, along with the law, even foundational to our understanding of the law, is the gospel, Christ's death in our behalf, which is credited to us, not by our keeping the law, but by faith.

1TIM 1:5-11 – Romans 3:19, 20; 7:7 –

1John 1:9 – “IF” WHAT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT SIN IS

– SIN IS TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW 1JO 3:4 –

IF ABORTION ISN'T MURDER BUT FREE CHOICE WILL WE CONFESS THIS SIN?

IF WE CAN CHOOSE ANY DAY TO WORSHIP GOD AND FORGET THE 7TH DAY HE BLESSED AND SANCTIFIED WILL WE CONFESS THIS SIN?

IF BOWING BEFORE IMAGES OF JESUS AND MARY ISN'T IDOL WORSHIP WILL WE CONFESS THAT SIN?

Read the following verses: Romans 3:28,
Romans 4:13-16, Galatians 2:16, Galatians 3:13,
Philippians 3:9. What do these verses teach us
that can help us, believers in keeping the law,
not to become legalistic about it?