

Free from the Law
(Law is for lawless, unbelievers)
by Rene Brown

I. Law not for Believers!

The Israelites never understood the purpose of the law which was to show them it was impossible for them to obtain righteousness by keeping the law - simply because keeping it was impossible - and is still impossible apart from Christ who kept it for us.

A. 1 Timothy 1:8-10 (RSV) "Now we know that the law is good, if any one uses it lawfully,⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,¹⁰ immoral persons, sodomites, kidnapers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,"

Now this scripture implies that the law is not good if we use it unlawfully or wrongly!
That is, it will not be helpful.

B. Who are the just?

Believers in Christ are the just.

1. Rom 3:24 (RSV) "they [believers] are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,"

2. 2Cor 5:21 (RSV) "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

3. Holy and beloved

Colossians 3:12 (RSV) "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience,"

C. Gal 3:25 RSV) "But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian;"

Again we say, Christians are not under the law! Christ has fulfilled it for us.

II. Why the law was given

To make men aware of sin - it was never to establish righteousness!

A. Rom 3:19 (RSV) "Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God."

B. Gal 3:19 (RSV) "Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained by angels through an intermediary."

C. Gal 3:23-24 (RSV) "Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. ²⁴So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith."

III. Law brings death, not life

Let us believe God's word - the law can only bring death, not life.

A. Rom 7:9-11 (RSV) "I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died; ¹⁰the very commandment which promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, finding opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and by it killed me."

B. Gal 3:21 (RSV) "Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not; for if a law had been given which could make alive, then righteousness would indeed be by the law."

IV. The Law stirs up sin and does not diminish sin

For those pastors and teachers who think they need to inject at least a few rules and regulations on people for living the Christian life, the answer will only be defeat.

Law and rules stir up sin!

Law, any law, including the Ten Commandments only stir up

- A. Rom 7:5 (RSV) "While we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death."
- B. Rom 7:7-8 (RSV) "What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet, if it had not been for the law, I should not have known sin. I should not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ⁸But sin, finding opportunity in the commandment, wrought in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law sin lies dead."
- C. Col 2:20-23 (RSV) "If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations, ²¹Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" ²²(referring to things which all perish as they are used), according to human precepts and doctrines? ²³These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting rigor of devotion and self-abasement and severity to the body, but they are of no value in checking the indulgence of the flesh."
- D. Col 3:1-2 (RSV) "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

V. Christ, the end of the law

The law was always to show that man needed a Savior.

God intended the Israelites to relate to Him by faith

God intended they see their need for a Savior

- A. Gal 3:24-26 (RSV) "So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith."
- B. How could man think he could keep the law?
The following scripture is law, impossible law!
Mat 5:21-22 (RSV) ""You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire."
- C. Mat 5:17 (RSV) ""Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them." Why did Jesus come to fulfill the law?
Because: We cannot! The Israelites could not; we cannot!
- D. Gal 5:18 (RSV) "But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law."
This scripture plainly sets for the truth for us!
You are not under the law.
No law or rule can help you live the Christian life!

VI. Only Christ can satisfy the Father's desire for us in the Christian life.

We could not satisfy the Father or please the Father enough to be saved.

We cannot satisfy Him in living the Christian life.

- A. Gal 3:1-3 (RSV) "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? ²Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the

Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith? ³Are you so foolish? Having begun with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?"

How did we get saved? How did we get Eternal life?

Through Jesus. Nothing we could do would be counted as righteousness.

B. How can we live out a righteous life unless Jesus lives it for us?

Rom 5:10 (RSV) "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." Being saved is much more than going to heaven when you die!

Being saved in this life requires that Jesus do it for us!

Nothing we do apart from Him doing it will be righteous!

V. God has given us a heart

A. God has given you a new heart as promised in Ezekiel!

Ezek 11:19 (NKJV) ""Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,""

B. Heb 10:22 (NKJV) "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." This is the fulfillment of Ezekiel in the heart of a believer in Jesus Christ."

VI. New Covenant

A. This is the essence of the New Covenant in Christ Jesus:

God is putting His laws in our hearts and minds.

This is something He does.

Heb 10:16-17 (NKJV) ""THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR HEARTS, AND IN THEIR MINDS I WILL WRITE THEM," ¹⁷then He adds, "THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.""

B. How do we access His laws?

Not by memorizing the bible

Not by living our life with the bible in one hand

We access His laws by allowing Jesus Christ to live out His life **THROUGH US!**

*******End of Teaching*******