

#1 - INTRODUCTION

I. Media

1. Barb Epperly
2. Gary Epperly
3. Julianna Clark
4. Molly Stoffer

VIDEO: *Tantrum*

5. What were some of the threats you heart growing up?
6. Punishments?

II. Stories of Law

1. Joey - rebellious
(1) a
2. Frances - legalistic, but worldly
(1) a
3. Jacob - Counting to 3
(1) a
4. Ryan - Gay
(1) a

➔ **BIG IDEA:** The law is necessary part of our legacy, but it is limited in what it can accomplish in hearts apart from grace.



#2 - WHY A LEGACY OF LAW MATTERS

I. Understanding the Law's Strength

1. What Is The Law?

Deut. 11:1,19: *"You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always...You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."*

- (1) There are hundreds of commands given to the Israelites, but the phrase "the law" refers specifically to the compilation of decrees found in the first five books of the Bible. This whole body of law was given the name Torah.
- (2) Obedience to this law was the awesome obligation of God's people as they attempted to merit His favor and blessing.
 - i. After all, Israel was His special people, and they were bound together in a solemn covenant with Him.
 - ii. So the laws are not just some rules laid down by the tribal chief, but they were the laws of the covenant community.
 - iii. When the law was transgressed, the covenant was broken, and so was the relationship with God! That's why the law occupied such a huge place in the life of Israel.
- (3) In order to restore the broken relationship, sacrifices were required and penalties were prescribed. Yet all these sacrifices were really inadequate.
 - i. One of the functions of the law, was to show self-determined people, they are unable to adequately keep the law, so long as they remain self-determined.
 - ii. That is why Scripture looks forward to a Messiah.

Matt. 5:17-18: *"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. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished"*

- iii. The issue is not the law, but in law-keeping.
- iv. The issue isn't that the law is too heavy...but that we don't, in and of ourselves, want to carry it.
- v. What Eden reveals, is that sin produces law-breakers. And since we are all under sin...we are all law-breakers.
- vi. Which means...you are raising little...and big...law breakers.

2. Why Is It Necessary?

- (1) Last week we talked about grace. And while grace-centered parenting is imperative to our legacy...grace is useless if we don't understand "the law".

Rom. 7:7: *"What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."*



- i. We come into the world not knowing the difference between right/wrong, good/evil, true/false.
- (2) The Law is necessary for main reasons:
- i. **Compass** - apart from the law human beings wouldn't have clue how they are supposed to think, desire, speak, behave. It is meant to protect your kids from themselves by exposing behavior.
 - ii. **Conviction** - it's only when you apply a standard of measurement to a board, that you realize you have cut it too short. The law is the ultimate human measuring system.
 - If we do not see clearly, how we have fallen short of a standard, we will never repent or seek forgiveness from others.
 - But more importantly, from God.
 - So no law...no need for grace.
 - Exposes not only our behavior, but our hearts.

II. Understanding the Law's Weakness

1. Law Misunderstanding Produces Law Dependency

- (1) If we misunderstand what the law can and can't do...we will come to depend on the law.
- (2) 1000's of well-meaning Christians parents are asking the law to do in the lives of their children what only grace can accomplish (last week).
 - i. If rules and regulations had the power to change the heart and life of your kids, rescuing them from themselves and giving them a heart of submission and faith...Jesus would have never needed to come.
- (3) It is dangerous to ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish.
 - i. Many do this exact thing, without even knowing it.
 - ii. Reduced parenting down to being a really faithful lawgiver, arresting officer, prosecutor, judge and jailer.
 - iii. Parenting: a body of rules followed by threats of punishment.
- (4) But this is not enough. Think of it:
 - I. If all that your kids needed was the knowledge and enforcement of rules...Jesus would have not been necessary.
 - II. Jesus came because the law was good...but not followed fully. It could not solve the sin problem. It simply highlighted it.
 - III. The greatest danger to your kids is not what is outside of them. If you think it is :
 - iv. Law....law...law.
 - v. It is the sin inside of them.
 - vi. The law does a very good job of exposing your kid's sin...but it has no power whatsoever to deliver them from it. No ability to give them a new heart.
- (5) So if you're going to be an instrument of change in your kid's heart...you need more than just rules and threats.



2. Law Dependency Produces Law Replacement

(1) I make the best pie

i. Kaelyn's pie

- pecans! Like stuff for hamsters!
- Everything about pecans bothers me now.
- I can hear her chewing them and the noise they'll make and bother me.

ii. I know I shouldn't be angry, but I am. I know this isn't personal, but to me it is!

(2) I propose that so much of what drives our responses to our kids is an unannounced set of laws that are more about what we want for ourselves and our lives than what God wants for and from our kids.

(3) Law Replacement:

i. We don't just tend to put all our hope in the law to change our kids...but somehow, somehow God's perfect law gets replaced with our own.

Luke 11:46: *"And he said, 'Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear...'"*

(4) Law replacement is when we add our own laws driven by our need for affirmation, control, peace, success, and reputation.

(5) So we make selfish, impatient and angry demands on our children:

i. Affirmation - if you're good, I'm good

ii. Control - If you don't what I want...or how I want it done...you won't be as happy...and neither will I.

iii. Peace - your problems and misbehavior require energy I don't have or don't want to spend

iv. Success - you cost me time, money and things that I could be spending on myself

v. Reputation - if you're good, others will think I'm good

(6) So If we're really honest...we're made, not that our kids are breaking God's law...but ours. This is true of our legacy to others in the church:

i. Lead worship my way

iv. Pray my way

ii. Preach my way

v. Commune my way

iii. Decorate my way

vi. Serve my way

(7) **SELAH:** Pray about this

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#3 - HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF LAW

I. **Accept the Necessity of the Law (Free range kids?)**

1. Do you see the law as a grace?
 - (1) Don't play in the street.
2. Are the laws in your house clear and concurred?
 - (1) With your spouse
 - i. Not just kids...all in the church.
 - ii. Doctrine and membership is a concurred law.
 - (2) Are you making them up after an undisclosed crime has been committed?
 - (3) Are you changing them to keep your kids happy?
 - i. We want our kids to be happy...so we become inconsistent.
 - ii. Not just kids...all in the church.
 - iii. Doctrine and membership is a concurred law.
3. Where did the law in your house come from?
 - (1) Recycled laws from parents?
4. Are they enforced with consistent and clear consequences? (4 weeks away - authority)
 - (1) Enforcing consequences is hard.

II. **Adjust the Aggregation of the Law**

1. The younger someone is...the more law they need.
 - (1) Conversely, the older they get, the more grace they need.
 - (2) Young kids...young Christians (Paul, weaker/younger conscience)

III. **Admit the Limitations of the Law**

1. Do you respond to disobedience or behavior problems with more laws?
2. Is it possible you tend to ask the law to produce, in the lives your kids and those that come after you, what only grace can produce?
3. Where has law dependence become law replacement.
 - (1) Are they what you want for and from your kids? Or what God wants from and for your kids?

IV. **Apply the Intention of the Law (Grace)**

1. We have to shepherd hearts, not behavior.
 - (1) If the law is clear in your home...and it's consequences are consistently enforced...and you kids breaks the law...it's revealing something wrong about their heart.
 - (2) But you don't...it's revealing something wrong about the law.
2. We sing of God's grace on Sunday, but completely forget that grace as we parent our children throughout the week.



(1) Without the intervention of God's grace, your kids will not be who they are supposed to be or do what they are supposed to do.

3. Remember:

(1) It is sin inside them, not outside them, that is messing everything up

(2) It's sin that makes your kids resist guidance and authority

(3) It's sin that causes them to be constantly in conflict with their siblings

(4) It's sin that gets in the way of your their willingness to learn at school

(5) It's sin that disorders their desires and attracts them to what is hurtful, destructive or deceiving.

(6) It's sin that causes them to be entitled, demanding, materialistic, and complaining.

(7) It's sin that causes them to act as if they are the center of the universe and that your should do their bidding.

(8) It's sin that causes them to say hurtful things to you, their siblings, and peers.

(9) It's sin that makes parenting difficult, demanding and exhausting.

4. And the law has not ability to deliver us from this mess.

(1) As a parent, you're not just called to enforce the law...but also to constantly exhibit and teach God's grace to them as well.

#4 - CONCLUSION

I. How do I have grace for things that hard for me to have grace on?

II. Think of all the laws you have for your kids. Not just your kids...but the ones in your mind for others:

1. Confess your own inconsistency and inability to be a law-keeper.

2. Confess your own predisposition and predilection to be a law-breaker.

III. Remember...we're more like our kids...than we are unlike our kids.

1. We're all sinners who need to be cleaned up by grace.

VIDEO: *Grace*

