

Stephen Wolfe vs David Reece - Natural Law vs Theonomy

“so natural law is the a moral law that directs man to his end his natural end and it is the sole means to that end and that end you can define it as happiness or human flourishing so that idea it's a measure a standard or it's a means for man and the sole means by which man would achieve his end and and this is what was established in the garden it was the standard for Adam and his progeny and it's immutable meaning it doesn't change precisely because it is the only fitting law given the nature of man himself so God created man in a certain way and in creating him a certain way for a certain end God ordained a law and that would be the natural law and it's called natural for that reason it's natural in the sense that it's natural to man as man it's fitting suitable for his nature for the end God ordained for man so that's why it's called natural law it's also called the moral law oftentimes to distinguish that law from nonrational animals or animals and that's because dogs and cats and lizards don't have rationality that is they cannot fulfill a moral law that is they don't have a moral choice and so the natural law is a moral law because man is a moral being capable of exercising moral choice and that's why we are the highest being on earth precisely for that we can choose we can have a moral choice and because there's a moral choice that means we can also where we are the beings that can recognize and worship God which is itself part the principal part of the natural law so that's what I mean by natural law and I think the important point is that it's immutable and that's because there's no other law by which man would achieve his end as a human being which means postfall that endures as the standard of righteousness for man that is you are all under still that same moral law because you are still human beings though corrupted and it still applies it has not changed and according to the reformed tradition the substance of that law has not changed or abrogated or not even there's been an addition to it and so that endures”

Stephen Wolfe - <https://thelondonlyceum.com/classical-reformed-theonomy/>

“The natural law is an ordering of reason, consisting of moral principles that are innate in rational creatures, given by God, who is the author of nature. The natural law applies to every sphere of human life, not merely civil life; it is comprehensive. But being a set of universal principles, it requires particular applications according to the sphere in which one is acting and according to the circumstances of that sphere. Natural law prescribes universal principles and universal conclusions from those principles. These conclusions are universal and are the ground for action, but they are not prescriptive of action in themselves. They require a reasoning subject to make particular determinations (or applications) concerning concrete action. Determinations are practical decisions on what to do or not do, given the circumstances; and these can be individual, familial, civil, and ecclesiastical determinations. Since civil law is a species of law in general, we can define civil law as: an ordering of reason, enacted and promulgated by a legitimate civil authority, that commands public action for the common good of civil communities. Civil law is the outward and official expression of public judgment. Public judgment is simply the conclusion of the civil authority's reasoning about suitable public action for the common good. Civil law is the enacted and promulgated form of public judgment, and so civil law is the outward and official expression of the civil authority's reasoning about suitable action for the common good.”