

## Written in Stone...

### The Law of Life

In a world that often views "rules" as restrictive chains, we are embarking on a journey to rediscover the beauty of the boundaries set by our Creator. God's Word, Written in Stone, invites us to look past the cold surface of the tablets and into the heart of the Law-Giver. We will explore how the Ten Commandments were never intended to be a heavy burden for us to carry, but rather a protective hedge planted by a loving Father. By diving into the moral architecture of God's Word, we'll see how His "thou shalt nots" are actually invitations to a life of true freedom, stability, and purpose.

Throughout this series, we will examine how these ancient decrees remain perfectly relevant to our modern struggles, relationships, work ethic, and for our inner peace. We'll bridge the gap between the Old Covenant Law and the Grace found in Jesus Christ. While the Law reveals our need for a Savior, it also provides a blueprint for abundant life. Join us as we learn that when we live within the lines God has drawn, we don't find confinement—we find the profound blessing of a life aligned with His holiness and His design for human joy.

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

### Why all the rules?

In the biblical sense, the Law (or *Torah*) serves several key functions. It isn't just a list of "thou shalt nots", rather it is a revelation of God's love and character.

20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20

- To Reveal Sin
- To Restrain Evil
- To Point to Christ
- To Guide Holy Living

24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. Galatians 3:24

### When did it start?

15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them. Romans 2:15

- The Moral Law @ Creation
- The Formal Law @ Mt. Sinai

## **How has it changed over time?**

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; 8 they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. Psalm 111:7-8

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 5:18

17 But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. Luke 16:17

Moral Law = 10 Commandments = Permanent  
Ceremonial Law = Sacrifices and rituals = Fulfilled

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. Matthew 5:17

## **How does it apply to me?**

This is where the "Good News" meets our daily walk. As Christians, we are not under the Law as a means of salvation, but we keep the Law as path towards sanctification.

### Boundaries as Blessings

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33

### The Law of Love

37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

### The Law of Christ

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. James 1:25

### We are saved by grace...not the law

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

## **The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday***

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

**Monday** – The Law feels like a big book of rules. What was God's intention for these rules? How does He provide them as a protection to us?

**Tuesday** – We are made in God's image. That is why we know right from wrong at an early age. With that, and all of the laws, why do we still do wrong and evil?

**Wednesday** – The law is God's gift to us, yet He knew we couldn't keep it on our own. How does this reveal His love and goodness through Jesus?

**Thursday** – God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Right and wrong, His law, doesn't change either. We do relate to the law differently through Jesus. How so?

**Friday** – The law is necessary and beneficial even today. How can you seek and follow His Word and law more closely today?