

THE LAW & THE GOSPEL

Romans 7:7-8:4

XII. OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

1. What the Law is

¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Romans 7:12

ESV

*The law is what God commands
because it reflects who God is*

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

ESV

⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

1. What the Law is

2. What the Law Does...

It Defines Sin (7:7)

It Defines Sin (7:7)
It Detects Sin in Me (7:15-23)

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It Despairs Self-Righteousness (7:24)

It Defines Sin (7:7)

It Detects Sin in Me (7:15-23)

It Despairs Self-Righteousness (7:24)

It Directs to Christ (7:25)

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

Galatians 3:24

ESV

3. What the Law Could Never Do

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:1–4

ESV

It cannot make you righteous

It cannot make you righteous
It cannot produce joy-filled obedience

Christ fulfills the law for us → justification
The Spirit fulfills the law in us → sanctification

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.

Big Idea:
**The law exposes, Christ fulfills,
and the Spirit empowers**

