

God's Nature

6/1/2025 Pastor Shaun Rost

If people knew how good God is, they would love Him and live for Him.

If people knew how good God is and followed Him it would solve all problems.

But God has been so slandered that most people don't know Him as the **good God** He really is.

So I have to ask Why?

I believe one of the biggest problems is religion's misuse of the Law.

This has done tremendous damage to God's image.

John 1:17

because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

The Law wasn't inaccurate but incomplete.

And if it is not properly applied, it gives a wrong representation of God.

Jesus was the perfect representation of God

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Heb. 1:3

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

According John 14:9 He said if we have seen Him, then we have seen the Father.

Jesus did exactly what He saw His Father do

Jesus showed us that God is love.

Yet He was constantly accused of breaking the Law.

Of course, Jesus didn't break the Law.

He's the only One who ever truly kept the Law.

But the mercy and grace Jesus extended toward people was radically different from the "eye for eye" and "tooth for tooth" of the Old Testament Law.

Jesus forgave a woman whom the Law condemned to death.

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Jesus ate and fellow-shipped with sinners, which the legalistic Jews of His day wouldn't do.

Jesus touched the untouchable and loved the unlovable.

He showed us grace and mercy, which the Old Testament Law didn't do.

A wrong understanding of the purpose of the Old Testament Law leads to a misunderstanding of the nature of God.

Most people believe God gave the Law to show us what we needed to do to obtain relationship with Him.

But the Law was never intended to bring us into relationship with our heavenly Father.

Let me say that again the Law was NOT intended for relationship!

It was intended to show us our sin and our need for God.

It was intended to show us we needed something more, that we needed relationship with God.

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It was given to show us how unholy we were so we would despair of trying to earn salvation and just receive it as a gift by faith.

It was to turn us from self-righteousness to a faith-righteousness that could only come through a Savior.

Rom. 10:3-4

3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Consider some of the things the Scripture says about the Law:

- The Law strengthened sin (1 Cor. 15:56).
- The Law was a ministry of death and condemnation (2 Cor. 3:7 and 9).
- The Law gave guilt and knowledge of sin, not salvation (Rom. 3:19-20).
- The Law made sin come alive, and killed us (Rom. 7:9).

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- The Law magnified sin and produced hopelessness (Rom. 7:13-25).

Why would God give us something with all these negative effects?

It was because we were already beaten by sin and didn't know it.

Before we could be motivated to receive God's gift of salvation by grace through faith in a Savior,

we needed to be convinced that **we couldn't save ourselves.**

I don't know about you, but I sure meet a lot of people who still believe they can save themselves!

So, the Lord revealed His standard of holiness (the Law),

which was infinitely higher than any of us could ever attain.

We had to come to the end of ourselves before we could begin to find God.

Some of us know exactly what I am talking about this morning, I am convinced that the more you draw into a true relationship with the Lord, You have to come to the end of yourself.

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Sometimes in the worlds eyes this looks like complete devastation, but in Gods eyes it gets you to a place that He can now work with you.

The Law was perfectly suited to do that.

It shut us up to faith so the only way we could look was up.

Gal. 3:23

But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.

When the Law is used for that purpose, then it is good.

But when people are taught that God's blessings are dependent upon our performance, that kills faith in what Jesus did for us.

Religion has taught that we have to fulfill the demands of the Law in order for God to love us or use us.

For 2,000 years, after Adam's fall, God dealt with mankind through mercy and grace, which wasn't evident when the Law came.

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instance, God protected the first murderer (Gen. 4:15) instead of killing him as the Law later prescribed (Lev. 24:17).

Abraham married his half-sister, which the Law said was punishable by death (Lev. 18:9).

And Jacob married two women who were sisters, which the Law condemned to death (Lev. 18:18).

It say's in Romans 4:15

for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

But when the Law came, God's wrath was released against sin,

and we got caught in the middle.

God smote (To strike sharply or heavily especially with the hand or with something held in the hand)

God was spanking His Children with leprosy according to (Num. 12:10 and 2 Chr. 26:19 20)

and all manner of plagues (Deut. 28:15-68) because of sin.

Yet this wasn't God's original reaction to sin,

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as can be seen by the fact that it was 2,000 years after Adam's sin when He gave the Law and released His wrath.

He wasn't imputing man's sin unto him until the Law was given.

However, the Law made sin come alive, and it killed us (Rom. 7:9).

The Law released God's wrath (Rom. 4:15).

This served two main purposes.

First, God's display of His wrath against sin forever changed the way man thought of sin.

Now he had graphic evidence of how much God hated sin,

so this should have served as a deterrent to sin.

Second, and more importantly, the Law gave such a perfect standard of performance that those who understood it clearly saw that they **could never** be good enough to receive anything from God.

It took away any deception that God owed us anything, and it made us throw ourselves on God for mercy.

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That's HUGE, and that's what the Law was intended to do.

A proper use of the Law drives us to God for mercy and not away from God in guilt and condemnation.

Once we come to Jesus and receive salvation as a gift

we are no longer under the Law but under grace

God always wanted to relate to us by grace, but He couldn't just look the other way and ignore sin.

The sin debt had to be paid.

That's why Jesus came.

He suffered all of God's wrath against all the sin of all of us.

Those who receive God's grace by accepting salvation as a gift by faith in Jesus don't have anymore wrath against them.

The Lord will never be angry with us or rebuke us!

Can I get an AMEN!

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Our sin debt has been paid.

Can I get an AMEN!

Not only that, but we have become the righteousness of God in Christ according to (2 Cor. 5:21).

This is the great exchange. He not only took away our sin but gave us His righteousness.

We are now as clean and holy in our spirits as Jesus is!

That's powerful.

If people truly understand this, it would change the world!