

## THE NATURE OF GOD'S LAW

### 1 What does the Bible teach about God's Law?

**PSALM 19:7** "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_; The \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD is sure, making \_\_\_\_\_ the simple."

The attributes of God are revealed in all creation. In Psalm 19:1-6, David compares the constancy of the heavens to the perfection of God's law. As the sun, moon, and stars reveal God's perfect order of creation, so also His law reveals the government of God. Thus, the Law of the Lord is as perfect as He is. Rightly followed and applied the Law of the Lord converts the whole person. The Law establishes guidelines by which God brings harmony into our lives.

### 2 How did the psalmist David express his attitude towards God's perfect Law?

**PSALM 40:8** "I \_\_\_\_\_ to do Your \_\_\_\_\_, O my God, and Your \_\_\_\_\_ is within my \_\_\_\_\_."

When David expressed his delight to do God's will, he gave evidence his heart was an abiding place of God's law. A heart that makes room for God's perfect Law, will produce in that person a delight to serve Him.

### 3 How many Commandments did Moses say are in God's Law?

**EXODUS 34:28** "So he was there with the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ days and \_\_\_\_\_ nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ the words of the covenant, the \_\_\_\_\_."

God's law only contains Ten Commandments divided into two categories. The first four reveal our obligation to God, the last six our obligation to each other.

### 4 How did Jesus teach dividing the Ten Commandments into two sections?

**MATTHEW 22:37-40** "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ WITH \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR \_\_\_\_\_, WITH \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR \_\_\_\_\_, AND WITH \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR \_\_\_\_\_.' (38) This is the \_\_\_\_\_ and great commandment. (39) And the \_\_\_\_\_ is like it: 'You shall love your \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_.' (40) On these \_\_\_\_\_ commandments hang all the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Prophets."

These were not new words. When Jesus said this, the four gospels were not yet written. Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6:5, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." Jesus was reminding a Jewish lawyer that his obligation to God does not exclude obligations to others, thus Jesus added, "Love your neighbor."

### 5 How do we know that when God wrote the Ten Commandments He did not add any other laws to it?

**DEUTERONOMY 5:22** "These \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He \_\_\_\_\_ And He wrote them on \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and gave them to me."

When God finished writing the Ten Commandments, they were complete. They contained all obligations to God and to humanity. God's Law is as complete as God is. In describing the works of God, the wise man Solomon wrote, "I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him." Ecclesiastes 3:14 (NKJV)

### 6 How did the psalmist David describe true reverence for God?

**PSALM 112:1** "Praise the LORD! \_\_\_\_\_ is the man who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_ greatly in His \_\_\_\_\_."

God does not want us to be afraid of Him but to reverence Him, by showing obedience to His commandments. The Bible reveals no reason to disobey God's Law.

### 7 According to Jesus, professed religious leaders transgressed the Commandments. What reason prompted their guilt?

**MATTHEW 15:3** "He answered and said to them, 'Why do you also \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God because of your \_\_\_\_\_?'"

Tradition is one of the culprits for ignoring God's Ten Commandments. For centuries traditions have challenged the Bible; many have substituted their traditions over the Commandments of God. In a future lesson we will examine some of those traditions.

### 8 Why did Jesus give a scathing rebuke to the religious leaders of His day?

**MATTHEW 15:7-9** "\_\_\_\_\_! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: (8) 'These people draw near to Me with their \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ Me with their \_\_\_\_\_, but their \_\_\_\_\_ is far from Me. (9) And in \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ Me, teaching as \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of men.'"

Hypocrisy is another reason for disobedience to God's law. Jesus said, the people sound holy, honoring Him with their mouths and lips. They may even sing holy songs. But God knows issues that are hidden from man. Jesus said, their hearts are "far from Me."

### 9 The heart condition that Jesus diagnosed is always the issue. What's wrong with the heart that rejects God's Law?

**ROMANS 8:7** "Because the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_; for it is not \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, nor indeed can be."

It is impossible for the "carnal" mind to desire to keep God's perfect Law, its unconverted and in conflict with God's law. The carnal mind is not motivated by spiritual principles but controlled by natural tendencies. The carnal heart will not surrender to anything in conflict with its will. The carnal mind cannot comprehend the need to keep God's Law.

### 10 What reason does the apostle Paul give for not being able to keep God's holy law?

**ROMANS 7:14** "For we know that the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, but I am \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ under \_\_\_\_\_."

The apostle Paul explains that there is nothing wrong with God's Law. The problem is him, he's carnal, sold under sin. Paul's heart was the battleground between the carnal and the spiritual. One is at war against the other. God's Law reveals his condition. By confronting the purity of God's Law, Paul recognizes his true condition.

### 11 What did the apostle Paul say about the Law of God in comparison to his carnal condition?

**ROMANS 7:12** "Therefore the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

The Law is holy, just and good like its Author. The psalmist David wrote, "Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool—He is holy." Psalm 99:5 (NKJV).

### 12 In spite of the holiness and perfect nature of God's Law, what did Paul acknowledge as challenging him to keep it?

**ROMANS 7:22-23** "For I \_\_\_\_\_ in the law of \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_ man. (23) But I see \_\_\_\_\_ law in my members, \_\_\_\_\_ against the law of my \_\_\_\_\_, and bringing me into \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin which is \_\_\_\_\_ my members."

The apostle Paul delighted in his idea of keeping God's Law. When he said "according to the inward man," he meant that it is his mind and heart's desire. However, he acknowledged a conflict in himself. Paul wrote, "I see another law in my members." The law that Paul saw in his members was battling against the "law of his mind." He described the law in his members as "the law of sin." It's obvious that Paul was not calling God's Law the "law of sin" because he already concluded that God's Law is perfect. Paul was describing why it's not possible to keep a perfect law until the carnal nature is changed.

### 13 How did the apostle Paul describe the remedy for his inability to keep God's Law?

**ROMANS 7:24** "O \_\_\_\_\_ man that I am! Who will \_\_\_\_\_ me from this \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_?"

In Paul's struggle to keep God's Law he never mentions Jesus or the Spirit, which is the reason why he struggled. His flesh repeatedly failed him. But Paul asks, "Who will deliver me?" Thus, deliverance from the penalty of sin is the remedy for humanity's inability to keep God's Law. Jesus accomplished our deliverance, when Jesus gave His life to atone for its penalty. The apostle Paul now asks for deliverance from the power of sin. He is tired of being condemned for his frailty.

### 14 How did the apostle Paul describe his deliverance?

**ROMANS 8:1-2** "There is therefore \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are \_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus, who do not \_\_\_\_\_ according to the flesh, but according to the \_\_\_\_\_. (2) For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus has made me \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and \_\_\_\_\_."

The powerful truth of Paul's deliverance is, he was no longer trying to keep God's Law in himself. He was brought into harmony with God's Law by being placed "In Christ Jesus." In the next two verses Paul records his preamble of deliverance. "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:3-4 (NKJV).

### 15 The apostle Paul describes how the requirements of the law were fulfilled. How could we fulfill God's requirements?

**GALATIANS 2:20** "I have been \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_; it is no longer \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_, but Christ lives \_\_\_\_\_ me; and the \_\_\_\_\_ which I \_\_\_\_\_ live in the \_\_\_\_\_ I live by \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son of God, who \_\_\_\_\_ me and gave \_\_\_\_\_ for me."

**PHILIPPIANS 4:13** "\_\_\_\_\_ do \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_ Christ who \_\_\_\_\_ me."

### 16 Because of the strength that Christ provides, what does He ask of us?

**JOHN 14:15** "If you \_\_\_\_\_ Me, keep My \_\_\_\_\_."

Keeping the Commandments of God is never accomplished by human ability. Christ is the power to keep them.

### 17 How do we know that through the power of Christ Jesus the Ten Commandments can be kept?

**REVELATION 14:12** "Here is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_; here are those who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

The Ten Commandments are not kept by our faith. It is the victorious faith of Jesus that enables His saints to live in harmony with His perfect law. Jesus empowers His followers to keep His law because they cannot reflect His character without doing so. That is why Jesus said, "If you keep My Commandments, you will abide in My love just as I have kept My Father's Commandments and abide in His love." John 15:10 (NKJV).

### 18 How imperative is it to keep God's Commandments?

**1 JOHN 2:3-4** "Now by \_\_\_\_\_ we know that we \_\_\_\_\_ Him, if we \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_. (4) He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His \_\_\_\_\_, is a \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in him."

Those that genuinely "know" God will keep His Commandments. Wherever the Commandments of God are rejected, truth is not found. David the psalmist affirms the unity between truth and God's Commandments, "You are near, O LORD, and all Your Commandments are truth." Psalms 119:151 (NKJV).

### 19 How do we know the Commandments were not abolished?

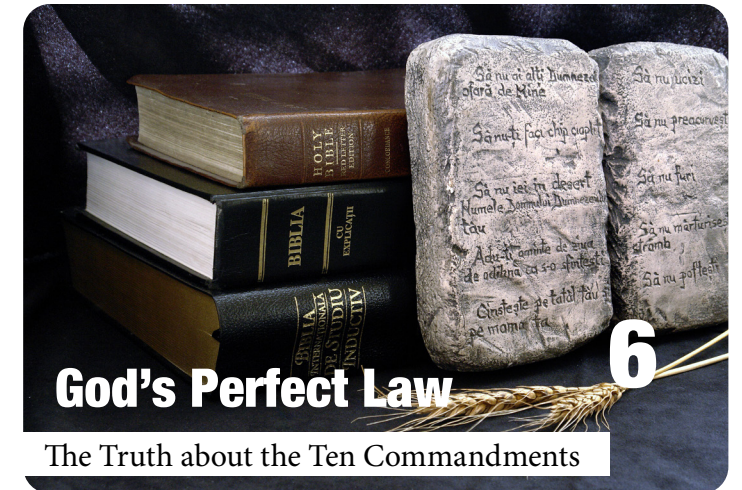
**MATTHEW 5:17-19** "Do not \_\_\_\_\_ that I came to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to \_\_\_\_\_. (18) For assuredly, I say to you, till \_\_\_\_\_ and earth \_\_\_\_\_ away, \_\_\_\_\_ jot or \_\_\_\_\_ tittle will by no means \_\_\_\_\_ from the law till \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. (19) Whoever therefore \_\_\_\_\_ one of the least of these \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ men so, shall be called \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ them, he shall be called \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom of heaven."

The Commandments are as permanent as God. Why destroy a law that reveals the parameters of His government and the nature of His character?

### 20 Does Satan believe the Commandments can't be kept?

**REVELATION 12:17** "And the \_\_\_\_\_ was enraged with the \_\_\_\_\_, and he went to make \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ of her \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and have the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ."

Satan is so convinced that the Commandments of God can't be kept that he is angry and at war with those who keep them through the power of Christ. The question is, on whose side will you stand? May you choose God's side.



## God's Perfect Law

The Truth about the Ten Commandments

What would a government be without law and order? Just look around our world today, glimpse what it could be. The rise in incarceration, fear of terrorism, rampant theft, indefensible murder rate, failing marriages, international conflict, and perpetual war, are symptoms illustrating rejection of God's Perfect Law. The entertainment industry has dramatized and sensationalized the corrupt, in all forms and on all levels. We have become desensitized and accepting of open rebellion against God's Law.

Rejecting God's Perfect Law is dismantling society. However, the issue is not God's Perfect Law, it is the imperfect heart of humanity. Sinful man is incapable of keeping a sinless Law.

Every effort on the part of sinful humanity to live in harmony with God's Law, has fallen short of God's ideal. Even yet the appeal from a loving Savior is "If you love Me, keep my Commandments." John 14:15 (NKJV).

How can imperfect humans live in harmony with God's Perfect Law? Jesus is the good news, He provides the power to live to a standard far superior to our nature. When God's Law is honored, the heart is renewed, the character refined, and our life reflects the reality that God's Perfect Law reveals God's Perfect Love.