

**The Law of Love Explained,
or Jesus is the end of the Law to those who believe, or, Christians are obligated to keep the
Moral Law.**

By Duane Linn

Continuing in our series on Perversions of the Gospel, today we are going to look at the heresy of the wholesale rejection Biblical Law, or rather, the neglecting of the Moral Law. In modern terminology, it is the profession of, "Jesus is the end of the Law for those who believe".

Some other statements from the visible church include,

1. "We are no longer the Law, but under Grace".
2. "Why are you trying to put us back under the Law"?
3. " Keeping the Law is legalism"
4. "We only have one Law and it is the Law of Love"

There are others, I am sure, but you get the point I am trying to make. Professing Christians are absolutely disgusted at the prospect of having to keep the Moral Law (or any law, for that matter). They believe that they are at liberty to do as they please, under this alleged, "law of love" and not have to bear any responsibility for their thoughts or actions because, "Jesus paid the penalty for our sin, therefore, we are free and our lips are our own".

Brothers and sisters, this could not be further than the truth...

To begin, I will illustrate a fictional conversation between one of the Elect of God, and also, the liberal, professing Christian.

The presupposition to the conversation is, simply put, "Jesus Christ IS the physical embodiment of the Word of God and is also the Author of It (John 1:1).

The preface of the conversation is this statement...

"To say that the Law ceased in its entirety is absurd. How are we to have any form of ethics and morality without that which was given in the Law of Moses"?

If, it is universally accepted among professing Christianity, that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law of Moses, how can you, as a professing Christian, state that you are no longer under the Law?

You will say, "Jesus is the whole Law. The Law of Love".

I will then ask, "How do you explain (according to the Scriptures) what love is?"

You will say, "Love your neighbor as yourself".

I will ask, "How and where are you to know and execute in practice, this commandment"?

You will answer with these verses;

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Matthew 19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Mark 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Romans 13:9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

I will ask, "from where did you find these verses"?

You will say, I first found them in the Law of Moses".

I will say, "Did you not also find in Romans 13:9, the 5 commandments drawn from the Ten Commandments"?

You reply. "Yes. I did".

I say to you, "Are we not then dependent on the Law of Moses as our Biblical example of what it means, from God's perspective, to love"?

You will say (hopefully), "I guess we have to keep the Law after all".

This scenario, is a probable exchange between the preacher and the crowd.

Objections

It is fairly certain, that there will be those who will not see the simplicity of what has been expounded, but will rather, take exception to the truth (after all, didn't we do the same, prior to our regeneration).

For example,

The other day, on Facebook, someone posted a meme of a stop sign, with a hand in the "halt" position. The meme stated, "STOP. THE LAW ENDS HERE." The person, then used Luke 16:16 as a stand alone statement to "validate" the meme.

The statement is this:

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presses into it.

As a standalone statement, separate from the rest of the Word of God, this doesn't even imply that the Law has ceased.

Rather, the following verse completes the previous verse, saying,

Luke 16:17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

This, my dear brethren, is the embodiment of cut and paste theology.

Matthew 11:13 is another verse that was used in support of Luke 16:16. Let's have a look at that verse standing alone in support of Luke 16:16.

Matthew 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

For the unlearned, this would seem on the surface, to support it. HOWEVER, again, the verse has been ripped from its context (cut and paste theology).

This verse has to do with that which was concerning John the Baptist and his ministry. Here is the verse in its context.

Matthew 11:7-19 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented. For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

Clearly, this verse has nothing to do with the wholesale obliteration of the Law and our obligation to keep it.

The facts are clear, brethren... Jesus Christ is indeed the Completion of the Law. But completion does not mean, "we are free from the law in Christ". Rather, you are even more obligated to keep the Law (moral law). You have no more excuse to reject it.

Rather, it is written,

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

So that I am not accused of trickery, or manipulating the Scriptures to keep the Church under the Law, I will recite the entire 14th Chapter of John.

John 14:1-31 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto

him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe. Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

Be very careful, brethren, to search the Scriptures before you open your mouths. You do more damage to our credibility as a Church by your ignorant use of the Scriptures to satisfy the minds and hearts of the unregenerate.

In short, you are guilty of the heresy of antinomianism.

Antinomianism defined is simply this;

Definition of antinomian.

1 : one who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace the moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation.

This is like saying, I want Jesus but not the Jesus of the Bible. I want to have my own personal Jesus. One who is not really God. One who is devoid of morals and ethics. A Christless Jesus. A lawless Jesus. A Jesus that serves me and not I, Him.

The first chapter and verse of the Gospel of John states that Jesus is the Word.

John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness apprehended it not. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light. There was the true light, even the light which lighteth every man, coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth. (ASV)

Jesus is the Bible. The Bible is Jesus in a bodily form. We can hold Him in our unworthy hands. To say that we are free from the Law (completely) is to reject the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Period.

So, if anything is left to be said, it is this...

Read more and talk less.

May the Lord bless and preserve you.