



**“The Moral Law of God, Part 1”
Gen. 2:15-17**

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Over the next few weeks, God willing, we will be studying the Moral Law of God, that law which we find summarized for us in the Ten Commandments.

Why it is necessary to study the Law of God?

- 1) Because of the laws critical importance to our understanding of salvation,
- 2) How it enriches our understanding of salvation
- 3) How it sets before us the necessity of the gospel and the rules of life for the regenerate
- 4) And how a misunderstanding of the law can affect our salvation:

Evangelical Misunderstandings of the Law (what does it do? Antinomianism) - serious

Non-Evangelical misunderstandings of the Law (do this and live! Whether entirely as in Catholicism or in part as with Cults) – fatal

What we mean by the Law

- 1) Categories of the Law

Ceremonial – shadows prefiguring Christ now abrogated

Civil – Judicial Laws that were outworkings of the moral law applied to ancient Israel, expired together with the state (the penalties for infractions of the moral law, land allotment for the tribes, rail around the housetop gleaning, etc.)

Moral – Expression of God's holy nature, eternal binding all. The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof;

- 2) Uses of the Law

Political – informing us as we make laws

Pedagogical – Gal. 3:24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.as a mirror showing us the righteousness of God

Rule of Life – informing them of the will of God, not salvific, but shows us how God will have us to live. If the Law is an expression of God's nature and Christ perfectly kept it, it is an expression of Christ's will and will be a rule and guide to us in doing good works being conformed to his image, etc.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The Covenant of Works & the Moral Law

I. God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience, promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it.[1]

As we shall see, point missed by most is that the Moral Law was the substance of the Covenant of works! So Sinai was a REITERATION not an ITERATION a spelling out of what was given in the Garden

Man created in the image of God

What does it mean to say that Man was created in his image? He was a reflection of God: in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness,

Gen 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Eccles 7:29 29 Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."

Gen 1:31 "31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Eph. 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

What was the substance of this holiness?

The Moral Law written on his heart – a reflection of God's nature and holiness!

Luke 10:26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

27 So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "

28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

Romans 2:14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

God could not have entered into covenant a covenant with man, under the condition of holy and good works, and perfect obedience to his law, except he had first created man holy and pure and engraven his law in his heart, from whence those good works should proceed:

The time in the garden was a timing of probation – testing or trial. Adam was tempted and fell. Whereas the second Adam, Christ was tempted but did not fall!

Adam failed to keep the covenant (Gen 2:15-17)

Q14: What is sin?

A14: Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.[1]

1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

"Indeed, in that one commandment the whole worship of God did consist; as obedience, honor, love, confidence, and religious fear, together with the outward abstinence from sin and reverent respect to the voice of God."

And so, in breaking the covenant he became guilty of breaking all of the moral law:

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Hosea 6:7 "7 But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant;"

Some insist that the Ten Commandments did not exist prior to Sinai. BUT, If the ten commandments were not in effect the story of Cain and Abel becomes unintelligible

And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

11 "So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

It is only because God's Moral Law already existed that we can understand the above. We have violations of the 2nd commandment regarding the manner in which we are to worship God, violations of the 10th in the way he envied Abel, violations of the 6th in the way he hated him. And then he is cursed for violating the 6th again for murdering him and then the 9th for lying about it.

THE FALL AND THE CURSE:

Why did Adam fall? He was mutable, able to choose to obey or disobey, and he chose to obey.

After that we, his posterity, were hopelessly inclined towards evil: **Rom. 3:10** *As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;*

Romans 5:12 *12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned --*

Gen. 8:21 *And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.*

Romans 3:19 *" 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

Gal. 3:10 *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."*

11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."

5 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.*

That is why our kids *lie, cheat, and steal. Etc.*

Now we are hopelessly bent towards sin, although the Moral Law remains in effect, no mortal man affected by TOTAL DEPRAVITY can keep the law, what then can we do??? What hope do we have?

The good news of the Gospel!

NKJ Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 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,

4 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.