

#27

KILLER SINS

The LAW & freedom from sin.

We have already seen that
GOD PROVIDES A WAY OUT OF TEMPTATION.

No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity.
But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **he will also provide a way out** so that you may be able to bear it.
1 Corinthians 10:13 (CSB)

SO THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO SIN.

We have also seen that...

God's people DON'T have lives characterized by sin.

No one who is **born of God** will continue to sin, ...
We know that anyone **born of God** does not continue to sin; ...
1 John 3:9a; 5:18a (NIV)

This is because...

GRACE
TEACHES US to live holy, godly lives.

For the **grace** of God ...
teaches us to say

"NO" TO SINFULNESS

"YES" TO HOLINESS

"No" to ungodliness and worldly passions,
and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives ...
Titus 2:11a, 12a (NIV)

GOD REQUIRES HOLINESS OF ALL.

WHY?
HERE'S WHY!

For [God] himself has said,
"You must be holy **because I am holy.**"
1 Peter 1:16 (NLT)

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "HOLY"?

- God tells us in his Word.
- He reveals it in the moral Law.
- The moral Law is a reflection of God's character.

✦ **This isn't just "an Old Testament concept"!** ✦

The Apostle Paul says that the law is **holy**.

So then, **the Law is holy**, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.
Romans 7:12 (NASB)

Paul also says the law is **spiritual** and **good**.

- The problem is us, not the law.
- Faith does not cancel the law.

For we know that **the law is spiritual**—but I am unspiritual, sold into slavery to sin.
Romans 7:14 (NET)

Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, **we uphold the law.**
Romans 3:31 (NIV)

➤ **But we must use the law properly.**

We know that **the law is good** if one uses it properly.
1 Tim. 1:8 (NIV)

Unfortunately...

- The word "law" is used many ways.
- People often ignore the context – which results in many misunderstandings and false teachings.

MORAL LAWS

CIVIL LAWS

CEREMONIAL LAWS

"LAWS OF THE HEART"

GUIDING OR CONTROLLING
LAWS (PRINCIPLES)

LAWS (RULES) INVENTED
BY PEOPLE



THE WORD "LAW" IS USED MANY WAYS?

- **YES!** That is why we need to pay attention to the context.
- There are many Scriptures that associate the word "law" with our freedom as saved people, so we need to understand the relationship between the two concepts.

If we pay attention to **CONTEXT**, we will understand why some passages affirm "law" and other passages oppose it.

- ❖ The same word may be used to describe two different concepts.
- ❖ People may have different reasons or motives when using the word.

Our focus is on the **MORAL LAW**.

- It is this "law" that Paul describes as holy, spiritual, good, and something we uphold. (Verses shown previously.)

HERE ARE SOME VERSES (AND RELATED CONCEPTS)
THAT SHOW THE CONNECTION BETWEEN
OBEYING THE MORAL LAW AND FREEDOM.



FIRST, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT GOD FREES US;
AND HE SHOWS US WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "FREE."

1) God CALLED us to be FREE.

- The focus here is on God's role in our salvation and how it will affect the way we live.
- God's "calling" includes the necessary life-changes that make it possible.

- ✓ He accomplished this freedom by means of what Jesus did on the cross.

All praise to him who loves us and has **freed** us from our sins by shedding his blood for us.

Rev. 1:5b (NLT)

2) Scripture tells us about things that are incompatible with this FREEDOM.

- ✓ Attempts to earn our salvation by obeying the "law."
 - The context shows that Paul is referring mainly to the ceremonial law (religious rituals); but no law can save us, since we have all sinned.
 - Our only recourse is to trust God for salvation – Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:10-14; etc.
 - Attempting to earn salvation by the law turns it into a slave master – resulting in the opposite of freedom!

It is for **freedom** that Christ has set us **free**. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

[Things that are incompatible with FREEDOM.]

- ✓ Using "freedom" as an excuse for sinning.
 - Genuine freedom affects all our relationships – with both God and people – resulting in love, honor, respect, etc.

Live as **free** people, but don't hide behind your **freedom** when you do evil. Instead, use your **freedom** to serve God. Honor everyone. Love your brothers and sisters in the faith. Fear God. Honor the emperor [= government leaders].

1 Peter 2:16-17 (GW)

[Incompatible: Using "freedom" as an excuse for sinning.]

- Genuine freedom replaces sinfulness with love for other people!

You were indeed called to be **free**, brothers and sisters. Don't turn this **freedom** into an excuse for your corrupt nature to express itself. Rather, serve each other through love.

Galatians 5:13 (GW)

- **WARNING:** False teachers may promise "freedom," while they are encouraging people to sin.

... they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them **freedom**, ...

2 Peter 2:18b-19a (NIV)

THEREFORE, WE ARE TO PURSUE FREEDOM AND LIVE-OUT THE TRUTH (= OBEDIENCE).

(These two concepts go together.)

Obedying the truth results in freedom.

- It is only through obedience that we can really "know" the truth.

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you **free**."

John 8:31-32 (NLT)

- After this (verses 34+), Jesus warns us that people who don't obey the truth are slaves to sin.

TO THE UNSAVED, THE MORAL LAW MAY BE JUST A "LIST OF RULES." TO THE SAVED, IT TAKES ON AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DIMENSION.

1) God embeds his laws in our hearts.

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts and will write them on their minds, ..."

Hebrews 10:16 (ISV)

- This refers to the "New Covenant," which Jesus accomplished on the cross.
- The result? The moral law changes from being an external list of rules to the desire of our lives!

2) Here are some verses that describe this new perspective:

✓ **God's Law = Christ's Law.**

... not outside the law of God, but subject to the law of Christ ...

1 Corinthians 9:21b (LEB)

- The emphasis here is on the moral law. It is contrasted to the religious ceremonial laws that the Jews followed – mentioned in v. 20.
- (Note that Jesus also summarizes the moral law as an expression of love for God and people – Matthew 22:37-40.)

[Verses that describe this new perspective.]

- ✓ **The moral law is summarized by the "Royal Law" of "Love your neighbor as yourself."**

But if you fulfill the royal law as expressed in this scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ... For [God] said, "Do not commit adultery," ... "Do not murder."

James 2:8, 11a (NET)

- ✓ **Because of this connection, the moral law is associated with freedom.**

... the perfect law that gives **freedom**, ... /
... the law that gives **freedom**, ...

James 1:25b; 2:12b (NIV)

WHAT should we conclude?



❖ In past weeks, we have been focusing on **FREEDOM** from sin.

❖ **Obedience to the moral law is the context in which we define FREEDOM!**

This is why we no longer have to be slaves to sin!

- **THE WORLD:** "free" to sin
– i.e., **sin** is their master.
- **GOD'S PEOPLE:** free to do what is right
– i.e., **God** is our master!

In other words...

We are FREE to live holy lives
– FREE to live according to the principles of love,
which are expressed by the moral law!

THEREFORE:

- We don't have to sin!
- We can say with confidence:

No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity.

But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **he will** also **provide a way out** so that you may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (CSB)

So **YOUR MISSION** this week is simply this...

THIS WEEK:

★ **LIVE FREE!!** ★

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