

Living in Freedom from Law

Romans 6-8, Galatians, Hebrews, Colossians

INTRO: Life in the Spirit is a life free from the Law. Rather than attempting to be holy and religious by keeping rules and regulations, the Spirit-filled believer lives continuously by the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It is a life of relationship with God, not of religious regulation. This is a means of living in true holiness that is not at all understood by the world, a truly not understood by most believers.

In order to understand what freedom from law and life in the Spirit means, it is necessary, first, to understand the purpose of the Law in the history of salvation:

I. Why Did God Give the Law?

According to professor Douglas J. Moo, New Testament scholar, God gave the Law for three reasons:

- A. To reveal His character to the people of Israel and demand that the people conform to it
- B. To supervise Israel in the time before Christ
- C. To imprison Israel and, by extension, all people under sin

II. The History of the Law

- A. Romans 4:3—Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness
- B. Galatians 3:17—The Law came four hundred and thirty years later; it was added because of our transgressions
- C. Romans 5:12-14—Sin entered the world through one man, but where there is no law, sin is not imputed (credited to our account), nevertheless its effect (death) was felt by all.
 1. Transgression—any act which violates God's character, even if a person does not know it
 2. Sin—a violation of a specific law of God, rebellious disobedience, intentional or accidental violation of God's revealed law(s)
 3. Iniquity—moral distortion, perversion: the sin nature of human beings that is behind transgression and sin; the sin nature (Psalm 51:5 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.*)

III. From a Gentile Perspective, the Law has Three Divisions

- A. The moral law—rules pertaining to godly behavior (Leviticus 18:19 Love your neighbor as yourself; James 2:8)
- B. The ceremonial Levitical law—rules pertaining to worship and religious duty
[These rules were nullified in Paul's writings, Romans 14:2-6]
- C. The dietary law—rules pertaining to clean and unclean foods, Romans 14:2-6 & Acts 10:13-15

IV. The Law is Our Tutor to Bring Us to Christ

- A. Galatians 3:24—The Law has become our tutor to bring us to Christ, it is a teacher to explain and expose our sin so as to lead us to the Cross and to Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing
- B. Its job is complete when we recognize our sin and believe by faith that Jesus has freed us from its bondage: freedom from the law, from sin, and from death