



## THE LAW Part D



The three previous studies on the law revealed that *we are free from the law by the body of Christ (Romans 7:4)* because *Christ was the one who gave the law. Christ was the husband. The husband died, setting the wife free from the law of the husband.* Next, we saw the law was spiritual; that Christ applied these meanings of the law to an inward thing. You've been told not to kill. I say don't get angry. The idea of not getting angry -- **how does one not get angry? You have to walk in love! LOVE IS THE FULLFILLING OF THE LAW.** Then we saw how all of the Ten Commandments are basically stating the same thing; to ***put the will of God above your will.*** (*James 2:10*)

Now, let's delve into this final section of study with the goal of understanding the God of love that we have. Let's seek out what is to be governing us in this life, if we're going to believe in God, believe in Jesus, and trust him for our salvation.

**How are we to be governed in life?** Let me ask you a simple question. **What does it mean to be "under the law"?** The reason I ask you this is because the history I've had with the universal church has given me a definition of "under the law." Many people I've dealt with *wanted* to be "under the law." These individuals thought you should be keeping that law, so when the Bible says you're NOT under the law, these individuals claim that you're not condemned by the law – (in other words) to be under the law means to be condemned by the law. Well, I would like to challenge that. Please turn to Galatians, chapter 4; we'll read verse 19-21.

*Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,*

*Gal 4:20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.*

*Gal 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?*

So, if being under the law means you're condemned by the law, then what you just read doesn't make any sense. "*You people who desire to be under the law*" - no one desires to be condemned by it. It means something different:

**To be under the law  
means  
to be governed by it!**

That is what is being said. You who desire to be governed by it, do you not hear what it's saying? So I said, the scriptures tell us that YOU'RE NOT UNDER THE LAW. Really, it means that **you're not to be governed by the law.** Let's read this in *Romans 6.*

*Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

You are not governed by the law; you're governed by grace. What does Paul mean, "you're governed by grace"? When he says you're governed by grace, he doesn't mean the grace that God is showing you. He means the **grace that you are showing toward others BECAUSE of the grace God has given you.** You're to be governed by grace. And notice how Paul began that verse: ***Sin shall not have dominion over you; YOU'RE TO BE GOVERNED BY GRACE.***

What does that mean? All of my Christian life I was told that I cannot stop sinning: God's going to have to give me a new body and then I can quit sinning. **Why would anybody say that? It's because they can't quit sinning!** They don't understand it. What is it they don't understand? The power of the Gospel as seen in the cross. Paul stated this about Jesus: "*He gave himself to redeem us from all iniquity.*" (Titus 2:14)

**INIQUITY IS THE THOUGHT YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU SIN. When you have authority in your life over iniquity, YOU WILL NOT SIN.** For you to have authority in your life over iniquity, you're going to have to love people. Somebody can make you angry, but you're not governed by the law; you're governed by grace toward that person! **GRACE is to govern you.** You stop, and you consider what is going on: What is making me angry? What is making me lust? What is it that's happening to me? You consider what is happening and **YOU REPLACE THAT THOUGHT OF ANGER WITH ANOTHER THOUGHT.**

This is what Christ showed us at the cross. ***Christ has shown us the soul of humanity: the crown of thorns, the guilt, the stripes - those things you can't forgive or let go of; the nakedness where you expose yourself in your actions, and darkness - the fact that you don't know God; in fact, you don't understand him.*** God painted that picture using his son to do it. Christ became sin; he who knew no sin became sin so that we could be made the righteousness of God. Righteousness is God's understanding, so when I have a thing going on in my life, God would have me show love toward that person. Another way to put it would be **governed by grace.** Let grace govern your life. What does he mean, "by grace"? Chapter 6 of Luke is one of my favorite chapters discussing grace. Let's start at verse 32:

*Luk 6:32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.*

The word thank is grace. Now, look at it again

*Luk 6:32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank [grace] have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.*

*Luk 6:33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank [grace] have ye? for sinners also do even the same.*

*Luk 6:34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank [grace] have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.*

*Luk 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.*

*Luk 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

Consider what we're reading. **Sin shall not have dominion over you. You're NOT GOVERNED BY THE LAW – you're to be GOVERNED BY GRACE.** If you take the time to 'atone that thought of iniquity' -- replace that thought of iniquity with another thought -- something about that person that will cause you to slow down and **have mercy on them.** Let me show you something in *Psalms 78*.

*Psa 78:36 Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues.*

*Psa 78:37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant.*

*Psa 78:38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave [or atoned] their iniquity [that word forgave is the word atonement], ...*

*Psa 78:38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave [atoned] their iniquity, and destroyed them not [he didn't destroy them]: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.*

*Psa 78:39 For [Because] he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.*

Verse 39, **“he remembered they were but flesh,” is the ATONEMENT of the INIQUITY.** Instead of being angry with them, and destroying them, he remembered they were but flesh. There you see the concept that brings in the cross where Christ is portraying broken humanity.

So, when you start to get angry (or whatever's happening), you can **atone** their iniquity. You can replace that thought with, “Father, forgive them - they don't know what they're doing. I remember they are but flesh. I remember they don't really have a connection with God. I have that connection and I'm more responsible than they are.” Whatever that thought is that will cause you to have a different feeling so that you don't act in anger and wrath - that's the atonement - **that's the purpose of the cross: to redeem us from all iniquity.**

That is how you live your life governed by grace. You slow down. You don't add iniquity-to-iniquity, sin-to-sin. **You let the Lord give you another way of seeing humanity.** When you do that, **SIN WILL NOT HAVE DOMINION OVER YOU.**

**You are not governed by the law;  
you are governed by grace.**