

The School of Biblical Law

Introduction to Law and Grace

Lesson Twenty-Nine: "The Royal Law of Love – Part 1"

The New Testament puts an emphasis on the requirement of loving one another. "This is my commandment that you love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). This commandment or idea is not an abstract concept without any prior basis. Jesus did not institute a new system of interaction that did not already have its foundation in the Old Covenant order. The Law lays the groundwork for understanding Love.

1. I John 4:7-12, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he love us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

The love of God was manifest (Strong's #5319 *phaneroo* – made to appear, rendered apparent) is sending Jesus.

Jesus was sent to be our propitiation (Strong's #2434 – *hilasmos* – atonement, expiate, reparation, make amends for wrong or injury, make good, repair).

Propitiation was introduced in the Old Covenant sacrificial order but was brought to full light in the sacrifice of Christ. "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect . . . But in those sacrifices is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins . . . Then said he (Jesus), Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Heb. 10:1-11).

2. James 2:8-12, "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself (Lev.19:18), ye do well. But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law (Lev. 19:15) as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

What is the law of liberty? Is it a new law introduced in the New Covenant synonymous with the law of love?

Romans 6:16 declares, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servant ye are to whom ye obey; Whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness?"

To not serve the law (God's righteousness on a creaturely level) would be to serve sin and there is no liberty in that. Ps. 119:45, "I walk at liberty for I seek thy precepts."

Liberty is not found in freedom from obedience to God, His word, and His ways. Lawbreakers are incarcerated. Law keepers retain their liberty. Antinomian thought defines the law of liberty as freedom from law because the belief prevails that grace canceled law. Certainly the New Covenant and the sacrifice of Christ brought about the fullness of God's grace and a full revealing of the love of God. However, the law of liberty is not freedom from law but a liberty that results from living in harmony with the law and from practicing the love of God through law-keeping deeds to our fellow man.