

The School of Biblical Law
Introduction to Law and Grace
Lesson Thirty One: “The New Testament Law of Love”

The New Testament continually addresses Christ’s command that we love one another. Love is expressed through deeds that follow God’s moral commandments. Loving God can be more fully defined in the first five of the Ten Commandments and loving our neighbor is more categorically explained in the last five of the Ten Commandments. Love is not emotional lawlessness. Love does not trespass against God or our fellowman.

1. “Where antinomianism prevails, love becomes the new law and the new savior: it is then the answer to every problem, to perversion, criminality, heresy and all things else. Where love is the answer, all law and order must give way to the imperative of love” (Rushdoony, *Institutes*, p. 254).

Love without law can lead to permissiveness.

The ethics of love can lead to situational ethics.

2. Another New Testament ethic is seen in the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

The Amplified Bible reads, “Against such things there is no law (that can bring a charge).”

Phillips translation reads, “and no law exists against any of them.”

The law does not condemn the law-abiding man (Rom. 13:3)

3. The Christian’s morality is often summarized in the Golden Rule. Matthew 7:12, “Therefore, all things whatsoever that men should do to you, do ye even to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus stated that the two great commandments in the Law were to love God and to love your neighbor as thyself (Golden Rule) and that all the law and the prophets hung on these two overarching commandments.

Deuteronomy 6:5, “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

Leviticus 19:18(b), “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

4. Jesus instructed people in the law of love.

John 15:10-14 describes Jesus telling his followers to keep His commandments as He kept His Father’s commandments and that greater love has no one than to lay down his life for his friend.

The definition of love is found in the commandments but the test of love is found in the acts of love.

In response to the question, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life,” Jesus clarifies the law of loving God and loving your neighbor by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37).

For the believer to appeal to New Testament concepts like the Fruit of the Spirit, the Golden Rule, or the law of love as a new set of standards as though these concepts cancel out or override the moral code of the Old Covenant is not adequately understanding the concepts nor rightly dividing the word. Each new ethic is founded upon the old and each imperative to love is rooted in the Commandments of God.