

Law of Love

Big Question:

How does God want us to live?

INTRO

Question: What comes to your mind when you hear the word “law”?

It’s easy to have negative associations with the idea of law. Just picture yourself running late for work, racing along in your car, and seeing blue and red lights flashing in your rear-view mirror! Maybe in moments like that, the world might seem better if we got rid of laws altogether. But stop and think about it. Would it really be better? Or is there something positive about laws after all?

EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURES

Matthew 22:34-40 | When it comes to how we should live, what is most important to God?

Romans 13:8-10 (1 John 4:8) | This passage makes the same point: Love is the summary of God’s law. What list of commandments is Paul especially thinking of when he makes this statement?

Note: God is love. God’s law is love. Therefore, God’s laws reflect who he is!

Exodus 20:1-17 | What do these laws have to do with loving God and loving others?

How might we reframe these as positive commands (things to do rather than things to avoid)?

How might our world change if everyone lived according to these commandments?

Revelation 21:1-4 | Why might God’s law be important in our eternal home?

Romans 3:20, 23-24 | What is God’s law powerless to do?

Acts 2:38-39 (Ezekiel 36:26-27); John 15:5; Philippians 1:6 | How do we keep God’s law?

John 14:15 | What is the ultimate reason for keeping God’s law?

THE GIFT OF JESUS

What does the gift of Jesus have in common with God’s law? Both reveal God’s heart of love! If you want to know what God is like, look at the cross. There you will see a God who loved us so much that he was willing to lay down his own life, so that we can live forever. But there is another place where you can see God’s heart on display, and that’s in his law. Look closely, and you’ll find a God who longs for a loving relationship with us, and who desires to see our relationships flourish with one another.

LIVING IT

Discuss: Why should we keep God’s law?

Discuss: How do we keep God’s law?

Decide: Would you like God to do a work of transformation in your life, so that every day you more fully reflect his law of love?



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