

What does the Christian have to do with the Law?

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Key Text

Rom 6 & 7

Background

- The book of Romans is similar to the book of Galatians. Both books deal with Christians whom Christ has set free and then they want to complete their faith by the law.
- The book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul to address the disunity between the Jews and Gentiles, who did not have a correct understanding of the gospel.

The Gospel

- The gospel is God's power for both Jews and Gentiles. (Rom 1:16-17)
- The gospel covers God's entire plan for our life - not just our salvation (justification and sanctification).
- The gospel is where God shows *his* righteousness for our salvation.

The Trap

Many Christians believe that once we have been saved, that they must please God by keeping many rules and regulations to maintain salvation.

Sin

- All humans are accountable for their sin (Rom 1:18-25)
- All humans are living with the consequences of sin.
- All humans live in arrogant rebellion against God.
- God is impartial in judging sin between those who live under law or not.
- Being under the law does not make you a law keeper. No one can keep the law perfectly.
- When we are unfaithful, God is remains faithful.
- Our sin does not amplify God's righteousness.
- The law makes humans subject to God's judgement. (Rom 3:20)
- The law only reveals God's wrath.

God's Solution to Human Sin

- God makes his righteousness available to all humans.
- This righteousness is only available by Christ Jesus.
- This righteousness is only available through faith.
- No distinction between Jews or Gentiles.
- God's way removes any option for humans to boast in their own ability to save themselves.
- The law plays no part in our justification or our sanctification.

- Jesus was given for our sin.

Examples of Justification by Faith

Rom 4:1-25

Abraham was around a long time before the law, yet he is our example of walking by faith. Righteousness is a gift, which was received by faith. Abraham is the father of all who believe, rather than Moses.

The Outcomes of Justification by Faith

- The peace of God
- Access to God's grace
- Shows God's love for you.
- Saved from God's wrath.
- Adam brought death, while Jesus brings life (Rom 5)
- Freedom from the bondage of sin. (Rom 6)
- Freedom from bondage to the law. (Rom 7)

Practical Application

The law has nothing to do with the Christian life. The scriptural use of the word 'law' referred to the whole law (ceremonial, ethical, etc), which we cannot keep in its entirety. The law of the spirit of Christ Jesus is much higher than the Old Testament law. Christ gives us the power to live righteously. We have now become slaves to God, rather than the law (Rom 7:1-6).

What does the Christian have to do with the law? Nothing.