

Introduction:

Today we will continue our look at *God's shaping process*.

Things we will look at in this lesson: Freedom From The Law

Freedom From The Law:

01. What did the Jews believe would happen without the restraint of the Law?

02. What does grace empower the believer to do?

03. Paul says that we are either slaves of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to what?

04. When a Christian rejects slavery to sin, what do they offer themselves as?

Article 1) Five Reasons for Not Sinning:

(1) Sin enslaves and leads to “impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness.”

(Romans 6:19–21)

(2) Sin leads to death. (Romans 6:16; 21; 23)

Sin deceives by making wrongdoing appear attractive, often masquerading as freedom. The prodigal son left home with his inheritance, perhaps thinking he was free from all restraints and could do whatever he pleased. He squandered his wealth with wild living in a distant country (Luke 15:11–32). Eventually, his lifestyle stripped him of everything and left him humiliated, in bondage, and feeding pigs. Sin deceives, destroys, and eventually results in death. Paul is not referring to physical death here, however, because everyone dies. Instead, he is speaking about separation from God and about eternal punishment—direct consequences of sin.

(3) Christ delivers from slavery to sin. (Romans 6:17–18)

But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over, and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. Note the close relationship between faith and obedience. Faith in Christ leads to obedience: Romans 6:17 “you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over,”

(4) A change in ownership brings a change in authority. (Romans 6:22)

Our former master, sin, ceased its authority over us when we received Christ as our Savior and Lord. When Christ becomes our Master and we hold to His teaching, we experience true freedom.

(John 8:31–32)

Article 1) continued...

(5) Obedience to God leads to righteousness. (Romans 6:16; 18-19) And, in turn, holiness and eternal life. (Romans 6:19–22)

The grace of God working in the believer leads to holiness and fulfills this demand of the Law. (Leviticus 11:44–45; 19:2; 20:7; Romans 6:19-20; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16)

Contrary to the charge of Paul’s opponents. (Romans 6:1;15)

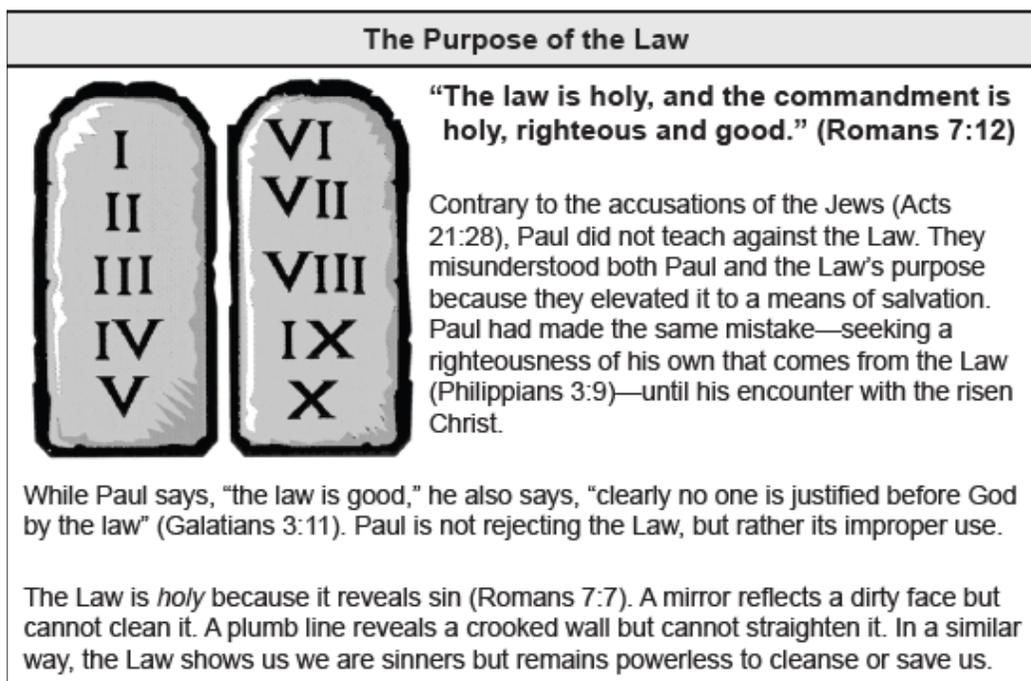
The gospel does not lead to sin but to righteousness.

Figure 1)

Six Meanings of Law in Scripture	
1	The Law God gave to Moses. The Torah, or Pentateuch (Romans 3:21), including the Ten Commandments (Romans 7:7).
2	The law in general (Romans 4:15; 5:13). Usage may suggest any code of law, but Paul probably refers to the Mosaic law.
3	The Old Testament as a whole , as in John 10:34; 15:25; and 1 Corinthians 14:21. Law (Romans 3:19) refers to quotes from the Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and Isaiah in Romans 3:10–19.
4	A principle. For example, the “law of gravity” (Romans 3:27; 7:21, 23, 25; 8:1–4). A controlling power (Romans 8:2).
5	Inner law of conscience (Romans 2:14–15).
6	Rules made and enforced by government (1 Corinthians 6:6).

05. If Paul is not opposed to the Law, what is he opposed to?

Figure 2)



Article 2) Four Reasons for the Giving of the Law:

(1) The Law reveals God and His will.

The distinction between right and wrong is not a matter of social standards; rather, it is rooted in God's nature and reflected in the commandments. It is also reflected in the makeup of humans, who were created in God's image. According to God's commandments (Exodus 20), for example, it is right to honor God, honor the Sabbath, and honor our parents. It is wrong to murder, commit adultery, steal, testify falsely, and covet.

(2) The Law provides for the health and preservation of the human race. *Civil governments use these guidelines to protect their citizens, encourage good behavior, and punish bad behavior.*

(3) The Law brings sin to light and leads the sinner to repent and trust in God's grace.

(4) The Law supplies guidance for the believer's life.

06. What does the Law, at least in part, tell us?

07. What relationship does Paul speak of in Romans 7?

08. What is Paul's main point in using a marriage analogy?

09. When we were controlled by the sinful nature, what did we do?

10. What does the Holy Spirit empower us to do?
