

Lordship, the Law, and Liberty

As A Christian, Is There A Set Of Rules I Must Keep To Please God?

The New Testament is clear that as a saved person, you are under God's grace. There are two diverse views concerning that grace. Some believers abuse the grace of God by claiming liberty to do as they wish without consequences. Others measure their relationship with God by attempting to keep a set of rules or traditions. The purpose of this lesson is to establish the lordship of Jesus Christ as the Biblical principle which balances the bounds of your liberty and the law of God in your life.

- I The Old Testament law has two major components to point lost men to Jesus Christ.
 - A The moral law is comprised essentially of the Ten Commandments. The purpose of the moral law is to show man that he is a sinner and needs a Saviour.
 - 1 The moral law is likened to a mirror. It is designed to show a lost man that he is dirty and needs to be cleansed. But just as a person cannot wash with a mirror, a man cannot be clean before God by keeping the law.
James 1:23-25, Galatians 2:16, 21, 3:10-11, Acts 13:38-39
 - 2 The moral law is likened to a schoolmaster. It is designed to teach a lost man that Jesus Christ is his only hope for salvation. A person must recognize he has violated the law of God and is lost before he can apply the gospel and be saved.
Galatians 3:21-24, I Timothy 1:8-11
 - 3 The moral law is likened to a sword. It is designed to keep sin in check. Laws help to control man to keep peace, exercise restraint, and prevent anarchy.
Galatians 3:19, Romans 13:1-5, I John 2:1-2
 - 4 The moral law is the basis of "conscience". It is written in the heart of every person to draw him to God, and as a standard of judgment if ignored.
Romans 1:18-19, 2:13-15

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.
Romans 1:18-19

- B The ceremonial law involves the tabernacle, the priests, and the daily religious life of the Nation of Israel. The purpose of the ceremonial law was to picture the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for sin.
- 1 The animal sacrifices pictured the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
John 1:29, I Peter 1:18-19
 - 2 The religious observances of the law were a “shadow of things to come”.
Hebrews 10:1, Colossians 2:16-17
- II As a believer, you should understand the role of the law in your Christian life.
- A The ceremonial law is done away in Jesus Christ. The regulations of certain foods, observances, and rituals are not applicable to a believer in Jesus Christ.
Colossians 2:13-14, Galatians 3:24-26
- B However, the moral law is still valid. The commandments of God have not been rescinded. God expects his people to obey him and live in accordance with his truth.
John 14:15, Romans 7:12, I John 2:3-6
- III Although the moral law is important, lordship is your priority.
- A Lordship is a personal choice: putting Jesus Christ first in every area of your life.
Colossians 1:16-18, Luke 6:46
- B Lordship is submission: yielding your will to God’s will.
Philippians 2:13, Romans 6:11-13, 16, 19, Psalm 40:8
- C Lordship is sacrifice: recognizing you are not your own.
II Corinthians 5:15, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 12:1-2
- D Lordship is devotion: loving God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.
Mark 12:30, Luke 10:25-27
- E Lordship results in a transformation of your life into the image of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Jesus is the ultimate example and pattern of lordship. Even though he was God in the flesh, he chose to deny himself and submit to the will of the Father.
Luke 22:42, John 6:38, Philippians 2:5-8, Hebrews 10:7

*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.
Romans 7:12*

2.) As we saw in a previous lesson, it is the will of God for you to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. When you truly make him Lord of every aspect of your life, God will be glorified because the life of Jesus Christ will be seen through you.

II Corinthians 4:6-7, Galatians 2:20, Matthew 5:16

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON:

In order to please God, you must make Jesus Christ more than your Saviour, he must also be your Lord. The lordship of Jesus Christ is the standard for your Christian life, and is accomplished by following him in every aspect of daily life.

Luke 9:23, John 10:27, Ephesians 5:1

IV Lordship provides the liberty your new man desires in order to please God.

A Jesus Christ as Lord frees you from the bondage of sin to live a victorious Christian life. Making Jesus your Saviour freed you from the penalty of sin, and making Jesus Lord of your life frees you from the power of sin.

Galatians 5:1, Romans 8:1-4, John 11:43-44

B Jesus Christ as Lord frees you from religious regulations to serve God as he leads.

John 8:32, 36, II Corinthians 3:17, Romans 10:4

V Lordship restrains the liberty your carnal flesh desires in order to please yourself.

A The lordship of Jesus Christ will cause you to realize that you cannot use your liberty in Christ to feed your sinful flesh.

Galatians 5:13, I Peter 2:16

B The lordship of Jesus Christ will cause you to realize that your liberties will affect your personal life.

1 If you choose to obey God and walk with him, you will be blessed.
Colossians 2:6-7, Romans 6:17-22

2 If you choose to violate your liberty, it will bring consequences.
Galatians 6:7-8

As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

1 Peter 2:16

- C The lordship of Jesus Christ will cause you to realize that your liberties will affect the lives of other people around you.
- 1 You are a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ at all times. Your life will be examined by those around you whether you want it to be or not.
Acts 1:8, Romans 14:7
 - 2 Realize that your liberty can be an offense to a brother in Christ and cause a weaker Christian to stumble in his faith. Be sensitive to their spiritual needs.
Romans 14:13-15, I Corinthians 8:9-13
 - 3 Realize that your liberty can appear to be wrong even when it is not. Guard yourself against the image of wrong doing.
Romans 14:16, I Thessalonians 5:22
 - 4 Realize that your liberty is designed to draw people to Jesus Christ who are lost and in bondage to sin. Your testimony for Christ is more important than your personal desires.
Romans 14:18, I Corinthians 9:19-23

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
Acts 1:8

Basic questions you may be asking:

How do I make difficult decisions in areas that are not clearly explained in the Bible?

Some boundaries are very clear. You cannot justify sin and violation of the direct commandments of God by claiming liberty in Christ from the law.

Ephesians 5:3-7, Galatians 5:19-21, I Corinthians 6:9-10

Many boundaries are not clearly defined in the Bible. Your liberty has boundaries that only the Holy Spirit can set for you. That is why it is essential to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life, daily. A proper lordship relationship will keep you from violating your liberties in Christ. In these so-called "gray areas", the Bible is still the handbook for life. When faced with a decision about certain actions, you can ask yourself some questions from Bible principles. These are not rules of conduct for a specific action, but Bible truths that apply to all situations. Before you ask if it is OK to do something, use these questions to allow God to lead you by his word and Spirit.

- 1 Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life?
I Corinthians 6:12
- 2 Is this action designed to edify myself or others?
I Corinthians 10:23
- 3 Would this decision be cause for a lost person to reject Jesus Christ?
I Corinthians 10:31-33
- 4 Would this decision be cause for a brother in Christ to stumble?
Romans 14:13-15, 15:1-2
- 5 Can I allow this in my life as something good and right, or is it just an attempt to see how close I can get to sin without crossing the line?
Romans 14:23, Philippians 4:8
- 6 Does my conscience condemn me?
I Timothy 1:5, Hebrews 13:18, Acts 24:16
- 7 Can I pray and ask God to bless this activity?
Colossians 3:17
- 8 If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed?
I Corinthians 1:8, I Thessalonians 3:13, 5:23

Do you have any other questions about this subject?

