

# New “Biblical” Standard/Law of Requirements? OR Great Freedom in Jesus with Family and Friends!?

Are we still under Law or not? Could it be that we have been released from the Old Testament Law into relationship with Jesus, but we have again become shackled with a new supposed “Biblical” Law which is sometimes called a “Biblical” Principle or Standard? Are there some New Testament Requirements or Rules? Are there things we SHOULD do or MUST Do? If we DO these things, is God more pleased with us?

Let’s first consider the Old Testament Law. How can we sum up what came from God through Moses? It covered three areas:

<u>Kind of Laws to/for</u>	<u>Purpose of Law?</u> <u>To Reveal God’s Nature to Fallen Mankind via:</u>	<u>Fulfilled and Gone in Jesus?</u>
<b><u>Govern the Nation of Israel</u></b>	<u>Social Laws</u> to regulate property, inheritance, marriage & divorce, & national gatherings <u>Food Laws</u> to distinguish: between clean & unclean, & for food cooking and storage <u>Purity Laws</u> for menstruation, seminal emissions, skin disease, mildew/mold <u>Feast Laws</u> – Passover, Harvest, ... <u>Judicial Laws</u> application for murder, theft, dishonesty, adultery, and other sins.	<b>Yes</b> (Yet some applications to today.)
<b><u>Religious Ceremonial Duties</u></b>	Priests, tabernacle/temple, sacrifices, cleansing rituals for purity, tithes, & offerings	<b>Yes</b>
<b><u>Morality</u></b>	Ten Commandments appearing as all external until the last one of “Do not covet” revealing the heart of God and mankind!	<b>How?</b>

The religious aspects above were all to point to Christ as the final sacrifice for our sin, while many other laws were to help govern the nation and help them realize that they were a distinct people who must live differently than the pagan nations around them.

I believe that the primary reason for God giving the law was to reveal His Nature to the fallen world. God would be seen as loving, responsible, caring for others, committed in Covenant, YET clearly dealing with all that did not reflect His nature such as murder, theft, immorality, thus bringing justice to the those oppressed by the sin of others.

**Mat 22:37** And Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **40** On these two commandments all the Law and the Prophets hang. (And Gal 5:14)

**Gal 3:24** Therefore the law was a tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

**How was the law a tutor?** It enables us to realize that “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23) and “no one is good except God alone” (Mark 10:18), thus with no goodness of our

own to offer God, we could now recognize Jesus as the only perfect sinless One who could purchase our forgiveness on the cross and restore us as sons and daughters to God – His Friends. [2Co 5:21](#) “For He made the One who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” and turn our hearts back to our Father and Creator.

[1 Timothy 1:1-9](#) ... the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers...

[Rom 10:4](#) For Christ is the end of Law for righteousness to everyone that believes.

So the law is not for those who have already received the tutoring and come into faith in Christ to receive His righteous life fully credited to our sinFULL account of debt. The law is for the ungodly, not us.

[Col 2:13](#) And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, [2:14](#) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. [2:15](#) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

[Gal 2:16](#) knowing that a man is not justified by works of Law, but that it is through faith in Jesus Christ (we also believed into Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of Law, because all flesh will not be justified by works of Law).

[Gal 3:10](#) For as many as are out of works of Law, these are under a curse. For it has been written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all the things having been written in the book of the Law, to do them.". (And see Romans 8:2-4).

The law tests our hearts to see if we are externally conforming. Once we comprehend that we fail externally, we can move deeper to understand the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment of “do not covet”, realizing that all sins proceed from our our inner nature of being (unbelieving, impatient, angry (thus murderous), and lustful (thus adulterous, greedy...)). Our external actions all come from an internal NATURE.

[Gal 5:3](#) And I testify again to every man being circumcised, that he is a debtor to do all the Law, [4](#) you whoever are justified by Law, you were severed from Christ; you fell from grace.

YIKES! Thank you Lord for your work in us. How do we escape the old NATURE set against God?

[Ezk 36:26](#) And I will also give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give to you a heart of flesh. [36:27](#) And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments and do them.

[Jas 2:12](#) So speak and so do as being about to be judged through a Law of freedom.

[Gal 6:2](#) Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

[Gal 5:18](#) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are NOT under Law.

[Gal 5:1](#) Then stand firm in the freedom with which Christ made us free and do not be held again with a yoke of slavery.

What is the “law of Christ”?

How is this “law of Christ” about “bearing one another burdens”? Isn’t it only that? Nothing else?

Is it some kind of <b>commandment of regulations</b> and ordinances of a new type of commandments of duties to be found acceptable and pleasing to him?	<b>OR</b> Is it Totally and Solely Jesus’ <b>RELATIONAL Nature?</b> Pure Holy <b>LOVE?</b>
Is it about <b>PERFORMANCE</b> By which we are accepted?	Or are we already totally loved & accepted by Jesus’ <b>Sacrifice and Perfection?</b>

Then how do we understand the following? [Jn 14:15](#) If you love Me, keep My commandments.

What commandments are we talking about? Wouldn’t it be anything that violates His/Jesus’ NATURE of Holy Love?

[Mk 7:21](#) For from within, out of the heart of men, pass out the evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, **22** thefts, greedy desires, iniquities, deceit, lustful desires, a wicked eye, blasphemy, pride, recklessness. **23** All these evil things pass out from **within** and defile the man.

BIG Question:

Are All commandments of Jesus  
meant as Regulations to Regulate External Actions as the Old Law primarily did,  
OR Instead  
Are All Jesus’ commandments simply  
**A Reflection of Jesus HEART NATURE?**

What were some of his commands from his message on the mountain to a large crowd?

- Don’t Pray on the Street Corners to get Other’s Praise and Attention.
- Don’t Give Aid to others to be Seen by Others.
- Don’t Worry about Food and Clothing. God will care for you.

What happened to those who became performance fixated? Pharisee and Tax Collector in Temple?

How are those commands of Jesus different from Old Testament Laws? They touch heart intentions!  
With Jesus focused on the heart, do we still focus on externals?

**It seems we have established a New Testament set of Commandments or Biblical Requirements  
By which we measure ourselves to be True Acceptable Followers of Jesus  
And by which we measure if a Church is Truly Biblical.**

What might some of those performance requirements be for followers of Jesus?

(Stop and let the audience offer suggestions for how they might feel pressure to conform their actions...)

- ✓ Read your Bible and Pray every day or often?
- ✓ Attend or take part in some Church Gathering/Worship/Teaching Weekly?
- ✓ Be sure to Title to the Church?
- ✓ Churches must appoint Bishops, Pastors, and Elders.
- ✓ For some, Women cannot teach men.

- ✓ For some, Women must remain silent in a meeting. Women may be required to wear head-coverings per 1 Corinthians 11.
- ✓ Anything else?

Did our father in the faith, Abraham, have a Bible, or a Church, or give monthly or yearly Tithes? No!

What might some of those requirements be for Churches?

- ✓ Meet weekly?
- ✓ Have an organized meeting following a certain order?
- ✓ Must the meeting have Worship?
- ✓ Must the meeting have a Sermon?
- ✓ Must the church have established Biblical Authority of an Ordained Pastor? Have elders? ...
- ✓ While men can..., women can't....?
- ✓ Must women wear head coverings as 1 Corinthians 11 strongly commands?
- ✓ Must we take communion weekly or monthly? (Yet wasn't it first centered in a meal?)
- ✓ Keep the Sabbath? (Did Abraham? Did the apostles require it in Acts 15? No. Why not?)
- ✓ Anything else?

**Is it possible that teachings around those things have been twisted away from their original heart intent and become performance binding regulations that sever us from the true FREEDOM Jesus purchased for us?**

**Have we created a kind of New Testament Law and beliefs surrounding those that robs us of real freedom?**

**What if every commandment of the Apostles, that appears to be establishing a Standard/Rule/Law, is instead making an application from the Heart/NATURE of Jesus to re-orient HOW WE ORGANIZE so it's done in love? Thus, the goal wasn't to command external behavior, but to ensure that the heart remained in Honor with and Connected with Others in a Jesus Way? (Jesus heart nature way...)**

Can we distinguish between Heart Character Necessity versus optional non-required Organization?

Are we free to organize and implement, but have allowed Satan to indoctrinate with Authoritarian and Performance-based ways that keep us from true freedom?

Is it possible we are still so much infants needing a tutor (of standards/laws) that we only feel secure with organizational rules, and these very rules dull our hearts?