



The Law  
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**Quick Thoughts**

"The Law" is simply a set of 613 laws God gave to Israel in the Old Testament. 248 are positive (do these things) and 365 are negative (don't do these things). It is through these laws that we know what sin is.

The law is written on every human heart. Our consciences tell us about the law, our thoughts battle over what is right and wrong. Now, our consciences can be damaged and our thoughts can be tainted with sin, but deep down every one of us knows what the law requires.

Jesus fulfilled the law, he accomplished all that it required (in that sense abolishing its binding power while not abolishing its purpose, which he fulfilled), making him the period at the end of the sentence "to everyone who believes."

No one can be made righteous through the law. If they could, Jesus' death was in vain. We, as followers of Jesus, now live under a new law. The Old Law was about "have to" and "fear." The new law is about "want to" and "love."

When you truly live in the "Law of Liberty" (James 1:21-25), you end up obeying God. You love God and you love people. You do good things not because they will save you but because Jesus has already saved you. You begin to see all the commands in the New Testament not as burdens but joys. You find yourself filtering your actions through the filters of "does this love God and love people?" And you let God define love instead of the world around you.

**Scripture**

Romans 2:14–15

Romans 10:4

Ephesians 2:13–15

Matthew 22:37–40

Matthew 5:17–18

Romans 6:6–14

Galatians 2:21

1 Corinthians 9:19–23

Romans 3:27–28

Romans 8:1–9

James 1:21–25

Titus 3:9

**Links/Resources**

[www.compellingtruth.org/Christian-OT-law.html](http://www.compellingtruth.org/Christian-OT-law.html)

*Balancing the Christian Life*, by Charles Ryrie

**Questions**

1. What is the Law? How have you understood it before?
2. What is a Christian's relationship with the Law?
3. What are some of the names given to the "new law" in the New Testament? (For hints, see 1 Corinthians 9:19–23, Romans 3:27–28, Romans 8:1–9, and James 1:21–25)
4. Did this teaching change the way you think about the Law? If so, how?