

**The Law and the Gospel**

An Examination of the Relevance and Purpose of the Law in the New Covenant  
Part 2

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**Under the Law of Christ!**

- The **whole Mosaic Law** has been fulfilled and terminated in Christ Jesus.
- We are now under the "law of Christ" (1 Cor. 9:21)

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**Agenda**

- What were the main purposes for the Mosaic Law?
- Is there merit behind Calvin's "third use of the law"?  

"The law is to the flesh like a whip to an idle balky ass, to **arouse it to work**. Even for the spiritual man not yet free of the weight of the flesh the law remains a constant sting that will not let him stand still" (Calvin, Institutes, 2.7.12).
- What role, if any, does the Mosaic Law play in a Christian's life today?

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The Mosaic Law's Purpose

Main Purpose: "For Paul, God's transcendent purpose in giving the law was to increase sin, for the multiplication of transgressions would demonstrate that no one could be righteous through obeying the law. Salvation is only through Jesus Christ" (T. Schreiner).

Sub-purposes:

- 1. To reveal God's character
2. To reveal sin
3. To separate Jew and Gentile

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The Law's Purpose: To Increase Sin

Romans 5:19-21 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. 20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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The Law's Purpose: To Increase Sin

Romans 7:7-10 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." 8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me.

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The Impossibility of the Law to Help the Flesh

Romans 7:15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

“...the apostle is speaking as universal man and is describing the experience of anyone who attempts to please God by submitting the flesh to the law. By application, this could be true of an unbeliever or a believer. The present tenses, then, would be gnomic, not historical, for they refer to anyone and describe something that is universally true” (Wallace, Greek Grammar, 532).

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Is Calvin’s Third Use of the Law Correct?

Calvin (third use of the law for the regenerate): The law arouses the flesh to obedience (2.7.12).

Romans 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh...

2 Corinthians 3:6 ...who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

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Is Calvin’s Third Use of the Law Correct?

“It (the Mosaic law) is likewise of use to the regenerate, to restrain their corruptions, in that it forbids sin, and the threatenings of it serve to show what even their sins deserve...” (Westminster Confession of Faith 19:6).

1 Timothy 1:8-9 But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers

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Is Calvin's Third Use of the Law Correct?

1 Timothy 1:10-11 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

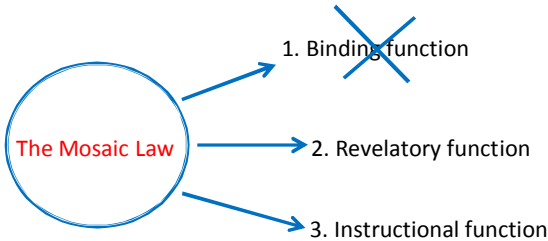
Romans 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

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What Role Does the Law Play in the Believer's Life?



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An Example of How to "Use" the Law:

Leviticus 13 Unclean Skin Diseases

- 1. Five tests to determine a "serious skin disease"
2. "unclean" - (a) tear clothes (b) let hair loose (c) cover mustache and proclaim "unclean"
3. Person - banned from the camp of Israel to live a solitary existence.

- Binding function: None
- Revelatory function: God is holy
- Instructional function: We need to be made clean!

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