

# God's Law and the Christian, part 3

God's Law and  
the Christian -  
Message

**Obeying the law  
of Christ out of  
love for Christ is a  
necessary pursuit  
for the believer  
who is under the  
New Covenant.**

John 14:6 *“I am the way and the truth...”*

**“By saying that He is the truth, our Lord is not implying that the old covenant law and the lifestyle it promoted were false but saying that they were preliminary and temporary. The Mosaic law was given to God’s people until the promised Messiah came. Then, as Moses himself had recorded, God would raise up a new prophet, like Moses, but greater than he. The people were to listen to him”**

*Sinclair Ferguson, Lessons From The Upper Room, pp. 71-72*

# Our focus must be Gospel-Living rather than Law-Living

Gospel Living - Eph  
2:8-10

We are already  
righteous because we  
are in Christ - 2 Cor  
5:21

“through the  
obedience of the One  
the many will be made  
righteous” - Rom 5:19

Keep living by God's  
grace through faith in  
Christ in order to  
rightly obey God in  
doing good works

You are no longer in  
bondage. You are free  
to obey God with  
delight.

# Difference Between Moses and Christ

Roman Catholics “confound the two covenants” [Moses and Christ] and “they cannot distinguish them. And thus they suffer themselves to be held under bondage when Christ has set them free, and stay in the prison when Christ has set open the doors before them”

# The Unbeliever's Relationship to God's Law

Finds the Law:  
Oppressive  
Restrictive  
Impossible  
Unyielding



Condemning from without



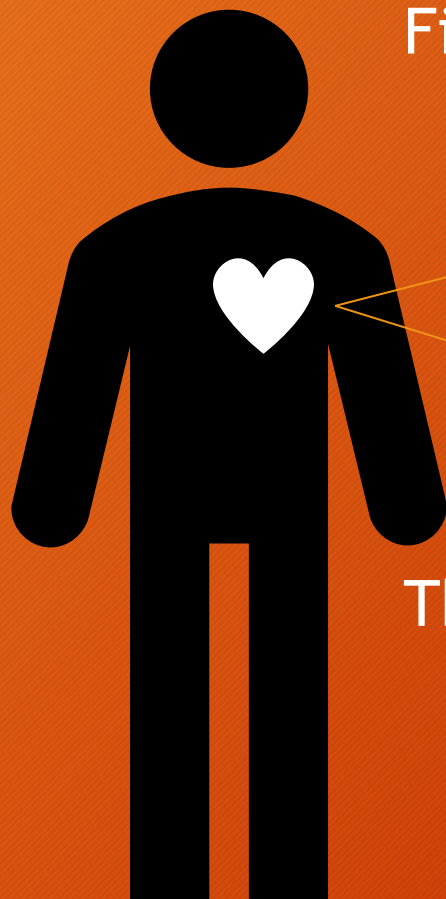
Thinks of the Law with:  
Enmity  
Hatred

# The Gospel's Impact on Believers

**“The law is sweetened by the gospel, and becomes delightful to the inner man (Rom. 7:22)”**

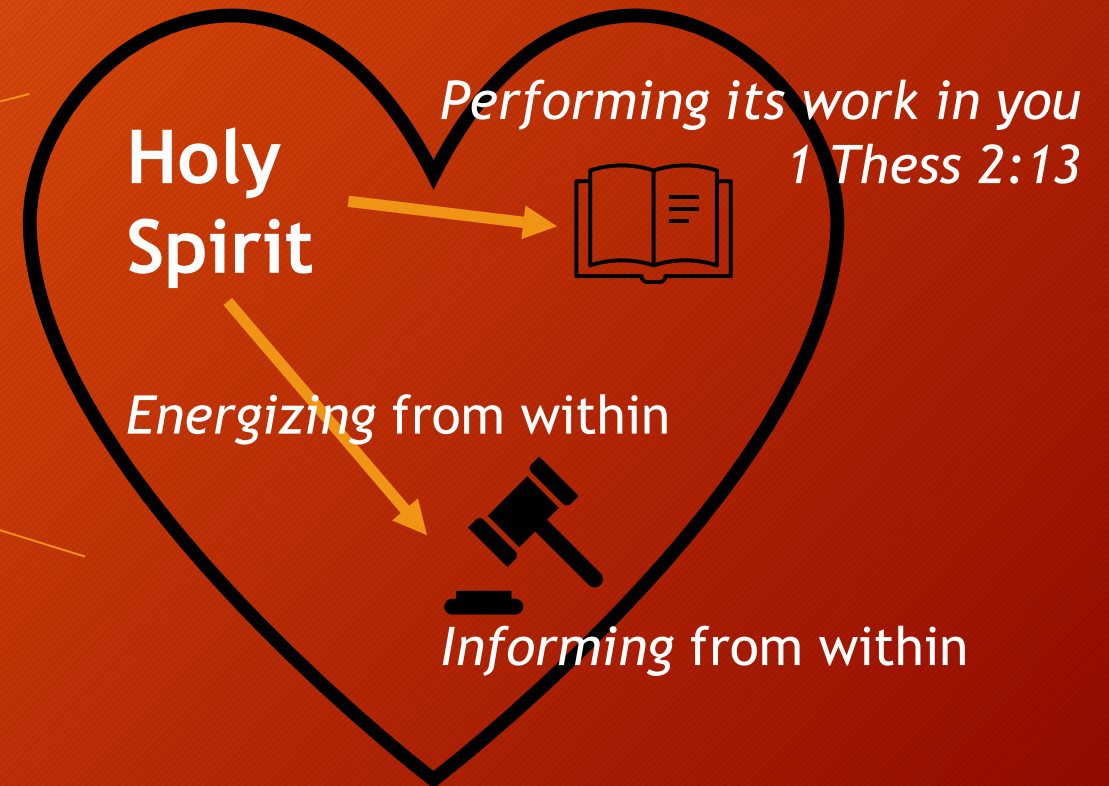
***Ps 119:97 “O how I love Your law! It is my mediation all the day.”***

# The Believer's Relationship to God's Law



Finds the law:  
Spiritual  
Holy  
Good

Thinks of the law with:  
Delight  
Love for God  
Love for neighbor  
Wants to obey it





# Does keeping God's laws sanctify us?

Gal 3:1-5

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely” (1 Thess 5:23)

“by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 1:2)

You don't obey to be sanctified. God sanctifies you so that you will obey.

## Westminster Confession of Faith 13.1

**“They, who are once effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart, and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified, really and personally, through the virtue of Christ’s death and resurrection, by His Word and Spirit dwelling in them”**

## Westminster Confession of Faith 16.6-7

Our good works “as they are wrought by us, they are defiled, and mixed with so much weakness and imperfection, that they cannot endure the severity of God’s judgment [but are] accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in him; not as though they were in this life wholly unblamable and unreprouvable in God’s sight; but that he, looking upon them in his Son, is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere, although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections”

We are permanently righteous in God's eyes (2 Cor 5:21)

Justified by faith, we have peace with God (Rom 5:1)

“the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” (Phil 3:9)

Many Jews have perished because they sought righteousness by keeping the Law (Rom 9:30-32)

There is a difference between being righteous in God's eyes and being pleasing to God

Paul did not despair in his struggle to obey (Rom 7:24-8:1, 39)

Our works are only “acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 2:5)

We desire to be pleasing to God (2 Cor 5:9)

God is “working in us that which is pleasing in His sight” (Heb 13:21)

There is a difference between being righteous  
in God’s eyes and being pleasing to God