

LAW AND LIBERTY
Matthew 5:18; Romans 3:21
Zatec, 9th September 2018

<p>Psalm 19:8-9</p> <p>תּוֹרַת יְהוָה תְּמִימָה מְשִׁיבַת נֶפֶשׁ עֲדוֹת יְהוָה נְאֻמָּנָה מִחֻקֵּימֹת פֶּתִי פְּקוּדֵי יְהוָה יִשְׂרִים מִשְׁמֹחֵי לֵב מִצְוֹת יְהוָה בְּרָה מְאִירַת עֵינַיִם</p>	<p>Ps 19:7-8 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes</p>
<p>Mt 5:18 ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω ὑμῖν· ἕως ἂν παρέλθῃ ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ, ἰῶτα ἓν ἢ μία κεραία οὐ μὴ παρέλθῃ ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου, ἕως ἂν πάντα γένηται</p>	<p>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished</p>
<p>Rom 3:21 Νυνὶ δὲ χωρὶς νόμου δικαιοσύνη θεοῦ πεφανέρωται μαρτυρουμένη ὑπὸ τοῦ νόμου καὶ τῶν προφητῶν</p>	<p>But now the <u>righteousness</u> of God has been manifested <u>apart from the law</u>, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it</p>
<p>Rom 7:14 Οἶδαμεν γὰρ ὅτι ὁ νόμος πνευματικός ἐστιν, ἐγὼ δὲ σάρκινός εἰμι</p>	<p>For we know that the law is <u>spiritual</u>, but I am of the flesh</p>
<p>Gal 5:1 Τῇ ἐλευθερίᾳ ἡμᾶς Χριστὸς ἠλευθέρωσεν· στήκετε οὖν καὶ μὴ πάλιν ζυγῷ δουλείας ἐνέχεσθε</p>	<p>For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery</p>

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. TWO EXTREMES

- (1) legalism → merits; merciless; hardness; formalism (form of piety);

Too much of our time is spent trying to chart God on a grid, and too little is spent allowing our hearts to feel awe. By reducing Christian spirituality to formula, we deprive our hearts of wonder. (Donald MILLER *Blue Like Jazz*, p. 205)

- (2) antinomianism → libertinism; (**Jude 1:4** ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality ἀσεβείς, τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν χάριτα μετατιθέντες εἰς ἀσέλγειαν)

0.2. IMPORTANT INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

- Who is God? → the attributes expressed in his law (Authority; Love)
- What is man? → the image of God (→ Christology!)
- What is happiness? → enjoying the fellowship with God (1John)
- What is normal? → creation nature without sin

1. THE LAW OF GOD

- the purpose: (1) central Authority; (2) hierarchy of being; (3) worship and love; (4) freedom of obedience

1.1. THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Emancipation: **Dt 4:5-6** See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶ Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding (וּבִינְתְּכֶם וּבִינְתְּכֶם) in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people (עַם-הַקָּדוֹם הַגִּבּוֹר הַנְּבוֹן הַנְּרוּלָהּ).
- **Eph 2:15** ...the law of commandments and ordinances, (τῶν ἐντολῶν ἐν δόγμασιν)
- (1) place → the Temple; (2) persons → the priests; (3) ritual → sacrifices; (4) times → feasts.

1.2. THE NEW TESTAMENT

- **Heb 10:1** ...the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities
- **Rom 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (τέλος γὰρ νόμου Χριστὸς εἰς δικαιοσύνην παντὶ τῷ πιστεύοντι)

1.3. LIFE IN CHRIST

- **Rom 8:2** ...the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death (ὁ γὰρ νόμος τοῦ πνεύματος τῆς ζωῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ἠλευθέρωσέν σε ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ τοῦ θανάτου)
- **Rom 6:14** For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace (ἁμαρτία γὰρ ὑμῶν οὐ κυριεύσει· οὐ γὰρ ἐστε ὑπὸ νόμον ἀλλὰ ὑπὸ χάριν)

2. CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

- ...liberty has a structure and this structure implies both freedom and constraint of actions... (BARNETT *The Structure of Liberty*)
- liberty for what? → grace! Apart from Galatians there are at least 27 other chapters in the New Testament that touch on the relationship between law and grace. (**2Tim 2:1** ...be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus)

2.1. FREEDOM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **2Cor 3:17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom
- grace: **Rom 6:18** ...having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness

2.2. IN SALVATION

- **Eph 2:14-15** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances (τὸν νόμον τῶν ἐντολῶν ἐν δόγμασιν καταργήσας), that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,
- **Rom 3:21** ...the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law

2.3. IN SANCTIFICATION

- **Rom 3:31** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law (νόμον οὐκ καταργούμεν διὰ τῆς πίστεως; μὴ γένοιτο· ἀλλὰ νόμον ἱστανόμεν).

3. IN LIFE AND RELATIONSHIP

- **Ps 85:9-11** Surely his salvation (ישוע) is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. (11) Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. (12) **אֱמֶת מֵאֲרֶץ תִּצְמַח וְצְדָק מִשָּׁמַיִם יִנְּקָה**

3.1. ACCEPTANCE

- **Col 3:13** ...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive (ἀνεχόμενοι ἀλλήλων καὶ χαριζόμενοι ἑαυτοῖς ἕάν τις πρὸς τινα ἔχη μομφήν· καθὼς καὶ ὁ κύριος ἔχαρίσατο ὑμῖν, οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς)

3.2. TRUTH IN LOVE

- **Eph 4:15** ...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ (ἀληθεύοντες δὲ ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀυξήσωμεν εἰς αὐτὸν τὰ πάντα, ὅς ἐστιν ἡ κεφαλή, Χριστός,)

3.3. THE GOAL OF CHRIST-LIKENESS

- **Eph 4:13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

4. TO REMEMBER

- Our understanding of law and liberty must begin with a correct worldview.
- Salvation is achieved without law to be free to obey the law of God.
- Christian liberty is freedom from rebellion against God and from the lusts of the flesh.