

COVENANT OF LOVE

Promises of Extreme Freedom

Thesis: The Law of God is not a restrictive list of arbitrary rules intended to constrict our freedom. Rather, it is a transcript of His character, an expression of His love. As such, it is a practical explanation of what love will look like when it is present in human life. Everything God commands and forbids is only for our wellbeing, our happiness and our liberty. The Ten Commandments are not a cage to pace in, but a vast horizon to run free upon. So far from restricting our freedom, living in harmony with God's Law actually preserves and expands it. Moreover, the Ten Commandments begin with a declaration of what God has done for us, before we obey His Law, in order to set us free from the bondage of sin. Therefore, the Law is a declaration of divine grace toward helpless sinners, not a list of divine demands beyond our reach. The Law is good news, not bad news.

A DECEPTIVE SPIN ON LAW

Genesis 2:16—Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Genesis 3:1-5—Notice the three parts of Satan's lie about God.

LAW OF LIBERTY

Exodus 20:1-17—Notice that the Ten Commandments start with declaring God's power to liberate, not with the human duty to obey.

Psalms 119:32, NIV—I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.

James 1:25—...the perfect law of liberty...

Deuteronomy 5:29—Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me (love Me with awe) and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

THE LAW IS LOVE

Matthew 22:36-40—Notice that Jesus defined God's law as love.

Romans 13:10—Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.

1 John 4:16—We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

COVENANT OF LOVE, NOT CONTROL

Hebrews 8:10-12—**10**For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **11**None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. **12**For I will be

NOTE: God presented a vast horizon of freedom and a minor protective restriction. Satan subtly twisted what God had said in order to make it appear as though the Creator had presented major restriction and minor liberty.

NOTE: It is vital to notice that the gospel of God's saving grace through the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross is explicit in the Ten Commandments. The opening proclamation of release from bondage is a direct reference to the deliverance of Israel by the blood of the Passover Lamb, which was a symbol of the death of the Messiah of the Cross. So God essentially says, I have set you free, so be free.

NOTE: For an amazing and beautiful explanation of Jesus as the embodiment of the New Covenant, see Isaiah 42, centering on verse 6. Compare Daniel 9:27; Malachi 3; Hebrews 7:22; 9:15.

merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

Ezekiel 36:26-27—26I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27**I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

Ezekiel 16:8, TEV—“As I passed by again, I saw that the time had come for you to fall in love. I promised to love you. Yes, I made a marriage covenant with you, and you became mine.” This is what the Sovereign Lord says.

Hosea 2:13-16, 19-20—13She...went after her lovers; but Me she forgot,” says the LORD. **14**“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her. **16**“And it shall be, in that day,” says the LORD, “That you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer call Me ‘My Master,’... **19**“I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; **20**I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the LORD.

Deuteronomy 5:27—You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and tell us all that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.

Exodus 20:19—Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”

Exodus 24:7—And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.”

FRIENDSHIP RATHER THAN SLAVERY

John 15:15—No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Psalms 119:34—Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with *my* whole heart.

1 John 5:3—For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

Psalms 40:8—I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law *is* within my heart.

Romans 16:16-17—16Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? **17**But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

John 14:15—If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 8:29—I always do those things that please Him.

NOTE: “I will give you a new heart with new and right desires” (NLT). “I will put my Spirit in you and move you” (NIV).

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.