



Deuteronomy 4:44-5:21 The Ten Commandments

The 10 Commandments and Natural Law

Indeed, when Gentiles who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them. Romans 2:14-15

"To be sure, the Gentiles have certain laws in common with the Jews, such as these: there is one God, no one is to do wrong to another, no one is to commit adultery or murder or steal and others like them. This is written by nature into their hearts; they did not hear it straight from heaven as the Jews did." Martin Luther, "How Christians should Regard Moses," 144

"The very things contained in the two tables [the Ten Commandments] are, in a manner, dictated to us by that internal law, which, as has been already said, is in a manner written and stamped on every heart." John Calvin, *Institutes*, 2.8.1

Love: The Summary of the Law

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet" and whatever other commandment there may be are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-10.

The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself. Galatians 5:14

The Problem with the Law: Me

Has not Moses given you the law? And yet not one of you keeps the law. John 7:19

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. Romans 7:7-8

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." Galatians 3:10-11

What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. . . . Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. Galatians 3:19, 23-25

Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. James 2:10