

Since the fall of Adam and Eve there has been corruption and evil, but there are periods when wickedness becomes flagrant, rampant and decadent. We have reached such a point in most of our formerly Christian based countries. Our world has lost its way because it has violated the laws prescribed by the One who is called 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'. Jesus is not only the way to heaven, He is also the way to experience abundant eternal life now in this world of doubt, despair, disgrace, degradation, debt, darkness and death - John 14:6; 10:10; 17:5.

Many people cringe when you mention laws, for they think of legalism and oppression. This is where there are too many ridiculous and overly restrictive man made laws.

Nations are most corrupt when laws are plentiful. - Tacitus / Rome

- In Alabama... it's illegal to drive blindfolded
- In Arizona ... it's illegal for a donkey to sleep in a bathtub
- In California.. it's illegal to whistle for a lost canary before 7 AM
- In Colorado ... it's illegal to keep a couch on your porch
- In Hawaii ... it's illegal to place a coin in ones ear
- In Indiana ... it's illegal to ride a horse above 10 MPH
- In Iowa ... you can't throw a brick onto a highway
- In Kansas ... tire screeching is banned
- In Kentucky ... a woman cannot marry the same man four times
- In Maryland ... sleeveless shirts are banned in public parks
- In Michigan ... you can't sell your vehicle on Sunday (spend time with family, go to church)
- In Minnesota dirty tires are banned (hope you don't live on a dirt road)
- In Missouri ... bear wrestling is banned
- In Montana ... it's illegal to give a rat as a present
- In New Jersey ... bullet proof vests are banned while committing a crime
- In New Mexico ... 'idiots' are banned from voting
- In New York ... slippers are banned after 10 PM
- In North Carolina ... drunk bingo is banned
- In Ohio ... its illegal to sell dyed chickens
- In Oklahoma ... tripping a horse is outlawed
- In Oregon...its illegal to go hunting in a cemetery
- In Pennsylvania... you are breaking the law if you pay a psychic
- In South Dakota ... it's illegal to sleep in a cheese factory
- In Texas ... you cannot sell a human eye
- In Vermont... it's illegal for a woman to wear false teeth without her husband's approval
- In Washington ... it's illegal to attach a vending machine to a utility pole
- In West Virginia ... hats are banned in theaters
- In Wisconsin ... butter substitutes are banned without permission (it's the dairy state)

Laws can be annoying and even oppressive, but something is even worse, a place where there are no laws or where useful laws are ignored. It is called licentiousness or living without license. Flowing water without boundaries can become a swamp. Nations without laws or boundaries become a moral swamp and anarchy. Every kingdom has a ruler, the ruled and rules. God's kingdom is no different. It is well ordered but with plenty of freedom too for those who live according to the laws of the kingdom. **Man complicates, but God simplifies. God's moral law was written on stone and had only 10 commandments. Jesus simplified it even more with only one commandment with 2 aspects; love God and love people. If you live by them you will fulfill the 10 commandments.**

Does God punish those who break His commandments?

That question almost insinuates that God may be unjust or vindictive. Not so. God gives us laws to protect us and give us the best way to live a fruitful and rewarding life of peace and contentment. When we break God's laws, we break God's best plan for our life. God does not need to 'punish us', for when we disobey God's laws we reap the bitter harvest of sowing and living contrary to God's way of life.

'They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.' - Hosea 8:7

'The wages of sin is death.' - Romans 6:23

'Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The man who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption / destruction.' - Galatians 6:7-8

VIOLATION OF GOD'S LAW - THE PERFECT TEN

There is a false teaching by some in the church that the 10 Commandments are irrelevant today, that we are no longer 'under the law'. When we live contrary to God's moral law, we are under the consequences of their violation. See the chart on the next page.



THE PERFECT TEN

COMMAND	GOD IS	LOVE IS	LESSON	VIOLATION
1.NO OTHER GODS	JEALOUS	EXCLUSIVE	RESPECT GOD	IDOLATRY
2.NO GRAVEN IMAGE	SPIRIT/LIVE	FAITHFUL	NO FALSE IMAGES	DISTORTION
3. DONT CARRY GOD'S NAME IN VAIN	HOLY	REVERENT	RESPECT GOD	IRREVERENT
4.REMEMBER GOD'S DAY	CREATOR	INTIMATE	GIVE GOD TIME	STRESSED
5.HONOR PARENTS	OUR FATHER	RESPECTFUL	BLESSED LONG LIFE	DISRESPECT
6.DO NOT MURDER	LIFE/ LOVE	PROTECTIVE	RESPECT LIFE	HATRED IN HEART
7.NO ADULTERY	FAITHFUL	LOYAL	BE FAITHFUL	LUST IN HEART
8.NO STEALING	OWNER	UNSELFISH	RESPECT PROPERTY	THEFT
9.NO FALSE TESTIMONY	TRUTH	TRUTHFUL	RESPECT REPUTATIONS	LYING
10.NO COVETING	SATISFIED	CONTENT	BE CONTENT	ENVIIOUS

‘The way of the transgressor is hard.....’ - Proverbs 8:15

‘The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations
that forget God.’ - Psalm 9:17

- The first four commandments are expressions of our love and respect for God
- The last six commandments are expressions of our love and respect for others.
- These commands are not a duty but a delight in order to please God and experience the fullness of joy He desires for us. Read Psalm 119. We will explore them in detail in future messages.

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