



Hope, Help, and Peacemaking Grounded in God's Word

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THE THREE PURPOSES OF GOD'S LAW

I. THE LAW IS A BRIDLE:

It restrains evil and helps keep order in the world. It is common grace for the temporal benefit of all humanity.

(The Gentiles have) the requirements of the law...written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them. Romans 2:14¹

For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. He is God's servant, and agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:3-4

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

II. THE LAW IS A MIRROR:

It shows people their condition, and so leads them to Christ.

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. Romans 3:19-20 (ESV)

What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. Romans 7:7

So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Galatians 3:24

III. THE LAW IS A LIGHT:

It teaches believers how to lead a life of loving and joyful obedience to God.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple...By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Psalm 19:7,11 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Hebrews 10:16

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. James 1:25

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST BY FAITH: God's Law is a...
RULE of practice, REMINDER of sin, REVELATION of Christ.**

¹ Except as noted, Bible quotations are from New International Version, 1984