

The Law of the Spirit

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Mike Miller, Pastor

Straight Paths Bible Church

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. **Romans 8:2-4**

- I. All things created by God operate in an orderly manner according to laws, or established principles.
 - A. The word law describes things or processes as they invariably are.
 - B. The law is not a force, but it is the invariable manner in which forces work.
 - C. There are many laws that are very obvious.
 1. Laws of nature, laws of physics, laws of thermodynamics,
 2. Gravity, seasons, life coming from a seed, the orbits of the planets.
 3. Things that are unchangeable and always work in the same orderly manner, such as music and mathematics.
 4. The law of sin – it brings forth death – always.
 - D. A law is something that is unchangeable and unalterable.
 - E. A law is what rules or governs any aspect of God's Creation.
 - F. A law describes the way things are as much as it commands action or inaction.

- II. The law of sin and death.
 - A. This is an unchangeable law of God, and every sinner will yield to its authority someday.
 - B. No matter if every single person would defy it, they will find that it is as true as the law of gravity – it is a LAW, it is not a theory or opinion or suggestion.
 - C. Sinners consider themselves free from the law of God because they simply ignore it and do as they please, but one day they will feel the strong arm of the law (of God).

- III. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus ...
 - A. The influence of the Spirit of God on a person who has been saved is referred to here as a "law."
 - B. Therefore, it should be considered as a law.
 1. We should recognize that it possesses all the same attributes as the other laws we have talked about.
 2. It should be given all the same acknowledgment, respect, and submission we would give to any other law of God and nature.
 - C. The law of the Spirit supercedes and cancels the law of sin.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (v. 2)

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. **1 John 4:4**

1. Laws are not cancelled or nullified by they are superceded by other laws which cancel their action.
 - a) The law of gravity – birds; ballons; airplanes – the law of aerodynamics.

- b) When someone ingests something poison a law is at work and they will die...unless there is an antidote given to counteract and stop the work of the poison.
 - 2. The forgiveness of sin by trusting in the Atonement of Christ is the antidote for sin and it's working in our members.
 - 3. A person who is "in Christ" is ruled and governed by a higher law than the law of sin and death.
 - D. There is a law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus – the person who is saved will no longer be under the dominion of sin and death.
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- IV. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (v. 3)
 - A. It is speaking the Mosaic law here; also referred to as "carnal ordinances."
 - 1. It was the law of God but it was not the rule by which men would govern themselves, because they rebel against it.
 - 2. As we have seen before, the main purpose and effect of the law of Moses was to reveal the sinfulness of man and was not ever a means of being justified.
 - 3. This law could never be fulfilled in sinful men, but it was fulfilled in the Son of God, who became the Son of Man.
 - B. The law was not weak – the flesh was weak.
 - 1. It was not the law that was insufficient – it was man that was.
 - C. The Son of God became the Son of man and lived a perfect life in the flesh and thus condemned sin in the flesh.
 - 1. He left us without an excuse.
 - 2. He did not do this in divine power, but only by submitting his flesh to the Word of God and the Spirit of God.
 - D. ...and FOR sin – He became our sacrifice for sin.
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- V. That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (v. 4)
 - A. If we are saved, we are no longer walking after the flesh, so the righteousness of the law can be fulfilled in us.
 - 1. We are not lawless or left without a guide, but are brought under a new law – the law of the Spirit.
 - B. We can walk as Jesus walked because of his Spirit that lives in us and guides us.
 - C. The whole concept of salvation as described by the Bible is that we are delivered from the power of sin now, not at some point in the future after we die.
 - D. We are saved from sin so that we can live and be a light shining in a dark world.
 - 1. That gives hope to those who are lost in the darkness.
 - 2. That gives hope to those who have destroyed themselves in their sin.
 - E. We as Christians are to be the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, also.
 - 1. Our lives are to show forth the truth of all they said and God promised through all the ages.
 - F. The fact that reality is so far from that situation is evidence that most have missed the message or misunderstood the whole thing.