

Hebrews 7.12

Change of Law

When God made man, He made Him walk in perfect fellowship with his Creator. When man fell, that unity and love, the relational fellowship that was our purpose also broke. God therefore made a way for us to be returned to some sort of fellowship with Him. He gave the Law, and under the law stands a priesthood to administer that law. The law both establishes and guides the priesthood. But the priesthood also upholds the law and helps it fulfill its purpose. Thus the two are inextricably connected by both purpose and origin. Thus, it is impossible to change one without changing the other... By the establishment of Christ in a different order of priesthood, God also necessarily changed the law that guides and establishes it.

I. REQUIREMENTS

The Law holds the standards of God's requirement. It sets the bar of our obedience in accordance with its commands.

A. Law

1. The Law requires absolute perfection.
There can be no wavering in the obedience of those who will be saved by the law, the standard is absolute perfection for the entire course of a life. No exceptions. No excuses.
2. There is no mercy in the law -

Hebrews 10:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

B. The Gospel

1. The gospel provides the perfection, the power of obedience, the actual obedience of Christ applied to us -

2Corinthians 5.21

2. The gospel requires only faith (Which is itself the gift of God lest any man should boast.)

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

II. JUSTIFICATION

At its heart, law is about how a man might be righteous; might be justified before God. To know

and give instruction about how peace between us and God might be both obtained and maintained.

A. Law

1. The law was the established means whereby man was made acceptable in the sight of God; However, the law could not finally justify anyone...

Romans 3:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Galatians 2:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Romans 8:3–4 (NKJV) ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

2. The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin –

Hebrews 10:4 (NKJV) ⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

- a. The law was given to show us our need.
3. But it was a temporary thing, a looking over, looking past as waiting for what was coming...

Galatians 3.21-25

- a. It actually confined us all under sin
- b. It was a tutor to lead us to Christ.
- c. It kept us under guard as it were
4. In the end, The law was impossible for us to keep... our sin nature hated the will of God so deeply that we simply could not seek to obey in any way that was significant.

Jeremiah 2:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the Lord your God, And the fear of Me is not in you," Says the Lord God of hosts.

B. Gospel

1. We are now declared to be justified - made fully righteous and completely acceptable in the sight of God by the blood of Jesus, shed and accepted for our sin.

Romans 3.21-26

2. The blood of the Lamb of God has the power to take away sin, finally for all to whom it is applied. -

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Romans 5:9 (NKJV) ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

3. God transforms our nature and our very wills so that we DESIRE to honor God and to keep His law with our whole hearts.

III. EFFECT

How effective are the two systems then at completing our justification?

A. Law

1. Produces only sin -

Romans 7.7-24

2. Pronounces a curse

Deuteronomy 27:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' "

Galatians 3:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

3. Passes judgment and executes sentence

Romans 3.23

Romans 6.23

B. Gospel

1. Produces a desire to obey and love God

Romans 7:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

2. Places our curse on Christ -

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV) ¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

3. Passes judgement and executes sentence, but it fell on Christ –

2Corinthians 5.21

IV. TRANSFORMATION OF THE LAW

The law still has a purpose in our lives. For Christ said that He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it... to accomplish its PURPOSE...

A. For Instruction

1. It transforms us -

Psalm 19:7 (NKJV) ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

2. Who God IS -

Exodus 20:2 (NKJV) ² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3. What His holy will is -

Psalm 40:8 (NKJV) ⁸ I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

4. What our duty is to God and Man -

Matthew 22:37–39 (NKJV) ³⁷ Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

5. What sin is -

1 John 3:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

Romans 3:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

6. How sinful our lives actually are -

Romans 7:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

7. God's love of obedience and hatred of disobedience-

Exodus 20:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

8. God's hatred of recalcitrant sinners -

Galatians 3:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

9. Man's inability to keep the law, and the law's inability to make us keep it... -

Romans 8:3 (NKJV) ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending

His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

10. The need for another means of salvation -
Romans 3:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

B. For direction

1. To convince men of sin
2. To humble them for sin
3. To make them hate sin
4. To restrain them from it
5. To work self-denial
6. To drive men to Christ
7. To aim them as closely to conformity to the law as possible
8. To make us fearful of placing on the soul a more fearful curse than the law; which is despising the gospel
9. To make us all the more inexcusable when we will not submit to Christ
10. To make believers even more thankful for Christ's active and passive obedience; whereby

as a surety he has done for them what they could not, He endured that curse for them which they deserved. And freed them from the same.

C. The law does not save - it never could, but it does lead us to Christ who DOES save!

Acts 13:39 (NKJV) ³⁹ and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.