

God's Law

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Healing Substitution Model: God's law is the law of love, which is the law of life. The law of love cannot be arbitrary, created, enacted, or legislated. God's law of love originates in the heart and character of God and thus has no beginning point and no ending point. It is immutable and can never be changed. God's law of love is the design template for life. All life is constructed to exist only in perfect harmony with this law. Deviations will bring the natural results of pain, suffering, and death, unless remedied by God Himself.

Penal view – God's law is enacted, imposed, somehow created and put upon His creatures. God, as the imposer of law, must, in order to be just, impose penalties. Deviations from this law incur God's anger and wrath and ultimately inflicted suffering and death at God's hand.

Documentation for HSM:

Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.** Romans 13:10

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

If you really keep the **royal law** found in Scripture, "**Love your neighbor as yourself,**" you are doing right. James 2:8

Jesus replied: "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**" This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**" **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**" Matt 12:37-40

The first words of the Conflict of the Ages Series:

"God is love." 1 John 4:16. His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. PP 33

The last words of the Conflict of the Ages Series:

From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that **God is love.** {GC 678.3}

Other documentation:

In living for self he has rejected that divine love which would have flowed out in mercy to his fellow men. Thus he has rejected life. **For God is love, and love is life.** COL 258

Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is "the transgression of the law;" it is the outworking of a principle at war with **the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government.** GC 493

The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. GC 493

The law of God, from its very nature, is unchangeable. It is a revelation of the will and the character of its Author. God is love, and His law is love. Its two great principles are love to God and love to man. "Love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). The character of God is righteousness and truth; such is the nature of His law. Says the psalmist: "Thy law is the truth"; "all thy commandments are righteousness" (Ps. 119:142, 172). And the apostle Paul declares: "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good" (Rom. 7:12). **Such a law, being an expression of the mind and will of God, must be as enduring as its Author.** {RC 46.5}

It is the work of conversion and sanctification to reconcile men to God by bringing them into accord with the principles of His law. In the beginning, man was created in the image of God. He was in perfect harmony with the nature and the law of God; **the principles of righteousness were written upon his heart.** But sin alienated him from his Maker. He no longer reflected the divine image.... But "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son," that man might be reconciled to God. Through the merits of Christ he can be restored to harmony with his Maker.--The Great Controversy, pp. 466, 467. {RC 46.6}

But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. "I do nothing of Myself," said Christ; "the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father." "I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. In these words is set forth **the great principle which is the law of life for the universe.** All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. **And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.** DA 21

In heaven itself **this law was broken. [Law of love] Sin originated in self-seeking.** Lucifer, the covering cherub,

desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore **he misrepresented God**, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. **Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men.** DA 21

The 10 Commandments were Added:

The law of God existed before man was created. The angels were governed by it. Satan fell because he transgressed the principles of God's government. After Adam and Eve were created, God made known to them His law. **It was not then written, but was rehearsed to them by Jehovah.** {SR 145.1}

The Sabbath of the fourth commandment was instituted in Eden. After God had made the world and created man upon the earth, He made the Sabbath for man. After Adam's sin and fall nothing was taken from the law of God. The principles of the Ten Commandments existed before the fall and were of a character suited to the condition of a holy order of beings. After the fall the principles of those precepts were not changed, but additional precepts were given to meet man in his fallen state. {SR 145.2}

A system was then established requiring the sacrificing of beasts, to keep before fallen man that which the serpent made Eve disbelieve, that the penalty of disobedience is death. The transgression of God's law made it necessary for Christ to die a sacrifice, and thus make a way possible for man to escape the penalty, and yet the honor of God's law be preserved. The system of sacrifices was to teach man humility, in view of his fallen condition, and lead him to repentance and to trust in God alone, through the promised Redeemer, for pardon for past transgression of His law. **If the law of God had not been transgressed, there never would have been death, and there would have been no need of additional precepts to suit man's fallen condition.** {SR 145.3}

Adam taught his descendants the law of God, which law was handed down to the faithful through successive generations. The continual transgression of God's law called for a flood of waters upon the earth. The law was preserved by Noah and his family, who for right-doing were saved in the ark by a miracle of God. Noah taught his descendants the Ten Commandments. The Lord preserved a people for Himself from Adam down, in whose hearts was His law. He says of Abraham, He "obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:5. {SR 146.1}

If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have kept God's law in mind, **and there would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone.** And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses. {PP 364.2}

But in heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. **When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of.** In their ministry the angels are not as servants, but as sons. There is perfect unity between them and their Creator. Obedience is to them no drudgery. {MB 109.2}

I am asked concerning the **law in Galatians.** What law is the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ? I answer: **Both the ceremonial and the moral code of ten commandments...** "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24). **In this scripture, the Holy Spirit through the apostle is speaking especially of the moral law.** {ISM 233, 234}

God's law is the law of love, originating in the heart of God. As such it has no beginning and no ending and it can never change. This law is the design protocol for life. In other words, God constructed life to run or exist only in harmony with this law. Sin is "lawlessness" or deviating from the law of life. The only possible outcome, without divine intervention, is death. Thus the Bible teaches the wages of sin is death.