The Righteous Requirement
Of The Law
4146

I. Foundation
   A. Righteousness is not achieved by keeping the law (Rom. 3:20–21)
      1. You are either under law or grace, not both (Rom. 6:14)
      2. Christ put an end to the law for all who believe (Rom. 10:4)
   B. God chooses the middle road which is not legalism nor antinomianism
   C. We are not free to practice lawlessness
      1. Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4)
      2. More people are deceived by legalism
      3. Embrace the cross and renounce self-will (Matt. 7:21–23)

II. What Should Be The Place Of Law?
   A. Grace received through being made righteous by faith will enable us to keep those laws which are appropriate
      1. Secular government—unless directly contrary to God (1 Peter 2:13–14, et al)
      2. Any social group to which we are committed:
         a. Family
         b. Church
         c. Place of work, etc.
      3. In family or church, laws should be:
         a. Simple
         b. Practical
         c. In harmony with Scripture
         d. Open to modification where necessary
      4. God’s Word: being obedient to the Word of God
   B. What is the righteous requirement?
      1. God has set aside the law so we can fulfill the righteous requirement (Rom. 8:3–4; Rev. 19:8)
      2. The righteous requirement of the law is love
         a. The law was meant to produce love for God and neighbors (Matt. 22:35–40)
         b. Our goal is love (1 Tim. 1:5–7)
         c. Love is the fulfillment of the law (Rom. 13:8–10)
         d. When in doubt, serve (Gal. 5:13–14)
   C. Love only comes through faith
      1. Supernaturally, through the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:6)
      2. The love of God was poured . . . (Rom. 5:5)
   D. Love supplies a double motivation
      1. Obedience to the Lord (John 14:15, 23–24 [contrast 1 John 4:18 NKJ])
      2. Right conduct toward men (Rom. 13:10)
   E. New Testament law is progressive
      1. Increase in love and discernment (Phil. 1:9–11)
      2. With the law you must keep it all, all the time (James 2:10–11)
   F. Look to the Spirit, not the system
G. *Faith* is counted to us as righteousness:
   1. Even as we stumble, fall, make mistakes—as long as we hold on to our faith
   2. Stop working, *but* believe on *Him* (Rom. 4:4–5)

III. Application
A. Maintain and build up your faith
   Check that your faith is biblical, a channel for God’s love
B. Work out your love by serving
C. Learn the way love applies to every situation
   1. Through prayer
   2. Through Bible study

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