

## Law and the Kingdom

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Pastor Marvin Nemitz

Series: The Kingdom of God

**Text: Joshua 1:8**

The “Rule of Law” is the foundation of order and social justice in any society. Law is given to protect and serve the rights of the citizens to what the constitution promises. No human society can survive long without laws. Laws are necessary to keep man’s drive and instincts in check, to protect public decency and order and to preserve moral order. Every kingdom is governed by laws. Laws enforce and protect the standards by which the kingdom operates. The laws not only protect the standards and ensure their fulfillment, they also prescribe the penalties for any who violate them.

The Bible is the Kingdom of God’s constitution. It establishes both the standards for life in the Kingdom but also the consequences of not following. This constitution contains both the rights and the laws. **Deuteronomy 30:10-18**

Laws do not restrict our freedom or limit our options. They are designed to free us to pursue unlimited options providing a safe environment where we can live in peace, security and confidence. True freedom always comes with boundaries. Laws define those boundaries that we are free to thrive, prosper and reach our full potential. **1 Corinthians 6:12, 1 Corinthians 10:23, Proverbs 22:28(NIV), Proverbs 23:10, Matthew 5:18**

There are wonderful benefits we gain from the Law of God: **Psalm 19:7-11**

1. The Law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.
2. The Statutes of the Lord makes wise the simple.
3. The Precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.
4. The Commands of the Lord give light to the eyes or enlighten the mind with understanding.
5. The Fear of the Lord is pure enduring forever. This gives us confidence because of its permanence and uprightness.
6. The Ordinances of the Lord are right and all together righteous, fair, just and without partiality.
7. By them we are warned. They keep us from danger and foolishness that could destroy our lives.
8. Keeping them is like guarding a treasure because they help us prosper and succeed in life.  
**Matthew 4:4**

We need solid dependable, unchanging standards to live by; standards founded on **truth**. **Psalm 119:160, John 17:17** Everything in the Bible is absolute truth and will work for our benefit if we **obey** it.

#### Seven Principles of Law:

1. The Laws of the Kingdom of God are **built in** the very structure of creation and determine precisely how all of creation functions. There are the laws of physics, the law of gravity, the law of thermodynamics, etc. Everything that God created was designed to **function** by certain inherent principles.
2. These principles are called **natural** laws. Examples would be how the body works, how birds fly, how the ocean stays in bounds with currents.
3. Natural law is the **standard** for effective functioning in our natural world. Violation of a natural law leads to malfunction and dysfunction. For instance, what happens when you take a fish out of water?
4. Laws are the key to successful existence and **guarantee** the fulfillment of purpose. **Obedience** to the Law is key. **Joshua 1:8**
5. Laws **protect** purpose. As long as we obey the Laws of God, we will live and grow and prosper. **Acts 17:28a** This has nothing to do with earning our way with God. We are to live in **willing** submission to Him as King and honor His word as the unchanging standard reference point for our life.
6. The purpose of law is to protect the constitutional **covenant**. To ensure that all the provisions of this covenant are carried out consistently, equitably and without prejudice for all citizens. Every covenant comes with a swearing of an oath of fidelity. **Hebrews 6:13-17**
7. Laws are the **conditions** of the covenant. They are the terms under which the covenant will operate. God's word has a **warranty** that won't expire. **2 Corinthians 1:21, Ephesians 1:13-14**

The Laws of God were put into place long before we were created. Yet many times we have the **arrogance** to challenge God about His laws and the way He runs things. Arrogance is pride with attitude. This will only get us a stern rebuke from God. **Job 38:1-12, 19-22, Job 40:6-14**

The laws have been established. Obedience brings blessing disobedience brings **consequence**. Just jump out of a plane with no parachute.

In the New Testament one of the Greek words used for law is the word "nomos" it means usage and custom. It is where we get the word **normal**. Whatever becomes accepted as normal in our society eventually becomes law. **Romans 1:28-32** Depending on the nature of the idea or behavior, this could be very dangerous because we wind up sanctioning and normalizing that which is evil and immoral. God's laws are **designed** to prevent us from accepting behaviors and customs that are contrary to the good of the Kingdom. Our actions, our sins have a **ripple** effect on those around us in ways we may never know.

- God never intended to write down His laws. His intention was to write His laws in our heart and mind. **Jeremiah 31:33, Proverbs 7:1-3**
- Written law is only needed when natural law is absent. The purpose of written law is to restore natural law to the conscience. **1 Timothy 4:1-2**
- Natural law is sometimes referred to as the spirit of the law. There is a difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. The letter of the law means the people have lost the original intent of the law. When God's law is written in our heart there is no need for the written law to soften our hearts. **2 Corinthians 3:17**

Any nation is only as good as the laws it enacts and enforces. Laws produce society. Satan is known as the lawless one. **2 Thessalonians 2:8-10**

Bad laws do not cause a nation's social, moral or spiritual decline. They merely reflect the decline that is already underway. Laws mirror the condition of a nation.

Learning to appropriate the benefits and privileges of the law involves more than knowing them, we must learn the keys of the Kingdom to unlock them.