

Lesson #12 — Law and Gospel in Perfect Harmony

The Wheel of Faith

Big Idea

God's law and God's gospel are not rivals. The law reveals truth; the gospel supplies righteousness. Together, they lead us to Christ, restore assurance, and reproduce God's character through union—not effort.

Why This Study Matters

Christians often fall into one of two errors:

- Law without Christ → fear, condemnation, moral pressure
- Christ without law → confusion, sentimentality, lack of transformation

Scripture presents a better way. The law reveals sin and leads us to Christ. Christ provides righteousness and produces obedience through love.

1. Law and Gospel Together

Read: Revelation 14:12

“Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

Group Discussion:

- Why do you think Scripture keeps these two connected, especially as they are related to the end of time?
- What is the condition of the world that might need such a message?

Theological Guardrail: Faith and obedience are not enemies. They describe a life shaped by Christ.

2. The Law Reveals — It Does Not Save

Read: Romans 3:20

Group Discussion:

- What does the law reveal?
- What happens when do not know what sin is?

Theological Guardrail: The law diagnoses the problem, but it cannot cure it. Only Christ can save.

3. Christ and the Law — The Rich Young Ruler

Read: Mark 10:17–22

Group Discussion:

- What did the law reveal about the man's heart?
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4. The Fourfold Depth of God's Law

Level 1 — The Letter of the Law

Read: Matthew 5:18

Group Discussion:

- What is the letter of the law?
 - Why can outward obedience still leave the heart unchanged?
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Level 2 — The Spirit of the Law

Read: Matthew 5:27–28

Discussion:

- How would you explain the spirit of the law?
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Level 3 — The Law as Love

Read: Matthew 22:37–40

Group Discussion:

- Why is love a higher standard than rule-keeping?

Level 4 — The Law as God's Character

Read: 1 John 4:8, Romans 13:10

Group discussion:

- If God is love, what does that tell us about the source of His commandments?
- According to Romans 13:10, what relationship exists between love and the law?
- If the law can be summed up in love, what does that suggest about the character of the One who gave it?

Theological guardrail:

The law operates on multiple levels. It is written in stone, understood in the mind, experienced in the heart, and ultimately revealed in God's character. The commandments are not arbitrary rules; they are a revelation of who God is. The deeper we understand His character, the more naturally His law is expressed in our lives.

5. The Law's Greatest Work — Driving Us to Christ

Read: Romans 7:9-13, Galatians 3:24

Group Discussion:

- According to Romans how do we become aware of Sin?
- In what sense does this drive us to Jesus?

Theological Guardrail:

The purpose of the law is not to produce confidence in ourselves, but dependence upon Christ. As the law reveals our need, it leads us to the cross where grace provides what the law can never supply. Conviction is successful only when it brings us to Jesus.

6. Christ Covers What the Law Exposes

Read: Romans 3:24

Group Discussion:

- Why is forgiveness meaningless without exposure?
- How does Christ answer what the law reveals?

Theological guardrail: God never reveals sin without also revealing a Savior. The law exposes our need, and Christ freely provides the righteousness the law requires. What the law uncovers, Christ covers with His grace.

7. From exposure to-transformation

Read: 2 Corinthians 3:18, Jeremiah 31:33

Group Discussion:

- What brings transformation according to these verses?
- Why would God write His law in the heart if its only purpose was to reveal sin?

Theological Guardrail: We do not keep the law in order to be justified; we keep it because Christ is transforming us. The same law that once exposed our sin now reveals the character of Christ that the Spirit desires to reproduce in the believer.

8. Obedience — The Fruit of Union

Read: John 14:15; John 15:4–5

Group Discussion:

- According to these verses, what comes first—union with Christ or obedience?
- Why is obedience the fruit of a relationship rather than the basis of one?

Theological Guardrail:

Obedience is not currency for salvation; it is evidence of a living relationship with Christ. As we abide in Him, His life is reproduced in us, and obedience becomes the natural expression of love.

Experiential Reality — Letting the Law Search the Heart

A 7-Day Journey of Conviction, Repentance, and Trust

The law of God was never intended merely to measure behavior. It was given to reveal the heart, lead us to Christ, and restore the image of God within us. This journey invites you to place yourself before God each day and allow Him to reveal what only He can see.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts."

— Psalms 139:23

Day 1 — Invite God to Search You

Scripture: Psalms 139:23–24

Reflection:

Am I willing to be known by God without controlling what He reveals?

Prayer Time:

Ask God if there is anything in your life He wants to bring into the light. Spend a few moments listening before speaking.

Day 2 — Let the Law Reveal the Truth

Scripture: Romans 7:9–13

Reflection:

When God's law exposes something wrong in my life, do I move toward Christ or away from Him?

Prayer Time:

Ask God to show you where He may be using conviction to draw you closer to Christ rather than condemn you.

Day 3 — Beyond Actions to the Heart

Scripture: Matthew 5:27–28

Reflection:

What might God be saying about my motives, attitudes, or desires that outward behavior alone cannot reveal?

Prayer Time:

Invite God to search beneath your actions and reveal anything in your heart that still needs His transforming grace.

Day 4 — Love as the Fulfillment of the Law

Scripture: Matthew 22:37–40

Reflection:

How do my relationships reveal both my growth and my need for Christ?

Prayer Time:

Ask God to show you where love has grown weak and where He desires to love others through you.

Day 5 — The Law Reveals God's Character

Scripture: 1 John 4:8

Reflection:

What do my reactions under pressure reveal about where God's character is still being formed in me?

Prayer Time:

Ask God to reveal an area where He wants His patience, kindness, or love to be more fully reflected in your life.

Day 6 — Christ Covers What the Law Exposes

Scripture: Romans 3:24

Reflection:

When God reveals my sin, do I trust His grace as quickly as I trust His conviction?

Prayer Time:

Bring to God anything He has revealed this week. Ask Him to help you believe that His forgiveness is as real as His conviction.

Day 7 — Abide and Walk in Newness of Life

Scripture: John 15:4–5

Reflection:

Am I trying to obey Christ today, or am I learning to abide in Christ and let obedience grow from that relationship?

Prayer Time:

Ask God what it would look like for you to depend more fully on Christ this week. Invite Him to make obedience the natural fruit of abiding in Him.

Experiential Summary Statement

The law reveals what is hidden, but Christ supplies what is needed. As God searches the heart, conviction leads to repentance, repentance leads to faith, and faith leads to deeper union with Christ. In that union, the character of God is reproduced in the life, and obedience becomes the natural fruit of love.