

## CouplesInBloom.com – The Law Of The Spirit

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The New Testament is called Good News: finally revealing the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Old Testament has some Bad News: we are unable to meet God's requirements. It has God's laws, Messianic prophecies, history, and worship but alone stands incomplete. Within Judaism and Christianity, some unspiritual people do corrupt its forward-looking nature into religiosity: human duty-driven dependence on laws which cannot resolve sin!

**Law is the power of sin** ⇨ 1 Corinthians 15:56. However, God's **law of the Spirit** in Christ Jesus alone can **overcome sin** ⇨ Romans 8:2. **This** is the pivot point of human life, so it is vital to know how it works. Religion is man **reaching for** God. Authenticated Christianity is not religion; it is man **responding to** God and the love He undeservedly offers all of mankind. No one can affect God's love; we can only respond to it or reject it.

John 8:2 ⇨ “**The law of the Spirit** of life in Christ Jesus set me free from the law of sin and of death.” **God's requirements did not change! What changed?** Jesus paid the sin penalty so that we can live in the power of God's love. The law of the Spirit is simply:

- **You can't** is the Old Testament problem... the **OT foundation** of truth.
- **God can** is the New Testament answer... the **NT house** built on that foundation.

**New Year's resolutions are self-imposed laws.** Life obviously requires good choices, but eternity requires **more** than that: **God's help**. God made every heart to know and to be accountable to ask for His help ⇨ Romans 1:20, Ecclesiastes 3:11. **The simple message:** Jesus fulfills the OT in the NT: **This is the law of the Spirit** of life: self-religiosity replaced by Jesus-paid power of God. **This** alone is what can satisfy God's requirements.

**Laws** make us think about Biblical commandments, which are *literally* **injunctions: requirements** to join God by obeying Him. Christianity is joining God in relationship. The power to fulfill God's requirements only comes through Jesus' payment for sin and ongoing Holy Spirit discipleship... the spiritual food which enables us to love God back, and to love others ⇨ Luke 10:25-28... “If you love Me, feed my sheep” ⇨ John 21:16.

God had the Apostle Paul, a **lawyer**, write out most of the New Testament because: Paul was an expert in the Old Testament. The New Testament is built on the Old Testament. **Christianity completes Judaism and God's law by God's Spirit through Jesus.** Jesus finished building our bridge and sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to cross over it.

**Law-worship** happens when only the Old Testament is held; discouragement results. **Law-ignorance** happens when only the New Testament is held; people often go astray. **The law of the Spirit is Christianity happening.** John 8:1-11 ⇨ is a beautiful example. Law-worshippers thought Jesus agreed with them, but Jesus' response illustrated **how** the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets people free from the law of sin and of death!

Christianity is not what people have redefined it to be, so be careful to not be fooled. Christianity is what the Bible says, so read the Bible for yourself to assuredly know what it in fact **is**... not heavy laws... not happy talk... but *very* Good News for *very* Bad News.

**Christianity is 2-way intimacy** with **God** who resolves **OT truth** with **NT power**. ♥