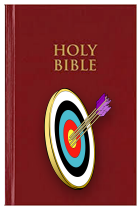


Spot On

Restoring the Hebraic foundational emphasis on the processes of how you live your life:



- the responsive actions our Lord commands all of His followers,*
- and their responsibility to deferentially obey by grace the One they love*

Why Are So Many “Christians” Living In Lawlessness?

It’s no exaggeration to say that we are living in “lawless” times — an era in which each person’s boundaries of concern for the well-being of others has perforated into meaninglessness. Surveys of Christians reveal that they are no different than the world around them. I don’t want you to be seduced into lawlessness. Please prayerfully consider what I am presenting here.

Too often Christians have swallowed whole the lie that being “under the law” means that whatever commands and life instructions our God established in the Hebrew Scriptures have no bearing on us today. After all, we’re “under grace”, as though that were a contradiction to the good and righteous laws our Father gave to establish parameters for loving Him and loving one another.

God Himself expressed His bountiful approval for His Son Jesus in this stark contrast of opposites cited in the Newer Testament verse Hebrews 1:9:

Literal from Greek: *“You loved righteousness and **hated lawlessness.**”*

The word “loved” used here is *agape*, the same sacrificial devotion that’s the essence of a right relationship with our Lord. In contrast, the word “hated” reflects a cavernous abhorrence. The object of our Lord’s hatred is *lawlessness*, a contempt for the good and righteous law of God through either unawareness or through willful rebellion against His law, and by implication, against God Himself.

I want to share several specific examples of how the framework of “the law” has been purposely altered by Nicolaitan-dominated Bible translators where lawlessness has been changed to **“character deficiencies”**:

Greek: •*“Then I will tell them to their faces, ‘I never knew you! Get away from Me, you workers of lawlessness!’”* (Matthew 7:23).

NIV: •*“Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!’”* (Matthew 7:23”

ASV: •*“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity”* (Matthew 7:23”

Our Lord Jesus also made crystal clear that He did *not* come to abolish the good and righteous law of His Father (Matthew 5:17). He deepened the application of God's commands by emphasizing the need for a *heart motive of love* — for God and for each other — a love which is enacted by building on the foundation of the Hebrew Scriptures (Matthew 22:37-40). And because of that motive of love, followers of Jesus can with joy carry out His Father's commands because they are "*easy and light*" (Matthew 11:29,30).

Why is *hatred of lawlessness* so essential for followers of Jesus today?

Because so many depend on their clergy person to filter tidbits of teaching to them through sermons. Yet these passive listeners don't realize how watered down their obedient trust becomes when the messages they hear are devoid of the Hebraic root from which the Gospels and the Apostolic Epistles emanate! It disturbs me so much when I think about how spiritually blind and deaf those who consider themselves "Christian" are when by their own words and life choices they reveal complete ignorance of the very Law by which Jesus lived.

The Hebrew Scriptures which Jesus fully upheld in His own life were foundational for all that He taught and yes, commanded. Yet these commands and teachings have all too often been mislabeled obsolete and a hindrance to living in the grace and love of our Father which they see only within the Newer Testament. But Jesus Himself declared that those who ignore or refuse to do His Father's will, which is fleshed out in the Hebrew Scriptures, are "*workers of lawlessness*" — ie, they live as though there were no Scripture compendium of His will in the Older Testament.

A worldly controlling **spirit of lawlessness** has penetrated the hearts and minds of many who otherwise consider themselves "Christian". Deceived that "grace" permits them to sin without any consequences from above, those whose lives are controlled by their lusts shred the holy and righteous character of our Lord Jesus in the eyes of an unbelieving world which correctly perceives that the "Christianity" that's enacted by this lie is hypocritical. More than anything else which causes my heart to cringe is this unholy and tarnished misrepresentation of our Lord Jesus — a lie that masks over His call for holiness with a blasé false assurance of a ticket to heaven.

Let's return to our initial verse which demonstrates God's revulsion for lawlessness. The NIV says that our Lord hates "wickedness" (which is a true statement but misses the psalmist's pointed reference against defying God's law). The KJV declares that our Lord hates "iniquity" — again a truthful statement, but one which also obscures the real function of the law: to bring the "lawless" to the point of despair when they perceive their violation of God and hate it, but are unable to do anything about it on their own. That's when they're ready to humble

themselves before Jesus and appropriate the atoning sacrifice He has accomplished on their behalf. (This is fully explained by Paul in Romans chapter 7.)

What To Take Away From This Discussion:

Do you *hate* the lawlessness which has penetrated every part of our society and has brought such rationalized compromise with the world's ways into so many faith communities? Hatred is a pretty intense emotion, and God's Word leaves no wiggle room when it comes to His hatred of sin. A holy and just God accepted the substitute sacrifice of multitudes of animals in place of sinning, lawless Israel. Yet this sacrifice was but a shadow of the bloody sacrificial death our Lord Jesus suffered to atone for our sin once and for all time. How dare we who call ourselves His own ignore the righteous commands His Father gave us?

Don't give way to disregard for the good and righteous law of our God! Lawless disobedience isn't covered by grace — lawlessness is self-willed rebellion against God Himself. Don't let it be said of you, "*God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you*" Romans 2:24.