

Kingdom Law: Love and Kindness

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There is a Kingdom Coming, being established on the Earth. Jesus Christ is coming to set up his empire here, and the world will learn his ways and walk in them throughout every sphere of life.

The kings and people of the earth will come to Jerusalem to learn from Jesus on His Holy Mountain .

Isaiah 2:1-5 (NIV)

¹This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ²In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. ⁵Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

This is not symbolic. This means that Jesus will very literally, and in a physical way, sit on the throne in Jerusalem and reign on the Earth. Not only that, but the saints will reign with him.

Revelation 5:9-10 (NIV)

⁹And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Revelation 11:15 (NIV)

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

Revelation 20:4-6 (NIV)

⁴I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

So, as you can see, these few passages of scripture establish clearly that there will be a Millennial Kingdom. Jesus will reign on the Earth and His saints will reign with Him for a thousand years. There are over 100 chapters in the Bible solely dedicated to this theme. The four gospels together comprise only 89 chapters in comparison.

So, the Law will go forth from Jerusalem? What Law? I thought we were free from the Law?

We are Not Lawless

This is not a teaching to establish the fact about the reign of Christ on the Earth, but rather a teaching to get us to think about the implications of it for our lives. Here are some questions to ask ourselves:

- If Christ will reign on the Earth and His law will go forth from Jerusalem, then what is that law?
- How does it affect our lives now?
- Haven't we been set free from the Law?

The fact of the matter is that we are not Lawless, but we are free from the Law. I think some better questions are:

- Which Law are we free from?
- How did we get free from it?

Romans 8:1-3 (NIV)

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man

We are FREE from The Law of Sin and Death, but ONLY THROUGH The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus! WE ARE NOT LAWLESS! (Also called the Royal Law and the Law of Liberty in scripture.)

The Law of Sin and Death

Here are some scriptures to establish the concept of The Law of Sin and Death and where it came from:

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:56 (NIV)

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

2 Corinthians 3:3-8 (NIV)

³You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?

James 1:15 (NIV)

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

So, what is the Law of Sin and Death? The Law of Moses—the Law that God wrote himself on tablets of stone. How are we free from that Law? Through Jesus Christ's new Law—the Law of the Spirit of Life.

The Law and Debt

When His disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray one of the things He taught them was to pray that their debts would be forgiven (as they forgave debts as well). What kind of Debt did we owe?

Well first, what is debt? Simply put a debt is an obligation—something you owe—even if it is not monetary. For example, a person who has spent time in prison is said to have “paid their debt to society” in the currency of time.

So, what were we Debtors to? I have heard people say, and have said myself in the past, that we owed a debt to sin. I have come to realize that this is not correct. If you break the law, which is sinning, you do not owe your sin anything. For example, if you were to break the speed limit and be given a ticket, then you do not owe your act of speeding the money for the ticket—which is to say you don’t owe a debt to your sin—you owe the Law. If you break the law, then you owe a debt to the Law.

We are all, when not under grace, in constant indebtedness to the law simply because we always “owe it to the law” to obey it. Obedience to the law is our obligation. So, before grace what were we debtors to specifically: The Law of Moses—the Law of Sin and Death.

Romans 8:2 (NKJV)

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

This explains to us what we owed specifically—What we would have been required to pay is Death (to the Law for our sin). That is why it is called The Law of Sin and Death.

Romans 7:4-13 (NIV)

⁴So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. ⁵For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. ⁶But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. ⁷What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." ⁸But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. ⁹Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. ¹⁰I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. ¹²So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. ¹³Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

Here we understand that The Law, which in itself is Holy, was given to expose Sin. The knowledge of sin aroused evil desires in man, which bore fruit for Death.

That is why the Law of Moses is called the Law of Sin and Death. Not because it was sinful (the law itself is holy), but because it brought understanding of sin to us, which further exposed our inward desire to break the law and still sin, which brought spiritual death to us, and ultimately demands the Eternal Second Death from us.

THAT IS THE DEBT THAT WE OWED—**DEATH**, AND WE OWED IT TO THE LAW.

So, how was our Debt paid? Through the DEATH of Jesus. That is why it can simply be forgiven for us—rather than paid by us.

This is why the Bible points out that we can still be Debtors to the Law. The Law is what we owed a debt to in the first place.

Galatians 5:3 (NKJV)

And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

James 2:10 (NIV)

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

These two scriptures do not speak of our requirement to keep the law, as some people interpret them.

- They speak of our Indebtedness to the Law if we try to live by it.
- We will remain Debtors to the Law as long as we attempt to live by it, and we will be guilty of breaking all of the law if we fail in one point.
- This reveals the harshness of the Law of Sin and Death.
- Praise the Lord that we do not have to live by this Law anymore.

We are still in Debt

If we are not Lawless, then we are still in Debt. But what do we owe?

Romans 13:8 (NIV)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

How do we practically begin to walk out paying a Debt of Love? Here is at least ONE way. We express KINDNESS to others.

Kindness Vs. Niceness

The following table displays the difference between being Kind and being Nice.

Kindness	Niceness
Gentle, Mild, Sympathetic, Forbearing, Affectionate	Pleasant, Agreeable, Polite
Kindness has to do with one's nature. Inward condition.	Nice has to do with how we appear to others. Outward action or appearance. It is so much related to outward appearance that it is commonly used to say things like: That's a nice car. That's a nice house. He has a nice smile.
Is always rooted in the Truth (based on scriptures about Kindness).	Can be rooted in DECEPTION. "I was just being nice."
The Bible tells us to be Kind.	The Bible NEVER tells us to be nice.

A word search in many major translations of the Bible will find no results for "nice." (NIV, KJV, NKJV, AMP, HCSB)

Interesting Finds about Nice in a couple of Bible translations:

- Jeremiah 12:6 (NASB)**
 "For even your brothers and the household of your father, Even they have dealt treacherously with you, Even they have cried aloud after you. Do not believe them, although they may say nice things to you."
- Isaiah 30:10 (NLT)**
 They tell the seers, "Stop seeing visions!" They tell the prophets, "Don't tell us what is right. Tell us nice things.
Tell us lies."

Kindness frees us to truly be able to walk in Love and to minister to others. It allows us to Speak the Truth in Love (Ephesians 4:15), since Love is Kind (1 Corinthians 13:4). Kindness is what will empower us to clearly communicate the Gospel. Being Kind to people will remove all deception from our mouths.

GOD IS NOT NICE!!! GOD IS KIND!!!

Being nice will cause us to allow someone to continue down a path of destruction. Kindness would never do that.

Here is Why:

Romans 2:1-4 (NIV)

¹You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ²Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that **God's kindness leads you toward repentance?**

If God was nice he would not convict of sin, because conviction makes us feel guilty. A nice person wouldn't want to make you feel guilty. God is Kind, so He reveals our sin to us so that we can repent.

Where We Differ From God

God's motivations are always pure, and His interaction with others is always in their best interest—ours are not. We can be selfish, self-seeking people even with a guise of ministry.

Our motivation can often be to prove to others that they are wrong Rather than proving to others that God is Love, and that Love is Kind.

This is where we must learn to walk in Love—the debt that we continually owe. It is the requirement of the Law that we now live under.

God does not need our motivation to be to convince (Convict) someone that they are in sin. He wants our motivation to be to convince them of the unfailing Love, Mercy, and Kindness of God—this will lead them to repentance.

Psalms 51:6 (NIV)

Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Notice it does not say Honesty. Honesty can be looked at as a refusal to lie or fairness in conduct.

TRUTH is a man—Jesus Christ. Also, we could say Truth is the thing that is right. Honesty is the ability to convey something that is fact.

We can be Honest without the Truth. We can have a negative opinion of someone, and be Honest about it—that is sharing a fact (We really feel that way). However, God would want His Truth about that person to prevail over any wrong ideas that we could be Honest about.

A Sobering Thought

What if we don't walk in and minister in Love?

Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Love is the Law, according to the definition that Jesus presented as "Law" in His earthly ministry. Therefore to be lawless must be acting without Love in Jesus' definition of Law. Those doing these seemingly righteous acts in the above scripture must have been performing them without love—perhaps for vain conceit or vain glory.

James 3:2-8 (NIV)

² We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. ³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ All kinds

of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man,⁸ but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Though no man can tame the tongue—it can still be tamed. The Word of God and meditation upon His Law can tame our tongue, because whatever we put in us will overflow out of us. Consider these words of Jesus.

Luke 6:43-45 (NIV)

⁴³ "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

Who is Wise among you?

Being Nice instead of Kind and Choosing Honesty over Truth is not wise, but it is rather of the devil.

James 3:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere [without hypocrisy]. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.