

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#17: Delivered from the Law

Since in the mind of God the believer is *dead* to the Mosaic Law (Rom. 7:4), he has been *delivered* from the Law (Rom. 7:6). The fact that this is a universal positional truth is obvious from the fact that *experientially* some believers are still involved in living under the Mosaic Law. Even though in God's mind every believer is dead to the Mosaic Law and has been delivered from the Mosaic Law, many believers still identify with the Law for the Christian way of life.

There are many reasons believers continue to orient their lives to the Mosaic Law, but the bottom line is that they really do not understand grace. For them the Law gives them some standard by which they can gauge their morality as well as judge others. The Law is a security blanket for some. The Law is for babies who do not really understand and must be told simply "no" or "yes" without really understanding why or why not (cf. Gal. 4:2-5). No toddler can be simply told to live for Christ under the Holy Spirit. Babies need strict commands until they can grow up and understand. The Law functioned as a tutor to lead man to Christ (Gal 3:24-26). To go back to the Law would be like going back to being a toddler having to be entertained, cared for, and told what to do without even really understanding why.

With the coming of Christ and the full indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit, we now live in an adult age of understanding and power. Our orientation is not to rules and regulations but to Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, who enable us to actually fulfill the very intention of the Law. Again, the fact that this is not a reality to many Christians just underscores the point that this is a positional and not an automatic experiential truth. In the mind of God (positionally) He cut us from the Law and joined us to Jesus Christ. That is the reality of our position that is to be translated into our lives (e.g., the 3rd act of the mind¹ under the ministry of the Holy Spirit).

¹Review of the three acts of the mind: the first act of the mind is apprehending the concept. For example, when you look out and see a tree, your senses do not pick up that it is a tree as such. The mind extracts from the senses that it is a tree. The second act of the mind is when it makes a judgment about the tree, whether it exists or not. With that *judgment* the mind constructs a proposition. The third act of the mind is reasoning. Here the mind makes the various inferences. Take this positional truth for instance: The first act of the mind grasps what is being taught by the concept of being delivered from law, the second act of the mind makes a proposition of this concept: its truth or falsity. The third act of the mind moves into the inferences: since God cut me off from the Law and joined me with Christ, that is the way I am going to live out my life through God's Helper.

In defense of philosophical thinking let me throw out two tools of philosophy for your mind to grasp (1st act of the mind), decide if true (2nd act of the mind), and reason about (3rd act of the mind). The first tool of philosophy is logic. Is logic true? Is logic important in understanding theology and the spiritual life? The second tool of philosophy is its ability to grow the believer's mind in ability to make conceptual distinctions? Is this important in understanding and applying Bible doctrine? The mind is indeed the greatest *natural* gift we have been given. Let's continue to grow our minds in God so we can indeed love Him with all of our minds (for we cannot get to God through our senses/empiricism—He never told us to love Him with our emotions, there are no 3 acts of emotions, emotions do not act, they respond, but they need to respond to Truth, and not evil, lust, or false views of God).

Positional truth #17: Delivered from the Mosaic Law:

Romans 7:6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

Galatians 3:24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

In Christ,

Pastor Don