

Christ Set Us Free:
A Study through the Book of Galatians

The Role of the Law for the Believer,
Galatians 3:23-29

Galatians 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

“The Law has become our tutor...No longer under a tutor.”

Meaning: No longer under the Law.

What does this mean? Some have argued that we are no longer under the Law for the sake of making ourselves righteous before God because righteousness is now through faith in Christ. However, we are still under obligation to the Law for our moral, ethical, and religious life.

In this section we find:

Abraham, the first Jew, was saved by faith, apart from the Law and apart from even the religious rite that functions as entrance into the Law, circumcision

If Salvation could be found through Law keeping than the death of Jesus makes no sense

No Law has ever been made that can make anyone righteous or to impart life

Instead, the purpose of the law...

The law gives clarity by formally defining sin

The law gives clarity about the pervasiveness of our sin

The law gives clarity of our condemnation before God because of our sin

The law gives clarity as to our need for a mediator

The law gives custodial protection until the fullness of our promised inheritance came

The law gives clarity as a tutor in order to direct us to Christ

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Austin and the video driving game in Burlington Iowa

Galatians 4:21 Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Romans 7:1-2 Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

Romans 7:3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

Romans 7:4-5 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

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.

Romans 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

But Jewish people in the early church still followed the Mosaic Law? Why?

Acts 15:4-5 When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses."

Acts 15:7-9 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.

Acts 15:10-11 Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."

Acts 15:19-21 "Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. For Moses from ancient

generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

Acts 16:1-3 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, and he was well spoken of by the brethren...Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

Galatians 2:3 But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

I Corinthians 9:19-23 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law;

I Corinthians 9:21-23 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

Instead of circumcision...baptism of believers in Christ

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:28-29 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.