

LAYING DOWN THE LAW

Many people think the Bible is just a bunch of rules and lessons to learn to help you live better and please God. We've talked about why this isn't a useful view of Scripture, but what do we do with the laws and teachings?

Exodus 20:2 - The laws of the Bible are not the **requirement** for salvation. They are the **response** to salvation.

When Jesus arrives, He doesn't **lower** the standard for righteousness. He actually **raises** it! (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28)

If the Law is a standard, we can't meet it. There's a problem in our hearts. The Law can **describe** the good life, but it cannot **produce** it.

Romans 8:3-4 - Jesus fulfills the requirements of the Law for us; His Spirit generates the righteousness of the Law in us.

God's laws aren't changing, but that old way of measuring up is gone. We move from **performance** to **transformation**.

FREE FOR ALL

Many think God's rules are all about **restriction**. He wants to limit our fun.

We live with Elsa's contemporary philosophy of freedom:

"No right, no wrong, no rules for me. I'm free!" ("Let it Go," *Frozen*)

According to the Bible, the elimination of boundaries—the ability to do whatever we want—is not freedom. That's **slavery**! (John 8:34)

True freedom is the ability to do whatever you should, to not be chained to the whims of our disordered wants.

John 8:31-32 - Jesus says that freedom lies in the **truth** of God's word. However, truth without grace is **mean**. Grace without truth is **meaningless**.

John 1:14 - Jesus came 100% full of truth, and 100% full of grace.

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JUDGE ME NOT

Luke 6:36 - “Do not judge”

Is Jesus saying that we should never call out wrongdoing?

The Greek word for judge is **krino**, and this can be good or bad.

Good krino: Discerning behaviors, actions, and words

Bad krino: Condemning people’s worth and intelligence

Jesus says the judgment that condemns others is dangerous because:

1. It kills mercy. (Luke 6:37-38) **3. My sin is bigger.** (Luke 6:41-42)

2. It boomerangs. (Luke 6:37-38) **4. It spoils what is good.**
(Making truth into a weapon
distorts the beauty of God’s Law.)

This doesn’t mean we ignore wrongdoing. There’s a **good version** of *krino*.

This is called **edification**—to build someone up with instruction, to give constructive moral strengthening. These verses give helpful principles:

1 Corinthians 5:12; Galatians 6:1; Luke 6:41-42; Proverbs 10:17; Ephesians 4:15

INCANDESCENT LIGHT

Incandescent lightbulbs emit **light and heat**.

Fluorescent lightbulbs emit **only light**.

Jesus is the **incandescent** light of the world (John 1:4-5; 12:46).

He comes with light and warmth; truth and grace.

John 12:36 - The light of Jesus also fills us so that we can shine to others.

Some churches are just **space heaters**.

Lots of warmth and welcome, but little conviction for what is true.

Other churches are **fluorescent lightbulbs**.

Bright, vivid, crystal-clear truth; little to no warmth.

We are called to reveal the light of God incandescently. To share truth about who God is, and to demonstrate the warmth of God’s love.

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*For the law was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)*

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