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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Pauline Paradox: Part 4 - Which Law Paul?

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching continues the Pauline Paradox series by addressing one of the most commonly cited statements of Paul: “you are not under law but under grace” (Romans 6:14). The teaching begins by examining how this phrase is often used to argue against obedience to certain commandments, such as the Sabbath or dietary instructions, while at the same time most believers continue to affirm commandments against murder, theft, and other sins. This raises the question of what Paul actually meant when he wrote that believers are not under law but under grace.

The teaching first establishes that grace was not introduced in the New Testament. Examples from Noah, Moses, Israel, and Proverbs demonstrate that grace existed throughout the Scriptures long before Yeshua came. Because grace existed before Sinai and before the first century, Paul cannot be teaching that the Law of God and grace are opposites. The lesson reminds viewers that both Yeshua and Paul practiced and taught the Law of God, making it impossible for Paul to be teaching that believers no longer need to follow God's instructions.

The lesson then examines Romans 6:14 in its immediate context. Paul writes that sin will no longer have dominion over believers because they are not under law but under grace. The teaching argues that many readers incorrectly assume Paul is speaking about the Law of God. Instead, the surrounding context discusses freedom from sin and death. Paul later clarifies this in Romans 8:1–2, where he says believers are set free from the law of sin and death by the law of the Spirit of life. According to the teaching, Paul is not saying believers are free from the Law of God, but that they are free from the law of sin and death through the grace provided by Messiah Yeshua.

A major focus of the teaching is Paul's use of multiple "laws." The lesson explains that the Hebrew word Torah and the Greek word nomos both refer to instruction. Paul uses the word law in several different ways, and understanding these distinctions is essential

for correctly interpreting his letters. Seven different laws are identified: the Law of God, the Law of Sin, the Law of Sin and Death, the Law of the Spirit of Life, the Law of Faith, the Law of Righteousness, and the Law of Christ. Failure to recognize these distinctions often leads readers to misunderstand Paul and conclude that he taught against God's law.

The teaching then walks through each of the seven laws. The Law of God is identified as God's instructions, which define sin and reveal His standards of righteousness. The Law of Sin is described as the inclination of the flesh that opposes God's instructions. Because all people have sinned, they become subject to the Law of Sin and Death, which is the consequence of disobedience. This condition places humanity in bondage and under the penalty of death.

The Law of the Spirit of Life is then introduced as the work of the Spirit that leads people to recognize God's truth. The Spirit reveals the righteousness of God's instructions, exposes sin, and creates a desire for truth. Through the Spirit, people recognize their bondage to sin and their need for salvation. This awakening leads to the Law of Faith, which involves trusting God's Word and submitting to His authority. Faith is presented not merely as belief but as active trust that transforms the believer into a new person.

The teaching emphasizes that genuine faith naturally produces obedience. The Law of Righteousness is described as the practical expression of faith through righteous living. Passages from James, Hebrews, Romans, and 1 John are used to show that faith and obedience work together. Righteous actions do not earn salvation but serve as evidence of genuine faith. True faith results in a desire to walk according to God's instructions because the believer now trusts God's Word as truth.

The Law of Christ is presented as the perfect example of living according to the Law of God. The teaching argues that Yeshua taught and practiced the Torah perfectly and never introduced a different law. Therefore, the Law of Christ and the Law of God are understood to be fully compatible. Following the Law of Christ means following God's instructions as demonstrated and interpreted correctly by Yeshua.

The lesson concludes by reviewing the progression of the seven laws. God's instructions define righteousness and sin. Humanity follows the Law of Sin, resulting in bondage to the Law of Sin and Death. The Spirit reveals truth and leads people to faith. Faith produces righteousness, and righteousness is demonstrated by following the example of Yeshua. Understanding these seven laws provides a framework for interpreting Paul's writings and prepares viewers for future teachings that will examine Romans and the rest of Paul's letters in greater depth.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Grace existed before, during, and after the giving of the Torah.
- Romans 6:14 must be interpreted within its immediate context.

- Paul did not teach that believers are free from God's Law.
- The context of Romans 6 and 8 concerns freedom from sin and death.
- Torah means instruction and refers to God's teaching.
- Paul discusses multiple laws, not just the Law of God.
- The Law of God defines what sin is.
- The Law of Sin reflects the desires of the flesh that oppose God.
- Sin leads to death, creating the Law of Sin and Death.
- The Spirit leads believers to recognize God's truth.
- Faith involves active trust in God's Word.
- Genuine faith produces righteous actions.
- Obedience is evidence of faith, not a means of earning salvation.
- The Law of Christ reflects the Law of God lived out perfectly by Yeshua.
- Understanding the seven laws helps clarify Paul's difficult passages.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. Romans 6:14 says believers are not under law but under _____.
2. According to the teaching, grace existed long before the time of _____.
3. The Law of God defines what _____ is.
4. The Law of Sin comes from the desires of the _____.
5. Sin leads to _____.
6. The Spirit leads believers into _____.
7. Faith comes from hearing the Word of _____.
8. The Law of Righteousness involves practicing _____.
9. Yeshua serves as the perfect example of following the Law of _____.
10. Paul discusses at least _____ different laws.

Challenging

1. The Greek word commonly translated as "law" is _____.
2. The Hebrew word Torah can mean direction, teaching, or _____.
3. Romans 8:2 says believers are set free from the law of sin and _____.

4. The Law of the Spirit is described as leading people toward _____.
 5. Paul describes obedience of _____ in Romans 1:5.
 6. The Hebrew word often associated with faith is _____.
 7. According to Romans 3:27, justification comes through the law of _____.
 8. Paul says he is not outside the Law of God but under the Law of _____.
 9. Ezekiel 36 teaches that God's Spirit causes believers to walk in His _____.
 10. The teaching presents the Law of Sin and Death as humanity's _____ before faith.
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GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Romans 6:14 is often interpreted differently than the explanation presented in this teaching?
 2. How does recognizing that grace existed throughout Scripture affect your understanding of God's character?
 3. Why is it important to distinguish between the various laws Paul discusses?
 4. How does the Law of God help people recognize their need for salvation?
 5. In what ways does the Spirit lead believers toward truth and obedience?
 6. What does it mean for faith to be active trust rather than merely intellectual agreement?
 7. How do faith and works relate to one another according to this teaching?
 8. Why is Yeshua's example important when understanding the Law of Christ?
 9. How can understanding the seven laws help us avoid misunderstanding Paul's letters?
 10. Which of the seven laws discussed in this teaching stood out to you most, and why?
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ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Grace
2. Moses
3. Sin
4. Flesh
5. Death
6. Truth
7. Christ
8. Righteousness
9. God
10. Seven

Challenging

1. Nomos
2. Instruction
3. Death
4. Truth
5. Faith
6. Emunah
7. Faith
8. Christ
9. Statutes
10. Prison