

The Christian Law In Romans

Practical Principles by Which Christians Should Live

1 Romans 1:1 The Law of Divine Call & Purpose

The apostle Paul was called to the ministry of the Gospel. The twelve disciples were called by the Lord Himself. To be called means to be chosen. Ministry should not be pursued as a profession. It is true that training is required, and ministry may become your profession, but the ministry is divine service and must be in response to the call of the Holy Spirit. A minister must be inspired and empowered by the same Holy Spirit. **V. 6 & 7** apply the Holy Spirit's divine call—not to be ministers, but to serve God in some way to all believers.

2 1:11—13 The Law of Spiritual Impartation (Ministry To Others)

The purpose of ministry is to impart truth, understanding, principles, gifts & encouragement to other people. Ministers should be anointed to impart spiritual gifting to others; but **verse 12** says that believers too should be empowered to impart spiritual gifting to others—we call it “Body Ministry”. Everyone can share but it is important to limit your gift and impartation to what the Holy Spirit directs. He is in charge and all gifts are intended to edify and benefit individuals and the body of Christ; they are not for man's promotion but for God's glory and the blessing and growth of Christ's body on earth.

3 1:14—16 The Law of Witness.

Telling others about the plan of redemption—and living a Christ-like life style—is also the obligation of all Christians, but especially ministers. This doesn't mean that we have to button hole every person we meet and/or force our testimony upon them. It does mean that we should be sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and ready to effectively share the Gospel. The only Christ some people will ever see may be the Christ they see in you and me; and how others perceive our Christian conduct will have greater impact than what we might say to them. In this passage Romans outlines three essentials.

V. 14: I am a debtor to everyone everywhere. We can't be in all places at one time, so this must be understood to mean that it is my opportunity and responsibility to share the Gospel wherever I may go and to whomever I may meet. **Why a debtor?** Because I am extremely grateful for the debt Jesus paid for me. Because the love of Christ in me constrains me to share this **good news** with other lost men and women. Because heaven and hell are real and every living soul must hear before they can decide what their eternal destiny will be. We read in **Rom. 10:13—15**: *“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”*

V. 15: I am ready with the knowledge and the Spirit to share anywhere anytime. This implies being prayed up, familiar with the Word of God, and having spiritual sensitivity to know when, where & how to witness.

V. 16: I am not ashamed of anything about Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit, the Christian life style, the message and/or any demonstration the Holy Spirit may choose to exhibit to accomplish divine purpose. We don't have to be ashamed of the message or the means the Holy Spirit directs; and we need to be aware of and follow the Holy Spirit's guidance.

4 1:17; 10:17 The Law Of Living By Faith

Initially, we are saved by **faith (Rom. 10: 9&10; Ephesians. 2: 8)** Then we walk by **faith (2 Cor. 5:7)** and we also live by **faith (Gal. 2:20)**. Without **faith** we cannot please God (**Heb. 11:6**). **Faith** is required to believe the Gospel, commit our lives into God's hands, trust Him to fulfill His many promises and rejoice in the face of trouble and woe. The **Psalmist** said

many times that we should trust the Lord, as did the writer of **Proverbs**. Truly, the believer must walk and live by faith and not by sight (**2 Cor. 5:7**).

Faith and trust are similar. **Faith** is that something within that recognizes godly truth and knows it is something we can rely on—it is “knowing” within our mind and spirit (a noun). **Trust** is something we do (a verb). Because we have **faith**, we can **trust** God to be faithful to fulfill all promises made through His Son, Jesus.

5 1:18 The Law of God’s Wrath & Judgment

There will be a payday. From Genesis to Revelation examples are too numerous. Read this verse and **V. 1:32 & 14:10**. The judgment is confirmed again in **2 Cor. 5:10 & Heb. 9:27**. Knowing the certainty of God’s judgment believers must live in faith and obedience in order to escape God’s wrath on the day of judgment.

6 1:20 The Law of Evidence (Ps. 19:1)

The creative design in nature reveals God. The uncountable stars in heaven and the countless life forms on earth declare the reality and glory of God. The absolute conformity to mathematical and physical laws —no deviation whatsoever—is evidence of a Master Designer. The human body with its multiple systems—(nervous system, muscular system, circulatory system, digestive system, reproductive system etc.)—defy random, selective development. The intricate, never deviating process of reproduction among all the life forms are too numerable to list here—but they too confirm the **law of evidence** that there is a Creator of all things. And—the human heart has a witness—God has placed eternity there (**Eccl. 3:11**). **Rom. 2: 12—16** confirms that from birth man knows right from wrong. Speaking about Gentiles who didn’t have Moses Law—“the doers of the law will be justified...who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and between them selves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them”. Yes, man instinctively knows there is a God and for reasons known only to himself (and God) he chooses to deny; so man is without excuse.

7 1: 21—32; 6:23; 8:2 The Law of Sin & Death

As surely as darkness follows the setting of the sun, death follows sin. This, like many spiritual laws, may be termed a **law of consequences**. Man makes a choice and reaps the consequences. The Lord said to Adam that if he sinned he would die. Adam sinned and death followed. This law follows into New Testament truth. **V. 1:32**: “*Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them*”. **V. 2: 5—9**: “*But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself, wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil...*”.

The wages of sin is death (**6:23**) but the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death (**8:2**). Make no mistake—there is a **law of sin and death** and the only remedy is that each living soul must make a personal choice to believe in—and receive—the forgiveness and newness of life made possible by the shed blood of Jesus.

8 2:1 The Law of Self Condemnation

When we are critical and judgmental of others—we automatically judge ourselves because we are imperfect people. While we can know people by the fruit we see in their lives—spiritual or carnal (**Gal. Ch. 5**)—we cannot judge the state of their faith or standing with God. He alone can know a person’s heart and relationship with Himself. When we pre-judge others, we are also condemning ourselves. It is similar to forgiveness: if we forgive others, God will forgive us. If we refuse to forgive others, God will not forgive us (**Matt. 6:14 & 15**)