

## ROMAN LAW

### 28      9:15, 18      **The Law of Mercy**

Again, God is in control—(**Ps. 135**). He makes choices and establishes laws. **V. 9:18** says: *“He has mercy on whom He wills”*. It is reassuring to know that God loves us enough to willingly extend grace and mercy toward mankind; that He offers forgiveness to all who believe (**10:13**). Sinners do not deserve God’s grace and forgiveness, but He extends mercy to us because He loves us.

### 29      9:20—21; Ps. 33:13—15      **The Law of The Potter**

**The law of the potter** is simple and rational: the potter can make anything he wants out of the clay in his hands. The potter has a picture in his mind and molds the clay into an object of his choice. The clay has no creativity within itself. It is mere substance to be used by any creative mind. Since God made man out of the dust of the earth (clay) he made man into an object of His own choice. God has the right to make and/or remake man into anything He wishes. We don’t have a right to tell God what to do with us; we have the duty to accept His will for our lives with joy and thanksgiving. Jesus Himself acknowledged in His earthly role: *“I came to do the will of My Father”*(**John 6:38**) & *“Not my will but Thine be done”* (**Luke 22: 42**).

### 30      10: 9,10,13      **The Law of Confession**

The importance of words—what we say—is taught throughout Scripture. Words have the power of life or death (**Prov. 18: 21**) but in the book of Romans our very salvation depends upon our confession: *“if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, for with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”*. There is something about confession—speaking words—that finalizes decisions made in the heart. We know when we have finalized a decision by what words we speak; and so do those who hear us speak; and so does the Lord in heaven. Out of the heart the mouth speaks, so our oral confession of faith in Jesus our Savior is required for salvation. Beyond salvation what we speak can also determine the outcome of life’s challenges. When sick we should not confess illness and pain repeatedly—but we should speak to our expectation of God’s healing touch and wellness. When it seems like everything is against us we should not keep talking about the problem—but we should speak about a favorable outcome in faith and hope that God will turn the tide in our favor. Often we determine our future by the words of faith or defeat we speak. Jesus said that we could have whatever request we make in prayer—if we believe, if we do not doubt, and if our prayer is in line with God’s revealed will. In a sense what we say is what we get—this is **the law of confession**.

### 31      10:14—16      **The Law of Sending Messengers**

Missionary ministry is required if the Great Commission is to be completed. We see the divine call in **1: 1—7** and again in **10: 14—16**. It is encouraging to know that the seeds for global evangelism were sown by missionaries through the Centuries and that a great harvest is currently underway in every nation and culture. It is happening because many heard the call of this law and responded. Some prepared their heart and went to foreign lands—many died as martyrs. Others heeded the above law and gave offerings to send and support the global messengers. If the Great Commission (**Matt. 28: 18—20**) is to be fulfilled it will be because many who could not go heeded this **law of sending messengers**.

### 32      11: 5—36; 9:27      **The Law of A Remnant In Israel**

The Messiah came out of the stock of Israel. He was the offspring of David born to be Israel’s redeemer as foretold by the prophets. The generation to whom He came rejected His claim to deity and manipulated His death. In 70 A.D. the nation and religion were dispersed in judgment but the Jewish people were still God’s chosen and elect; and God has

foretold there will be a remnant of Israel at the end of the Gentile age. In 1948 the United Nations created the modern nation of Israel in the land of its ancient forefathers and millions of Jews have returned and we are seeing prophecy fulfilled in readiness for Jesus return to earth.

**33      12: 1, 2                      The Law of Transformation**

This law is the starting point in our Christian journey. A person is transformed by the renewing of their mind to renounce the world view and culture, and to live a life that will fulfill the good, acceptable and complete will of God. This law is dealt with in detail in **lesson 3**.

**34      12: 3                              The Law of Humility**

In **2 Cor. 12: 7** Paul said that he was given a thorn in his flesh to prevent arrogance and pride because of the great spiritual revelations given to him. In other words—no matter what level of wisdom, insight or glory one may experience, the credit belongs to God. The law of humility is stated in **Romans 12: 3+** because we are members of the Body of Christ (see the next law), each one selected and equipped to perform limited acts & dependent upon one another to enable the Body of Christ to function properly. We should thank God for gifting and success but stay within the limits of our faith. Above all, realize that we can't achieve by our own power—empowerment comes from God so in reality we have nothing to brag about except the greatness of God.

**35      12: 4—21                      The Law of Body Ministry**

The NT clearly teaches that the church is people not buildings; and that the church is the extension of Christ's body ministering on earth. **Rom. 12: 4** begins the idea of many members in the one body of believers representing Christ on earth as a reason for humility. We are called "independently" to serve the Lord but we are "interdependent" upon other believers to fulfill God's purpose in discipling all nations. See the next law

**36      12: 6—21; 13: 13 & 14      The Law of Natural Gifts      (Inherent abilities for Christian service)**

Law #35 works with law #36, they complement each other. Chapter 12 lists a number of talents and gifts that various members receive at birth—and as the Holy Spirit may impart as we grow in grace and understanding of our calling and God's purposes. We are exhorted to recognize our gift or talent and use it diligently for the glory of the Lord and the welfare of others in the body. Some call the natural talents and abilities listed in chap. 12 "**God's natural gifts** to the church", different from **Christ's** ministry gifts found in **Ephesians 4**, and the "**Holy Spirit's spiritual** gifts found in **1 Cor. Chap. 12**. One can see how laws #35, #36 work together.

**37      13: 1—7                          The Law of Civil Obedience**

Like families, cities and countries need to be governed by laws for the welfare of all citizens. There will be godly and ungodly people in every community, thus godly and ungodly rulers as well. But for the common good, protection and welfare rules and laws are necessary. The law of civil obedience is given for several reasons. **First**—governors must have rules so that everyone understands limitation as well as privilege. **Second**—Christians are called upon to set an example of civic obedience so the cause of Christ will not be undermined. Christians should stand out boldly as those who are obedient in contrast to rebels. We should be honest and peaceful not trouble-makers. **And third**—law abiding citizens are left to live in peace because rulers have no reason to arrest and punish them. In peace the work of witness and ministry can continue with God's favor. The only reason a Christian should not obey a law is when a law violates God's law and a believer's conscience.

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