

# Life Line

Workbook 3

## Life Line

### Workbook 3

The Workbook is designed to help you come to a solid understanding of the exciting and essential subject of God's Covenants of love. To successfully complete this workbook you will need to:

1. Complete all the questions in a Section.
2. Score all questions before taking the related Review. Underline the answers in the text for any questions you got wrong.
3. Take the Review.
4. Score the Review. Underline the answers in the text for any questions you got wrong.
5. Go on to the next section and repeat.
6. Memorize selected Scriptures.
7. Before taking the Pre-Test make sure all questions in the Sections and Reviews are correctly answered.
8. Take the Pre-Test.
9. Score the Pre-Test. Underline the answers in the text for any questions you got wrong.
10. Take the Final Test.

Note 1: All Final Tests except the first one will include some random questions from previous workbooks to test how well the student is remembering the material.

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## THE LIFE LINE SERIES

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### LESSON 3

#### WHAT THE LAW IS continued

##### **The Law Is The Blueprint For Life**

*"Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" [Deut. 4:5-6, NKJV]*

The law gives us a blueprint for life. It is God's instruction on how to build successfully in this life whether we are building our personal lives, our families, our churches, or our nations. It is all there. We just have to dig it out and apply it. God will reward us with success when we work at understanding the law and holding fast to it.

But what is a blueprint? If you are an architect or the construction foreman, the blueprint tells you how to build. It lets you know the basic building requirements. It does not; however, give all the details. For example, it does not tell you what colour to paint the walls. Neither does it tell you where to put the living room couch, although it does limit where we put it [i.e. we are not going to put it in a room designed to be the bathroom!].

In the same way, Biblical law gives us the basic structure with which to build. Within that structure there are a lot of decisions we have to make. Remember from a previous lesson that, in negative law, whatever is not forbidden is permitted? The law lets us know the basic structure of life to which we must conform, and the Holy Spirit guides us in individual choices within that structure.

All of society's problems - high crime, poverty, high taxes, inflation,  
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famine, war, disease, etc. - are a result of failing to follow God's blueprints. How great things would be if only we kept God's law! That is not to say that there would not be any problems if we perfectly followed God's Law, for everything must be tested and also we are not living in a sin-free environment. We would; however, be able to solve the problems for the glory of God and the greatest good of the people involved.

*"He [Hezekiah] trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any who were before him. For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went." [2 Kings 18:5-7, NKJV]*

In spite of an evil father and a corrupt society, Hezekiah decided to wholly follow the Lord by keeping the commandments given to Moses. He followed God's blueprint as he tried to rule in the midst of overwhelming problems. God honoured him. God will also honour us if we order our entire being and everything we have in accordance with His law.

*"Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the Lord, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, nor were they obedient to His law. Therefore He has poured on them the fury of His anger..." [Is. 42:24-25, NKJV]*

The opposite is also true. If we will not walk according to the law of our God we will suffer the anger of God. God desires justice in the earth and if we refuse it then the time will come when God says, "It is enough." There is no neutrality. We are either going for God or against Him.

*"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad." Matt. 12:30*

1. The law gives us a \_\_\_\_\_ for life.
2. God will \_\_\_\_\_ us with success when we work at understanding the law and holding fast to it.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ law gives us the basic structure with which to build.
4. All of society's \_\_\_\_\_ are a result of failing to follow God's blueprints.
5. God will also \_\_\_\_\_ us if we order our entire being and everything we have in accordance with His law.
6. We are either going \_\_\_\_\_ God or against Him.

### **The Law Is The Tool Of Dominion**

What was God's original command to mankind? What was His purpose for us?

*"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." [Gen. 1:28, NKJV]*

This is the original commandment and although it has been greatly complicated by sin, it has never been withdrawn. [Go ahead, try to find even one place in Scripture where God withdrew this command.] It is still God's command for the human race. The Law provides the details of how we are to subdue the earth. The law is still the Order from the Commander-In-Chief as to how He wants the Mission accomplished.

### **The Law Is A Revelation Of Jesus Christ**

As we saw in a previous lesson, Jesus is the center and the object of the law. We must never forget that foundational fact. If we lose sight of Jesus we will sink like Peter no matter how great our knowledge of the law.

The law explains Jesus to us. It helps us to better understand who He is, what He has done, and what He wants us to do. If we haven't seen Christ in the law we have missed the most basic of facts. The New Testament confirms this point.

*"Phillip found Nathaniel and said to him, "We have found Him of whom  
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*Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." [John 1:45, NKJV]*

Who did the law and prophets talk about? Jesus.

*"Then he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." [Luke 24:25-27, NKJV]*

Jesus Himself confirms that He is the center of the law. After the resurrection, when He had to explain these things, He began with the law [the books of Moses].

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I'm sure there are other purposes of the law than the ones I have listed here. Perhaps you can think of them. For now it is enough to know Biblical law still has purpose for us today.

7. The Law provides the details of how we are to \_\_\_\_\_ the earth.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is the center and the object of the law.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ explains Jesus to us.
10. Who did the law and prophets talk about? \_\_\_\_\_

## DIVINE LOVERS: GRACE AND THE LAW

### What Is Grace?

Grace is God's acting in mercy. It is God loving and acting on our behalf without us doing anything. In fact, far from us doing anything, we were in deliberate rebellion against God. We were shaking our fist in the face of God and daring Him to do something about it. It is the grace of God that He did not wipe us off the planet.

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In a general sense the grace of God is upon all men [called Common Grace]. Without God acting in grace toward us we would cease to live. It is only by the grace of God that anyone draws their next breath.

Of course, when we talk about grace we are normally referring to saving grace [called Special Grace] which makes us alive in Christ. It is the saving grace through Jesus that allows us to do His will and saves us from the sentence of death and ultimately Hell.

*"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ [by grace you have been saved], and raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast." [Eph. 1:4-9, NKJV]*

*"For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.' So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy." [Rom. 9:15-16, NKJV]*

Scripture is plain. Grace is a divine act of God from the beginning to the end. There is no reason for it, found in mankind, at all. Grace comes because of Who God is, not because of who I am or what I have done [or haven't done].

Grace saves us, keeps us, and brings the gifts of God to us [as we saw earlier]. It maintains us in our relationship with the Father. The grace of God through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ keeps the justice of God from destroying us.

The grace of God puts us into a loving, growing relationship with Him. Being out of the saving [or Special] grace of God puts us in line with the devil and we will suffer his fate. The non-Christian is cut off from God, the Christian is cut off from the devil. Who do you want to be in relationship with? It will be one or the other - there is no neutral ground.

A simple way to remember the basic meaning of grace is the acronym: God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

11. Grace is God's acting in \_\_\_\_\_.
12. In a general sense the grace of God is upon all men [called \_\_\_\_\_ Grace].
13. Without God acting in \_\_\_\_\_ toward us we would cease to live.
14. When we talk about grace we are normally referring to saving grace [called \_\_\_\_\_ Grace] which makes us alive in Christ.
15. Grace is a divine act of \_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning to the end.
16. The grace of God through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ keeps the \_\_\_\_\_ of God from destroying us.
17. The non-Christian is cut off from \_\_\_\_\_, the Christian is cut off from the devil.
18. A simple way to remember the basic meaning of grace is the acronym: G\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_ E\_\_\_\_\_.

## Is Grace The Opposite Of Law?

If I am not a law-keeper, then I am a law-breaker. That's simple logic. There is no neutral ground. I either keep the law or I break it. The opposite of law; therefore, is lawlessness.

*"Everyone who commits sin breaks God's law, for that is what sin is - a breaking of God's law." [1 John 3:4, Phillips]*

Write out and memorize James 2:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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Grace and the law are not opposites. They are not locked in an eternal fight with their fingers wrapped around each other throats. They are God-ordained lovers or partners. They work together in harmony. One without the other is crippled and leads into the deception of the devil. We need them working together in perfect balance.

Draw an arrow from the top half of the Law column to the bottom half of the Grace column. Then draw an arrow from top half of the Grace column to the bottom half of the Law column.

| <u>LAW</u>         |  | <u>GRACE</u>      |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| Sanctification     |  | Justification     |
| Christian Maturity |  | Salvation         |
| The Dominion Key   |  | Relationship      |
| <hr/>              |  |                   |
| Sloppy Living      |  | Legalism          |
| "Greasy Grace"     |  | Hardness Of Heart |
| Selfishness        |  | Frustration       |

Grace is the method of justification. It is the basis of my salvation and my relationship with God. When all we see is grace, and we do away with the law, we end up in sloppy living, etc. We feel that what we do really doesn't matter for "grace will cover it". So we tend to do whatever feels good or whatever we want [just like the humanists]. After all, grace covers it all. This is a Satanic trap. It is a part truth.

Law is for our sanctification. It causes us to grow up in Christ. It orders our lives to be pleasing to God. It teaches us what God expects from us, our families, our churches, and our nations. But if it goes over

into the area of grace then it becomes legalism which leads to hardness of heart, etc. When we are doing things to try and earn or maintain our salvation we become incredibly frustrated because we are always failing. We either become hard or we become discouraged and drop out. This too is a deception of Satan. It is only half the story.

Grace and the law must work together in a beautiful marriage. Each must stay within its proper boundaries and limits. Neither one should be put away in favour of the other. To divorce one from the other is to destroy them both. They cannot live apart. They are the divine lovers.

19. If I am not a \_\_\_\_\_, then I am a law-breaker
20. Grace and law work together in \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Grace is the method of \_\_\_\_\_.
22. Law is for our \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Grace and the law must work \_\_\_\_\_ in a beautiful marriage.

## Isn't Law Old Testament And Grace New Testament?

This is a common misconception [and we will deal with it again when we get to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles]. To say the law is Old Testament and Grace is New Testament is to say that God had changed or there are two gods. There have been heretic groups which have taught the two gods theory. The God of the Old Testament was supposed to be mean, angry, and sometimes cruel while the God of the New Testament was very lovey-dovey, and overlooked sin. Needless to say, Christians have always denied this [although some Christians today believe something dangerously close to it].

There was a time in the history of the world when grace was not needed and man stood before God solely on the basis of his own works. That was under the Edenic Covenant [also called the Covenant of Works or the Dominion Covenant]. There in the Garden of Eden man stood perfect before God. Grace was not needed for man had done nothing wrong.

*"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the*

*garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." [Gen. 2:16-17, NKJV]*

Did Adam die when he ate the fruit? Yes and no. He died covenantally in that he was separated from God. Adam also deserved to die physically and the process of physical death was begun [See What is Death? at <http://www.free-bible-study-lesson.com>]. He had earned instant entrance into Hell taking all of mankind with him. Why didn't that happen the moment Adam sinned? The only possible answer is because of the grace of God looking forward to Christ's work on Calvary. Yes, grace in the Old Testament!

What about David?

*"Then David's anger was greatly aroused against the men, and he said to Nathan, 'As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!...' Then Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!...Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife...' Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has put away your sin; and you shall not die...'" [2 Sam. 15:5-13, NKJV]*

Why wasn't David killed according to the law? After all murder and adultery were both capital offenses. Again, the only possible answer is the grace of God. Don't think David escaped without punishment [he didn't], but he didn't suffer the full, righteous requirement of the law.

Again and again in the Old Testament we see the grace of God. In fact, since the Fall, EVERY dealing of God with mankind has been on the basis of grace. There is no other way it could be. If not for the grace of God we would all be instantly destroyed as Adam should have been. So the entire Bible shows both the law of God and the grace of God [we will deal with the law in the New Testament in a latter lesson]. They cannot be divided into Old and New Testaments.

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What about John 1:17? *"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."*

I have read this verse many times and I have not seen it say [not even once] that the law is Old Testament and grace is New Testament. Neither does it say the law is done away with or is invalid. Instead it emphasizes what we have already said: law and grace are different. They were revealed through different people and they have different purposes.

Let me be quick to add that if not for Jesus and the cross we would have only the law which would lead us to death [according to the law]. Jesus brought God's grace to us. He alone made it possible for us to be on the right side of the law.

"The law therefore came through Moses - from God through Moses - because it is the law for the kingdom of God. Where converted into a way of salvation, the law is prevented. Where the law represents the government and obedience of faith, there the law fulfills its God-given purpose." [R.J. Rushdoony]

How would we then explain scriptures like Romans 8:14: *"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace"* and Galatians 5:18: *"But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law?"*

Sharpen your illustrator's pencil again. Draw two circles, one inside the other. In the innermost circle write: FORBIDDEN ZONE and then write things like: Adultery, Jealousy, Envy, Murder, and Drunkenness. In between the two circles write: LAW. On the outside of the circles write: Love, Joy, Gentleness, Peace, and Prosperity.

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We return to the Forbidden Zone. If I am living a law-abiding life, do I have to worry about the law [in God's negative law system]? No. The law is basically indifferent to me. The law doesn't really care what I do unless I start heading for the Forbidden Zone. Then it jumps up and yells, "Thou shalt not!" As long as we are living on the outside of the circle in your illustration, the law is not a big concern to us.

*"But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust." [1 Tim. 1:8-11, NKJV]*

Jesus, in His grace and love, has placed us [as Christians] on the law-keeping side of the law. So if I am not breaking the law then I am not under the law. The law is for those who want to live evil lives. The law contains and disciplines them for the protection of the innocent.

*"But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in times past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." [Gal. 5:18-25, NKJV]*

If I am being led by the Spirit I am not under the law for I am not breaking the law. The Spirit of God will never lead me into the Forbidden

Zone. He will steer me away from it. If I choose to place myself under the law by breaking the law that is an entirely different matter. No longer being under the law does not mean that the law no longer exists but that I no longer live in the Forbidden Zone under the law.

Anywhere we find the law condemned in Scripture, if we will study the context, we will discover that it is the misuse of the law which is condemned, not the law itself. Paul violently attacked the law when used as a way of salvation. Jesus attacked the law when used as a mediator between God and man [He also attacked the traditions and 'home-made' laws of the Pharisees, but not the law of God]. When used properly the law is always supported and given a place of honour. When used improperly the law is attacked because it leads to death. The law can lead us to God and Spiritual maturity or it can lead us away from God and into death depending on how it is used.

24. To say the \_\_\_\_\_ is Old Testament and Grace is New Testament is to say that God had changed or there are two gods.
25. There was a time in the history of the world when grace was not \_\_\_\_\_ and man stood before God solely on the basis of his own works.
26. Was there grace in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
27. Since the Fall, every dealing of God with \_\_\_\_\_ has been on the basis of grace.
28. The entire \_\_\_\_\_ shows both the law of God and the grace of God.
29. Jesus made it \_\_\_\_\_ for us to be on the right side of the law.
30. The law doesn't really care what I do unless I start \_\_\_\_\_ for the Forbidden Zone.
31. If I am not \_\_\_\_\_ the law then I am not under the law.
32. The law contains and disciplines \_\_\_\_\_ people for the protection of the innocent.

- 33. If I am being led by the \_\_\_\_\_ I am not under the law for I am not breaking the law.
- 34. Anywhere we find the law \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture, we will discover that it is the misuse of the law which is condemned, not the law itself.
- 35. The law can lead us to God and \_\_\_\_\_ maturity or it can lead us away from God and into death depending on how it is used.

### Review 1

- 1. Write out from memory James 2:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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- 2. The law gives us a blueprint for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Biblical law gives us the basic \_\_\_\_\_ with which to build.
- 4. All of \_\_\_\_\_ problems are a result of failing to follow God's blueprints.
- 5. We are either going for \_\_\_\_\_ or against Him.
- 6. The Law provides the details of how we are to subdue the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. Jesus is the center and the object of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. Who did the law and prophets talk about? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Grace is God's \_\_\_\_\_ in mercy.

10. In a \_\_\_\_\_ sense the grace of God is upon all men [called Common Grace].
11. When we talk about grace we are normally referring to \_\_\_\_\_ grace [called Special Grace] which makes us alive in Christ.
12. Grace is a divine act of \_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning to the end.
13. The grace of God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ keeps the justice of God from destroying us.
14. A simple way to remember the basic meaning of grace is the acronym: G\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_ E\_\_\_\_\_.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ and law work together in harmony.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ is the method of justification.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ is for our sanctification.
18. To say the law is Old Testament and Grace is New Testament is to say that God had \_\_\_\_\_ or there are two gods.
19. Was there grace in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Since the \_\_\_\_\_, every dealing of God with mankind has been on the basis of grace.
21. The entire Bible shows \_\_\_\_\_ the law of God and the grace of God.
22. The law contains and \_\_\_\_\_ evil people for the protection of the innocent.
23. If I am being led by the Spirit I am not under the \_\_\_\_\_ for I am not breaking the law.
24. Anywhere we find the law condemned in Scripture, we will

discover that it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law which is condemned, not the law itself.

25. The \_\_\_\_\_ can lead us to God and Spiritual maturity or it can lead us away from God and into death depending on how it is used.

Score \_\_\_\_\_

## THE LAW AND LOVE

If grace and the law are not opposites, but loving partners, what about the law and love? Do they work together or do they work against each other?

*"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' you do well." [James 2:8, NKJV]*

### What Is Love?

When we ask, "What is love?" most Christians would instantly reply, "Read 1 Corinthians 13." In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul gives us an excellent summary of love and he shows us the results of love. If you love you will be kind, patient, trusting.... But what is a practical, rubber-meets-the-road, explanation of how to love daily and constantly?

*"Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." [Matt. 22:35-40, NKJV]*

*"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You*

*shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet', and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." [Rom. 13:8-10, NKJV]*

Did you see what Jesus and Paul said? "Love is the fulfillment of the law." If we love God and love our neighbour we have kept the entire Law! Or, to put it the other way around, the entire Law explains how we are to love God and love our neighbour. The Law is God's instruction manual on what He calls Love! The Law is very practical [that's why we don't like it ;].

The Law is God's definition of Love. It will not fit the world's definition of Love. It may not even fit our definition, but God's definition is the only one that counts. With the Law we cannot evade our responsibilities with vague definitions or changeable emotions. We must deal with the issues of Love as given in the Bible head on.

Marriage is an excellent example. When two people get married they pledge their commitment to love each other. Is that love based on the whims of emotions? Is it based on individual definitions? If the marriage is to last love must mean something deeper. It must be [on a conscious or unconscious level] based on a commitment to the laws of marriage. That is Love.

What is going to happen if both partners are not committed to the laws governing marriage? The marriage is likely, sooner or later, to fall apart. As soon as one partner thinks he or she would be better off by themselves or with someone else, off they go. When the responsibilities get too heavy or the bills get too high, one of them abandons ship. In a marriage not built on the laws of marriage there may be affection and enjoyment but there cannot be Biblical Love.

1. Love is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law.
2. If we love God and love our neighbour we have kept the \_\_\_\_\_ Law!
3. The Law is God's \_\_\_\_\_ manual on what He calls Love!
4. The Law is God's definition of \_\_\_\_\_.

5. With the Law we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ our responsibilities with vague definitions or changeable emotions.
6. In a marriage not built on the laws of marriage there may be affection and enjoyment but there cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ Love.

Let's look at a couple of examples of Love from the Law.

*"You shall not hate your brother in your heart; but you shall surely rebuke your neighbour, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take revenge or bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord." [Lev. 19:17-19, Amp.]*

Who are we talking about? This selection of Scripture is referring to the brother, neighbour, and the "son of your people." In a New Testament context we would say it regards fellow Christians [in the Old Testament context it meant other Israelites].

How does this law teach we are to love other Christians? First, we are forbidden to hate them, even in the deepest corner of our hearts. Nothing is hidden from God and if we harbour hatred He will surely see it. How does the New Testament back this application up?

*"He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brothers abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But He who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." [1 John 2:9-11, NKJV]*

The New Testament does not mince words. If we hate our brother, contrary to the Law, then we are not in God's light at all! That's pretty strong confirmation.

Second, if we see a Christian breaking the Law we are to rebuke him. In other words, we are to go and [gently if possible] tell him he is breaking the Law, proving it from Scripture if necessary. [We need to be

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open in case we are the ones who are wrong and we should always operate in a spirit of love and not condemnation.] Leviticus teaches that if we see the sin and do not warn him, we ourselves have committed a sin.

We're right back to the old question that Cain asked God in Genesis 4:9: "Am I my brother's keeper?" God's answer was, in effect, "Yes, you are."

How does the New Testament handle this?

Write out and memorize Matt. 18:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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When the offense is against us personally this is where we begin. If he refuses to repent and work out a solution according to Biblical Law, then the situation escalates Biblically unto some conclusion is reached. The matter is not left to just hang in the air. A resolution must be reached even if it goes to the ultimate church penalty - excommunication.

7. We are forbidden to \_\_\_\_\_ Christians, even in the deepest corner of our hearts.
8. If we hate our brother, contrary to the \_\_\_\_\_, then we are not in God's light at all!
9. If we see a Christian breaking the Law we are to \_\_\_\_\_ him.
10. Am I my brother's keeper? \_\_\_\_\_
11. A resolution to an offense must be reached even if it goes to the ultimate church penalty - \_\_\_\_\_.

What if I witness a fellow Christian sin but isn't against me personally?

*"Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his  
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way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." [James 5:19-20, NKJV]

*"Even if a man should be detected in some sin, my brothers, the spiritual ones among you should quietly set him back on the right path, not with any feeling of superiority but being yourselves on guard against temptation. Carry each other's burdens and so live out the law of Christ." [Gal. 6:1-2, Phillips]*

Again the New Testament confirms the Old Testament definitions of Love. [And what is this about the Law of Christ if Christ did away with the Law? More on that when we get to what Jesus and the Apostles taught on the Law.]

Third, we are forbidden to take revenge or hold a grudge against another Christian. Our dealings and relationships with each other must be out of good conscience. We belong to God. When the civil government fails in its duty of justice it is up to God to see justice done. We are not to react out of personal grudges or desires for revenge.

*"Don't pay back a bad turn, to anyone. See that your public behavior is above criticism. As far as your responsibility goes, live a peace with everyone. Never take vengeance into your own hands, my dear friends; stand back and let God punish if He will. For it is written 'vengeance belongeth unto me: I will recompense, saith the Lord.' And it is also written: 'if thine enemy hunger feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head.' Don't allow yourself to be overpowered by evil. Take the offensive - overpower evil with good!" [Rom. 12:17-21, Phillips]*

God will see justice done, we are to leave it in His hands. And yet again we have New Testament confirmation of our Old Testament Law. Do you see how the New Testament is actually built on the principles of Old Testament Law and that Law explains Love?

Fourth, and finally, we are commanded [yes, commanded] to love

each other as we love ourselves. Now where have we heard that before?

*"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." [Matt. 7:12, NKJV]*

The Law is confirmed again. The Law shows us how to love other Christians. If we have to love Christians by treating them lawfully, does that mean we can take advantage of non-Christians? Can we take advantage of them because they are not saved? What does Love in the Law have to say about this?

*"And if a stranger dwells temporarily with you in your land, you shall not suppress and mistreat him. But the stranger who dwells with you shall be to you as one born among you; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God." [Lev. 19:33-34, Amp.]*

Do we have the right to oppress the stranger [to the covenant], the non-Christian? No. We are to treat them fairly and as justly as we are commanded to treat Christians. The Law never allows us to abuse anyone. The Law is Love and Love is the Law.

Why does God through the Law command us to love the stranger to the covenant? The reason is simple. At one time we were all strangers to the covenant and not one Christian can honestly say he deserves to be a Christian. Because the stranger is where we once were, we are to love him in hope that one day he will be where we are by the grace of God.

Also we see that in a Christian country a person is entitled to justice under the Law regardless if he is a citizen or not or if he is a Christian or not. Love is not partial but fair and just. Ancient societies were just the opposite. If you were not a citizen you had no or very little protection under their laws. You were at the mercy of the citizens.

The same was true of slavery in America, England, Canada and other countries before it was abolished. The slaves had no protection under law. Their master was their highest law. A truly Biblical system would have prevented this for it teaches that all men stand equal before the Law. And again, isn't that Love?

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12. Carry each other's burdens and so live out the law of Christ.
13. The New Testament confirms the Old Testament definitions of Love.
14. We are forbidden to take revenge or hold a grudge against another Christian.
15. When the civil government fails in its duty of justice it is up to God to see justice done.
16. God will see justice done, we are to leave it in His hands.
17. We are commanded to love each other as we love ourselves.
18. The Law shows us how to love other Christians.
19. Do we have the right to oppress the stranger [to the covenant], the non-Christian? No.
20. The Law never allows us to abuse anyone.
21. At one time we were all strangers to the covenant and not one Christian can honestly say he deserves to be a Christian.
22. In a Christian country a person is entitled to justice under the Law regardless if he is a citizen or not or if he is a Christian or not.
23. A truly Biblical system teaches that all men stand equal before the Law.

Now let's look at something Jesus said and see if it supports what we have said about Love and the Law.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you." [Matt. 5:43-44, NKJV]*

What does Jesus mean by loving our enemies? Seriously. Think about it. Are we supposed to have warm, wonderful feelings for people

who have grievously hurt us? Are we supposed to work up or pray for these emotions? Have we failed if we don't have them?

If Love is merely emotion then the answer to all those questions would have to be yes. We have seen; however, that Love is not primarily emotion. It is the fulfilling of the Law. When I love my enemy then, I am keeping the Law in regard to my enemy. I refuse to treat him unlawfully or with injustice just because he may have treated me that way.

The Old Testament Law gives us examples of loving our enemy in the way Jesus was talking about. Here is one example:

*"If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it."* [Ex. 23:4-5, NKJV]

Loving our enemy is helping him protect himself or his property from danger and loss regardless of how we feel about him. In the above case, if we help our enemy we have kept both the Law and the command of Christ even if we don't have the emotion of Love. Without the Law we cannot love according to God's definitions and requirements.

"Love works no ill to the neighbour, and love means keeping or fulfilling of the law in relationship to other men. Love is the law-abiding thought, word, and act. Where there is no law, there is also no love. Adulterous persons do not love their spouses although they may claim to do so; they may enjoy their wives or husbands, as well as their lovers, but love is the keeping of the law." [R.J. Rushdoony]

### GOD'S LOVE MATH

1. Love equals Law
2. Law is not equal to lawlessness; therefore,
3. Love is not equal to lawlessness.

If you like math [yes, that is possible], you might like the above illustration. Basically, no word, thought, or action which is against the Law of God can even be in genuine Love.

Some people might object by saying, "I've read some of the Laws of

God and they don't seem very loving to me."

That statement reveals a humanistic base to their thinking. We have already shown the Law is God's definition of Love. Therefore, if the Law doesn't seem very loving to me, then it is not the Law but my view of Love that needs changing. We have to go back to the bottom line of all existence: Life is given by God and must be lived according to His terms and definitions. It is my job to line my beliefs and actions up to what God says is true, not to try and fit everything into my limited, often mistaken, views.

For further study read James 2:14-26 and think about how it might apply to Law and Love.

24. Love is not primarily \_\_\_\_\_, it is the fulfilling of the Law.
25. I refuse to treat my enemy \_\_\_\_\_ or with injustice just because he may have treated me that way.
26. \_\_\_\_\_ our enemy is helping him protect himself or his property from danger and loss regardless of how we feel about him.
27. Without the Law we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ according to God's definitions and requirements.
28. Basically, no word, thought, or action which is against the \_\_\_\_\_ of God can even be in genuine Love.
29. If the Law doesn't seem very loving to me, then it is not the Law but my \_\_\_\_\_ of Love that needs changing.
30. What is the bottom line of all existence? \_\_\_\_\_

## Review 2

1. Write out from memory Matt. 18:15 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Love is the fulfillment of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If we love God and love our \_\_\_\_\_ we have kept the entire Law!
4. The Law is \_\_\_\_\_ definition of Love.
5. With the Law we cannot evade our \_\_\_\_\_ with vague definitions or changeable emotions.
6. We are forbidden to hate \_\_\_\_\_, even in the deepest corner of our hearts.
7. If we \_\_\_\_\_ a Christian breaking the Law we are to rebuke him.
8. Am I my brother's keeper? \_\_\_\_\_
9. A \_\_\_\_\_ to an offense must be reached even if it goes to the ultimate church penalty - excommunication.
10. Carry each other's burdens and so live out the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
11. The New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ the Old Testament definitions of Love.
12. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to take revenge or hold a grudge against another Christian.
13. When the \_\_\_\_\_ government fails in its duty of justice it is up to God to see justice done.
14. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to love each other as we love ourselves.
15. The Law shows us how to love other \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Do we have the right to oppress the stranger [to the covenant], the non-Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

17. The \_\_\_\_\_ never allows us to abuse anyone.
18. In a Christian country a person is entitled to \_\_\_\_\_ under the Law regardless if he is a citizen or not or if he is a Christian or not.
19. A truly Biblical system \_\_\_\_\_ that all men stand equal before the Law.
20. Love is not primarily \_\_\_\_\_, it is the fulfilling of the Law.
21. Loving our enemy is helping him \_\_\_\_\_ himself or his property from danger and loss regardless of how we feel about him.
22. Without the Law we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ according to God's definitions and requirements.
23. Basically, no word, thought, or action which is against the \_\_\_\_\_ can even be in genuine Love.
24. If the Law doesn't seem very loving to me, then it is not the Law but my \_\_\_\_\_ of Love that needs changing.
25. What is the bottom line of all existence? \_\_\_\_\_

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Score \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre-Test

1. Write out from memory James 2:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Write out from memory Matt. 18:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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3. The \_\_\_\_\_ gives us a blueprint for life.

4. All of society's problems are a result of failing to \_\_\_\_\_  
God's blueprints.

5. The Law provides the \_\_\_\_\_ of how we are to subdue  
the earth.

6. Jesus is the center and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law.

7. Who did the law and prophets talk about? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Grace is God's acting in \_\_\_\_\_.

9. In a general sense the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is upon all men  
[called Common Grace].

10. When we talk about grace we are normally referring to saving  
grace [called Special Grace] which makes us \_\_\_\_\_ in  
Christ.

11. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God through the death of our Lord Jesus  
Christ keeps the justice of God from destroying us.

12. Grace is the method of \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Law is for our \_\_\_\_\_.

14. Was there grace in the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. The \_\_\_\_\_ Bible shows both the law of God and the grace of God.
16. Anywhere we find the law condemned in \_\_\_\_\_, we will discover that it is the misuse of the law which is condemned, not the law itself.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ is the fulfillment of the law.
18. The Law is God's \_\_\_\_\_ of Love.
19. If we see a Christian breaking the Law we are to \_\_\_\_\_ him.
20. A resolution to an offense must be reached even if it goes to the ultimate church penalty - \_\_\_\_\_.
21. The New Testament confirms the Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_ of Love.
22. When the civil government fails in its \_\_\_\_\_ of justice it is up to God to see justice done.
23. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to love each other as we love ourselves.
24. The Law shows us how to \_\_\_\_\_ other Christians.
25. Do we have the right to oppress the stranger [to the covenant], the non-Christian? \_\_\_\_\_
26. In a Christian country a person is entitled to \_\_\_\_\_ under the Law regardless if he is a citizen or not or if he is a Christian or not.
27. A truly Biblical system teaches that all men stand equal before \_\_\_\_\_.
28. Love is not primarily emotion, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Law.
29. Loving our enemy is helping him \_\_\_\_\_ himself or his

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property from danger and loss regardless of how we feel about him.

30. Without the Law we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ according to God's definitions and requirements.
  31. Basically, no word, thought, or action which is \_\_\_\_\_ the Law of God can even be in genuine Love.
  32. If the Law doesn't seem very \_\_\_\_\_ to me, then it is not the Law but my view of Love that needs changing.
  33. What is the bottom line of all existence? \_\_\_\_\_
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Score \_\_\_\_\_