

Why Be Good?
John 14:15-24, Deuteronomy 4:1-8
November 5, 2017

- Why be good?
- Luther and Calvin
- Calvin and the Libertines

1. God's Law restrains evildoers.

Leviticus 24:15-17 ¹⁵ ***Say to the Israelites: 'Anyone who curses their God will be held responsible; 16 anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord is to be put to death. The entire assembly must stone them. Whether foreigner or native-born, when they blaspheme the Name they are to be put to death.***

¹⁷ ***"Anyone who takes the life of a human being is to be put to death.***

Leviticus 20:10 ***"If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.***

[Cf. John 8:5 ***In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"***]

- This applied not only to the individual but also to the community.

Leviticus 26:14-17 (46) ***"But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, 15 and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, 16 then I will do this to you: I will bring on you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and sap your strength. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it. 17 I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no one is pursuing you."***

- The law is a deterrent.

- On the other hand, it can be stated positively.
- Imagine a society in which people lived according to the 10 Commandments!

Deuteronomy 4:7-8 *What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him? 8 And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?*

- Unfortunately, no one lives up to God's Law.
- We all deserve punishment under the Law.

2. God's Law shows our need for a Savior.

Romans 7:7 *What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."*

Galatians 3:23-26 *Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. 24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.*

■ Gospel

- This leads to Calvin's "3rd and Principal Use of the Law."

3. God's Law tells us how to please the Lord.

John 14:15, 23-24 *"If you love me, keep my commands." ... 23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These*

words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”

- “I sin more than I want to.”
- Of course, His command is to love.
- But love does not abrogate or dismiss the Law. Instead,

4. Love fulfills God’s Law.

Galatians 5:14 ***For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”***

Romans 13:9-10 ***The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,”^[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.***

Matthew 22:37-40 ***Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”***

5. Law-fulfilling love is from God.

I John 4:7-8 ***Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.***

Romans 5:5 ***And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.***

Galatians 5:22-23 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.***

- Why be good?
- Because while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- Because God has poured His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
- Because the more people live according to God's law, the more they will live in peace, prosperity, joy and all good things.
- That is, the more people live according to God's law, the more we will enjoy the abundant life Christ promises.
- Why be good?
- Most of all because it pleases God.

Why Be Good?

John 14:15-24, Deuteronomy 4:1-8

November 5, 2017

1. God's Law restrains _____.

Leviticus 24:15-17 **15 Say to the Israelites: 'Anyone who curses their God will be held responsible; 16 anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord is to be put to death. The entire assembly must stone them. Whether foreigner or native-born, when they blaspheme the Name they are to be put to death. 17 "Anyone who takes the life of a human being is to be put to death.**

Leviticus 20:10 **"If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.**

[Cf. John 8:5 **In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"**]

Leviticus 26:14-17 (46) **"But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, 15 and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, 16 then I will do this to you: I will bring on you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and sap your strength. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it. 17 I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no one is pursuing you."**

Deuteronomy 4:7-8 **What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him? 8 And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?**

2. God's Law shows our need for a _____.

Romans 7:7 **What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."**

Galatians 3:23-26 **Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. 24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.**

3. God's Law tells us how to _____ the Lord.

John 14:15, 23-24 ***"If you love me, keep my commands." ... 23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."***

4. Love _____ God's Law.

Galatians 5:14 ***For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."***

Romans 13:9-10 ***The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet,"^[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.***

Matthew 22:37-40 ***Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."***

5. Law-fulfilling love is from _____.

I John 4:7-8 ***Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.***

Romans 5:5 ***And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.***

Galatians 5:22-23 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.***