

Heavenly Boundaries – Part 9 (final)

The Laws of Love

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Overview

This is the final and probably the most important topic of spiritual laws that we will cover in this series Heavenly Boundaries. This is Part 9, the Laws of God's Love.

Summary of Heavenly Boundaries:

- God created both physical and spiritual boundaries.
- His laws were designed to bring peace, harmony and justice to the human race.
- We operate in both the physical and spiritual realm.
- We have legal rights in both realms.
- We must understand these rights to protect ourselves against the illegal claims of Satan and his principalities.
- God's spoken Word causes things to happen in the spiritual realm and often in the physical realm.
- What we sow we reap.
- We have been given authority through Christ on earth and in heaven.
 - We have the ability to bind and loose on earth and in heaven.
- We have the keys to heaven
- Angels are highly intelligent, created spiritual beings that serve God and His church.

These laws were created to demonstrate God's love for the human race.

Read - **Galatians 5:22-23**

Galatians 5:22-23

22 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.

The Laws were put into place to lead us into a life of joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and faithfulness.

Most of all, **Love** is the key to the heavenly's.

Newspaper columnist and minister George Crane tells of a wife who came into his office full of hatred toward her husband. "I do not only want to get rid of him, I want to get even. Before I divorce him, I want to hurt him as much as he has me."

Dr. Crane suggested an ingenious plan "Go home and act as if you really love your husband. Tell him how much he means to you. Praise him for every decent trait. Go out of your way to be as kind, considerate, and generous as possible. Spare no efforts to please him, to enjoy him. Make him believe you love him. After you've convinced him of your undying love and that you cannot live without him, then drop the bomb. Tell him that your're getting a divorce. That will really hurt him." With revenge in her eyes, she smiled and exclaimed, "Beautiful, beautiful. Will he ever be surprised!" And she did it with enthusiasm. Acting "as if." For two months she showed love, kindness, listening, giving, reinforcing, sharing. When she didn't return, Crane called. "Are you ready now to go through with the divorce?"

"Divorce?" she exclaimed. "Never! I discovered I really do love him." Her actions had changed her feelings. Motion resulted in emotion. The ability to love is established not so much by fervent promise as often repeated deeds.

J. Allan Petersen.

Law #1 – God is Love

Read 1 John 4:8

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

What does it mean that God is Love?

If we look at other ways in which John has described God we can begin to understand what John means by this statement.

Look at 1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

John is obviously using a metaphor to describe an attribute of God.

The Greek Word used for light is **phōs**

Meaning: to shine or make manifest, especially by rays

The word phōs is often used as a metaphor which means:

a) God is light because light has an extremely delicate, subtle, pure, brilliant quality

What are metaphors used for the word darkness?

- Impure
- Evil
- Hidden
- Sin

When John says God is Love, he is describing one of God's attributes, just as he is doing with the word "Light".

In other words, God is the source of Love. He is the purest form of unconditional love.

There is none purer than God's love!

Genesis 1:26

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

When God created mankind in His image, one of the attributes of His image includes the attribute of love.

1(a) The desire to love and the need to be loved is ingrained in every human being.

Read Romans 5:5

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.

1 John 4:7

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1(B) Love Comes from GOD

Law #2 – God’s Love Never Ends

READ - Jeremiah 31:3

*The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying:
"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.*

God is love, and His love is not dependent on any of His creation.

(a) He is completely independent of his Creation.

His love is

- (a) Everlasting**
- (b) Is Unconditional (not earned or deserved)**
- (c) Does not change**

Malachi 3:6

6 "I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

Psalm 6:4

4 Turn, Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

Law #3 – Nothing can Separate us from God's Love

Read - Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

According to this statement that the Apostle Paul makes, absolutely nothing can separate you from God's unfailing love!

Those who know Jesus Christ have been washed white as snow. You have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and you can be secure of your salvation.

No matter what the devil tries to tell you, God LOVES YOU!

READ - Romans 5:8

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3 (a) Those who are in Jesus Christ can be sure that their salvation is irrevocable.

Law #4 – Love Fulfills the Requirement of God's Morale Law.

READ - Galatians 5:14

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

John 13:34

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

4(a) Jesus gave a new command, which is to love one another

1 John 4:7

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Romans 13:9 New International Version (NIV)

9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The Old Testament was a covenant given to Moses in the Ten Commandments.

The New Testament is a NEW Covenant given to all who place their faith in Christ. There is one basic command in this New Covenant – Love One Another!

In his book *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis wrote, "Do not waste your time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less."

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Law #5 – Love supersedes everything else**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

5(a) But the greatest of these is love!

Answers for Worksheet

(1) According to John 4:8, God is love

(a) The desire to love and the need to be loved is ingrained in every human being.

(B) Love Comes from GOD

(2) Law #2 – God’s Love Never Ends

(a) He is completely independent of his Creation.

His love is

(a) Everlasting

(b) Is Unconditional (not earned or deserved)

(c) Does not change

(3) Law #3 – Nothing can Separate us from God’s Love

(a) Those who are in Jesus Christ can be sure that their salvation is irrevocable.

(4) Law #4 – Love Fulfills the Requirement of God’s Morale Law.

(5) Law #5 – Love supersedes everything else

(a) But the greatest of these is love!