

The Patio Pulpit for Wednesday, June 17, 2020
The Ten Commandments Part 6?
Anarchy, Antinomianism and Legalism

I hate to complain about the weather, but, I will be glad when we have a more balanced atmosphere, a little more sun off-set by an occasional rainy day instead of this on-going rainyness and cloudiness. But whatever. I want to welcome all of you to our Wednesday evening Bible study, our Patio Pulpit where I'm actually on our patio. I am Pastor Johnny and I pastor Eastway Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

Our topic has been and still is one that I believe the Spirit put on my heart to address, having to do with the law, the law of Moses, the law of God, the ten commandments. I'm answering the questions that have to do with why the commandments or the law was given, to whom was it given, and what do the commandments have to do with Christians living in the 21st century?

It has turned out that this study is very timely since our nation is in a war with a small group of anarchists who have been getting lots of media coverage while they wreak havoc in several of our major cities. The fact that they feign lawlessness fits right in with our study of the law of God. We're going to see that Christianity has it's own anarchists called by a different name.

Several ideas have simultaneously come to mind this week while I have been studying for this episode of the Patio Pulpit with its emphasis on the law.

One is this. **Christian theology has a counterpart to this movement of anarchy, it is called "antinomianism."**

Antinomianism means the rejection of the place and purpose of the law of Moses altogether. It can devolve into an "anything goes" mentality. You no doubt have seen the squalor the anarchists are living in in Seattle. Spiritually speaking, it's like that for antinomians. This is a picture of antinomian squalor. ²⁸ *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,*

²⁹ *being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,*

³⁰ *slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*
³¹ *without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;*
³² *and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (Rom. 1:28-32 NAU)*

Anarchists, political or religious, know they're breaking the law. They like it when others come to join them. ³² *and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

And note this, beloved, Paul was writing about people who were influential in their day and had a detrimental impact on the body of Christ. They are nothing less than spiritual anarchists giving their approval and encouragement to other spiritual anarchists. What is so horrific about these people is they know they are doing something that deserves death and that the law says they will reap death and yet they're encouraging others to join them. "I'm going to hell. Won't you join me?"

That's what's so horrific about another group in the visible church we call "legalists."

Second, Antinomians and legalists are alike anathema.

Legalists are deceived into believing that they and everyone else in the church must keep the law of Moses if they want to be right with God. Antinomians reject the law of Moses. You should be seeing how the law of Moses can be interwoven in the visible church, some say keep it, some say it's worthless. But there is a balance and that's what the apostles saw.

Legalists say you must do good deeds if you want to enter the kingdom of God. You can earn brownie points with God by knocking on doors and telling people about your religion. You can help with the

up-keep of the grounds around the church buildings or serve in the kitchen. You earn points toward getting your ticket punched for heaven by coming to church for in-church training four times a week. You ladies must wear clothes that the church leaders say you're to wear and to wear your hair as they say it must be worn. And none of this has anything to do with true Christianity.

Do you remember what brought you to saving faith in Jesus? It was hearing the gospel. *Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the preaching of Christ, the gospel, the word."* Before the preacher gave an invitation to come to Jesus, he told you that you were a sinner who had broken God's laws, that you were dead in your trespasses and sins, that you were bound for eternal damnation, and that Jesus had died to pay for your sins. Maybe you heard it from an individual, but either way, you were convinced and convicted about Jesus dying for you.

You weren't told that you must first keep the ten commandments or do some kind of penance before you could be saved. You weren't told to clean your soul up if you want to be saved. You were told to simply come to Jesus.

All that talk about your sinfulness was the bad news that the law of Moses and the Spirit was given to accomplish in you. And that's the purpose of the law when it is presented in conjunction with the preaching of the gospel. It is the law first, then the gospel. It is the bad news, then the good news.

Third, **"The law has neither room nor right to pass judgment on anyone who is in Christ."** *Repeat.,

It's kinda like changing bosses at work. One day your boss is so-n-so, the next day it's so-n-so. Now your former boss has no authority over you anymore and can no longer tell you what to do.

²⁴ *Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.*

²⁵ *But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

(Gal. 3:24-25 NAU) Beloved, we are no longer under the authority of the law. The law cannot pass judgment on anyone who is in Christ. We are no longer under the jurisdiction of the law of Moses.

You're familiar with the Fifth Amendment because we have all heard people on tv and in movies plead the fifth. But did you know that it is in the Fifth Amendment that we have protection from being tried twice for the same charges? If you weren't found guilty in your first trial, say for murder, then you can't be tried a second time. It's the Double Jeopardy protection we have as citizens of the United States.

Did you know that in the court of God's law, we who are in Christ will never be charged a second time for our committing crimes against God? Since Jesus became sin for us in our place in God's court and He was charged as guilty in our place and paid for our sins, our sins will never be brought against us again? ⁶ *just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:*

⁷ *"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.*

⁸ *"BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT." (Rom. 4:6-8 NAU)*

"The law has neither room nor right to pass judgment on anyone who is in Christ."

Fourth, and I close with this, **"The body of Christ has no one tasked with enforcing the law of God on its members."** *Repeat.

How could it and why would it since we are not under the law but under grace?

Paul's life-message to the world is that God saves sinners by grace through faith in Jesus, not by keeping the law. ⁴ *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Rom. 10:4 NAU)*

In Jesus' name. Amen.