

THE WAY THINGS WORK

“The FRICTION of Obedience”

Q: Isn't the Christian life all about keeping the rules?

Romans 7:15-19; 22-24 (NLT)

*I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, **this shows that I agree that the law is good.** ¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. ¹⁸ And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway...*

*²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! **Who will free me** from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. **So, you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.***

Q: Isn't the Christian life all about keeping the rules?

**A: The Christian life is about following and experiencing Jesus in a supernatural way!
And the best way to experience that is to follow the guidelines God gave us!**

Q: Why did humans have to have the Law before a Savior?

Galatians 3:23-24 (NKJV)

*²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴ **Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.***

Q: Why did humans have to have the Law before a Savior?

A: The law is our tutor, showing us our need for a perfect Savior!

Romans 5:19-21 (NLT)

*¹⁹ Because **one person disobeyed** God, many became sinners. But because one **other person obeyed** God, many will be made righteous. ²⁰ **God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were.** But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. ²¹ So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Q: Then how do I best follow God's Commands in the Bible?

Romans 7:7-12 (NLT)

*⁷ Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, **it was the law that showed me my sin.** I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet." ⁸ But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. ⁹ At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, ¹⁰ and I died. **So, I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead.** ¹¹ Sin took advantage of those commands and*

deceived me; it used the commands to kill me. ¹² *But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.*

Q: Then how do I best follow God's Commands in the Bible?

A: Don't "DO TO BE", but "BE TO DO"!