

# The Law of Love Book Bible Study - Leader's Guide



A leader's guide to the 'Going Deeper' Bible Study questions of the book *The Law of Love*, by Timothy A. Baylor

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## **Introduction**

The book *The Law of Love* was written to tell fellow believers in Jesus the understanding the Lord had given me. I spent many years as a believer confused about how God really intends for a Christian to live. Like many believers today I believed that God required some sort of sacrifice of good deeds or penance in order to be good enough to be saved by Jesus. Consequently, for a time, I lived by a law that was made from the fertilizer of my own imagination. It was an amalgam of the Law of Moses in the Ten Commandments, the religious rules I had been raised by, and a burgeoning grace that was in me when I gave my life to Jesus. I knew in my mind I lived under grace but it never seemed to affect many around me so I remained largely unaffected by it as well. Consequently, like many believers now and the people of Israel during the time of the Judges, I did what was right in my own eyes but I was never convinced that the way I was living was really the way God wanted me to live. Then in 2003 the Lord opened my eyes to what scripture clearly says about the way Jesus intends for his disciples to live.

Hebrews 7:12, “For when there is a change of the priesthood there must also be a change of the law.” Believers in Jesus are not to follow the Law of Moses because that law is associated with the Levitical Priesthood. Jesus, our High Priest, is from a different priesthood; the order of Melchizedek. Therefore, believers in Jesus are to live by the law associated with the priesthood of their High Priest, Jesus. Not the law of someone else’s priesthood. This book answers the questions:

1. What law was associated with the Priesthood of Melchizedek?
2. Does scripture tell us what this other law of God is?

Like Jesus himself, this other law of God associated with his Priesthood, goes by several names but I call it the Law of Love.

In each chapter of the book I try to bring the reader along the same journey the Lord led me when I was trying to grasp the meaning, history, importance, and substance of this other law. At the end of each chapter I ask questions to draw out this understanding for the reader. This is the Bible Study Leader’s Guide for those believers who wish to be like the Bereans and study the scriptures to determine for themselves the truth of *The Law of Love*.

The questions in this Leaders Guide are the same questions found in the book in the – ‘Going Deeper’ section that follows each chapter; the bulleted questions are designed to fully vet the numbered questions; and most questions have scriptural references.

Copies of the book *The Law of Love*, this Bible Study Leader’s Guide, and other Bible studies and curriculums can be obtained at [www.lawoflove.org](http://www.lawoflove.org).

## **A New Priesthood Means a New Law**

1. What was new about Jesus command to love one another when 1 John 2:7 and 1 John 3:11 say that to love one another is not a new command but an old one that we have heard from the beginning?
2. Why did Jesus give the disciples a new law?
3. Why did not Jesus become a priest under the Mosaic Law? Hebrews 7:13  
Jesus was from the tribe of Judah. Only Levites could be priests according to the Law of Moses.
4. Where did the priesthood of Melchizedek come from?
  - How did Jesus become a priest in the order of Melchizedek? Hebrews 7:20
  - When did Jesus become a high priest? Hebrews 5:4-10
  - Who was Melchizedek? Hebrews 7:1-10
5. What is a priest?  
A priest is a judge of a legal system that includes regulations pertaining men's relationship to God. If the law is completely secular they are a judge not a priest.
  - What is a priest's function and purpose?
  - Do we have priests today?
6. Who was greater - Melchizedek or Abraham? How do we know? Hebrews 7:4-7
7. Which is greater - the priesthood of Levi or the priesthood of Melchizedek? Hebrews 7:8
  - Which priesthood existed first? Genesis 14, Hebrews 7:1
  - Which is greater - the Law of Moses or the law of love?
  - Which is the law of the priesthood of Melchizedek?
  - Which law came first? 1 John 2:7; 3:11

## **The Anger of the Lord**

1. What happened to Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu? Leviticus 10
2. What did the Lord tell Eleazar and Ithamar about their hair and their clothes?  
Leviticus 10:6
  - Why would the Lord care about the hair and clothes of His priest?
3. Did Jesus really say he was the son of God? Matthew 26:63; Mark 14:61-64
  - Do you believe that Jesus was God, who met Abraham, and told Moses his name was "I Am?" John 8:54-58
  - Did Jesus exist before he was born in Bethlehem? John 1:1
  - If Jesus did exist before his birth in Bethlehem, what names did he go by in the Old Testament? Exodus 3:2; Numbers 3:16
4. Do you think Caiaphas tearing his robes was his last act as High Priest according to God?
  - Do you think God considered Caiaphas dead?
  - Do you believe that the other priests hitting and punching Jesus qualified as "laying hands" on the sacrifice before Jesus was killed?
5. Who incited King David to take a census of Israel? 1 Samuel 24; 2 Chronicles 21

There is great insight to be gained about the hierarchy and relationship between Satan and God in discussing and reconciling verse 1 of the two Biblical accounts of the Census of David. Also look at the book of Job for insight between God and Satan. The relationship between God and Satan is essentially this: Satan must act within the boundaries God sets for him. He cannot go beyond what God says.

  - Did God blame King David for taking the census?
  - Who blamed King David? (David blamed himself)
  - Did the Lord accept the sacrifice from King David?
  - Was King David a priest?
  - Did King David break the Law of Moses when he sacrificed to the Lord?  
Deuteronomy 12:13
  - Did King David sin when he sacrificed to the Lord?
  - If it was sin, would God have accepted King David's sacrifice?
  - Why did King Saul loose the kingdom to David? 1 Samuel 15:13-31
6. If the King of Israel can anger the Lord against the people, can the High Priest of Israel anger the Lord against the people?
  - What do the robes of the High Priest signify? Galatians 3:27

## **From Priest to High Priest**

1. When was Jesus designated a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek?
  - When was Jesus designated, by God the Father, to be High Priest in the order of Melchizedek? Hebrews 5:10
  - What is meant by “once made perfect” in Hebrews 5:7-10?  
This verse does not imply that there was ever a time when Jesus was deficient. “Once made perfect” refers to a matter of timing like aging wine, or a child coming of age.
1. How do we know that Jesus was accepted by God the Father as both high priest and sin offering by the time the temple curtain was torn in two? Matthew 27:51  
If Jesus as high priest and the sin offering of his body were not acceptable to God; both high priest and offering would have been rejected; and the temple curtain would have remained intact to continue to bar the way to the Most Holy Place and God the Father.
2. How could Jesus make the sacrifice while his body was still on the cross? Hebrews 9:24  
Jesus made his sacrifice in the tabernacle of heaven.
3. What is a covenant?
  - What is the old covenant? God's promises that came with the Law of Moses.
  - What is the new covenant? God's promises that came with the Law of Love.
  - What are the differences between the two?
  - What law was associated with the old covenant?
  - What law was associated with the new covenant?
  - What was wrong with the old law? It is not based on faith, love, or relationship. Hebrews 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” The Apostle Paul was able to live blamelessly according to the Law of Moses while still being the worst sinner. Philippians 3:3-6; 1 Timothy 1:15
  - Why is the Law of Love better than the Law of Moses?  
There is peace with God, forgiveness, and grace when living by the Law of Love.

## **Love Is the Fulfillment of the Law**

1. What law is fulfilled by love? Romans 13:8; Galatians 6:2

Both the Law of Moses and the Law of Love are fulfilled by love.

2. What does Jesus mean when he said “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” and that “until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”?

Jesus fulfilled the Law of Moses by the loving sacrifice of himself on the cross for the payment of our sins. Since death was the requirement for sin. God the Father places those who believe in Jesus and are no longer bound to the law since they died. However, God then gives the new believer the Holy Spirit and places in them a new and sinless life. This new life in Christ is called to live by the Law of Christ which is the Law of Love. Since the Law of Moses has been fulfilled for those in Jesus it was set aside so the new life can live by the new and living way of the Holy Spirit. The Law of Moses is still in effect for those that are not in Jesus and they will be judged by it.

- Was the Law of Moses fulfilled? If so, how?
- Can you fulfill the Law of Moses by perfect obedience to it?

No. The Law is fulfilled when its purpose is fulfilled. The Purpose of the Law of Moses is to drive us to Jesus so that we may put our faith in him. When we love Jesus the purpose for the Law of Moses has been accomplished. From that point on we are to live by faith in loving relationship with God and man.

3. Once the Law of Moses is fulfilled, what happens to it? Hebrews 7:18

4. Can anyone be justified by the Law of Moses? Galatians 3:11

- What is the status of those who rely on observing the Law of Moses for their salvation? Galatians 3:10

5. If you are in Christ and are no longer under the Law of Moses, what guiding principles are you to live by? John 15:10

## **The Way of Love**

### 1. What is the way of love? 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

- What is love?
- Who is love?  
God the Father
- What is faith? Hebrews 11:1
- Who personifies faith?  
Jesus Christ
- What is hope?
- Who personifies hope?  
Holy Spirit
- In what ways is God's definition of these words different than the world's definition?

In scripture God personifies many of the most meaningful words of our faith. Wisdom is personified by Solomon, Humility – Moses, physical strength – Sampson... Using this precept I considered the phrase 'God is love.' After reading 1 Corinthians 13 I wondered if scripture might also have personifications of the words faith and hope. In my study I discovered that many New Testament passages relating to faith speak of Jesus and most New Testament passages relating to hope speak of the Holy Spirit. This is not an exhaustive or definitive study but it was enough for me to extrapolate these personifications. Many time scripture just means hope or faith as we understand them or references both faith and hope in the same passage. Perhaps I just see patters where none exist. However, with the personifications in mind it brings new depth to some very familiar passages: Hebrews 11:6, 1 Peter 3:15; Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 3:12; Galatians 5:5; Ephesians 2:12; Ephesians 4:4-5; Colossians 1:27...

Can you find other passages that suggest the Jesus – faith and Holy Spirit – hope personifications?

## **In Your Own Law...**

### 1. Did Jesus ever deny that he worked on the Sabbath?

- How did Jesus respond when charged with working on the Sabbath? Matthew 12:3-12; John 7:22-23
- Did Jesus confirm that he did indeed work on the Sabbath? John 5:17-18
- If Jesus worked on the Sabbath did he break the Law of Moses?
- If Jesus broke the Law of Moses did he sin?
- How is it that Jesus did not sin, if he broke the Law of Moses, by working on the Sabbath?  
**It is not sin to do what God tells you to do no matter what law you transgress.**
- Was Jesus ever under the Mosaic Law? Galatians 4:4-5  
**Jesus was born under the Law of Moses.**
- If so, when did he change to living by the Law of Love?  
**We can't be sure. However, he was clearly living by the Law of Love by the time he started his ministry with his sermon on the mount.**
- Did Jesus work on the Sabbath?

### 2. Did God really tell his people to break the Law of Moses in obedience to his direct command? Abraham, David, Ezekiel, Hosea, Peter, etc... Were their actions sinful because they broke the Law of Moses? Joshua 2; Ezekiel 4:12; Acts 10:12-48; Genesis 22:2; 2 Samuel 24:18-19; 1 Chronicles 21:18; Leviticus 17:8-9

### 3. What was the purpose of the Law of Moses? Galatians 3:19-29

- What was our status under the old law?
- When was the Law of Moses still in effect?
- When was the old law set aside?

## **The Sermon on the Mount**

1. List some similarities between Jesus and Moses?
2. Since the Sermon on the Mount was the first time Jesus taught the people, do you think that what he said to them would be significant?
3. Did Jesus say anything that was surprising to the Jews? If so, what?
  - What do you think the Jews were expecting to hear?
4. Why did Jesus say to leave your gift at the altar and be reconciled with your brother?
  - What does your relationship to God have to do with your relationship to your brother?
5. Why did Jesus consider it adultery to look lustfully at a woman?
6. Why did Jesus say we should not make oaths?
  - How might oaths be considered evil?
7. Why would Jesus not want us to resist an evil person?
  - Is there a time to resist an evil person?
8. Why does Jesus want us to love our enemies?
  - How does loving our enemies make us sons of God?
  - What does loving your enemies have to do with being perfect like your Heavenly Father?

## **James – Epistle of Straw?**

1. Is “faith alone” in Jesus enough to be saved, or must you also do the works required by the Law of Moses?
2. Do you think James is telling us to live by the royal law or the Law of Moses?
3. If James was telling us to live by the royal law, how could Christians have gotten this so wrong for so long?
4. What is the difference between works required by the Law of Moses and works required by the Law of Love?
5. What is the difference between a life lived by the royal law under grace and a life lived by the Law of Moses without grace?
6. What does faith expressing itself through love look like?
7. Why is the Holy Spirit given to people when they believe and not when they try to please God by obeying the Law of Moses?
8. Do you need the Holy Spirit if you are living by the Law of Moses?
9. Do you need the Holy Spirit if you are living by the Law of Love?

## **As Good as Dead, Figuratively Speaking**

1. How is it that we are freed from the Law of Moses and are able to live by the Law of Love? Romans 7:1-3
  - How is it that we can be freed from the Law of Moses in this life, before we actually die? Romans 8:10-11; Romans 6:3-11; Romans 7:4-11; Galatians 2:19
  - What does “born again” mean? Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5
2. Did any other people in the Bible die “figuratively”? Hebrews 11:19; Genesis 42:38; Genesis 46:30; Luke 15:24; Genesis 20:3
  - Just because you die “figuratively,” does that mean you are “born again”?
  - When are you “born again”?

## **A Royal Priesthood**

1. What does a person's life look like when living by the law of Love? Galatians 5:6
  - Who was our example?
2. Do you believe that it was significant that both Melchizedek and Jesus served bread and wine?
  - Do you think that the bread and wine were the sacrament of the priesthood of Melchizedek?
  - Is the bread and wine served in the last-supper a sacrament?
  - What is a sacrament?
  - Should communion be taken seriously, even under grace? 1 Corinthians 20:31
3. What does "We are a New Creation" mean?
4. What is the message of our ministry under the new covenant? 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
5. What is the 'royal priesthood'?
  - What does it mean to be a priest of God?
  - When will we serve as priests? 1 Peter 2:5-10; Revelation 1:6
6. Do we have the Holy Spirit? Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:14
  - If so, when did we receive the Holy Spirit?

## **Sons of God**

1. What does it mean to have the Holy Spirit? Romans 8:9  
The Holy Spirit lives in you.
2. What does it mean to be the son of God?
  - Are we really sons of God? Romans 8:14
  - How should sons of God live?  
If you are led by the Spirit of God you are the sons of God
3. If we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, what is our inheritance?
  - What is our inheritance as sons of God? Romans 8:17
4. What does it mean to have the fullness of God the Father dwell within us?  
Ephesians 3:19

## **Why Is the Law of Love Important?**

1. On what is your focus if you live by the Law of Moses?  
You look to the Law for direction.
  - On what is your focus if you live by the Spirit?  
You look to God in the person of the Holy Spirit for direction. Relationship based living.
  - What are the differences in these two lifestyles?
2. What does this verse mean? “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”
3. How can the Law of Moses ruin your faith?  
The Law of Moses is designed to drive a sinner to Jesus where they can be saved by faith. However, if they refuse to believe the Law of Moses will condemn them.
4. What does Paul mean when he said, “I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some?” 1 Corinthians 9:18-23
5. It is clear from Paul’s comment in 1 Corinthians 9 that he was free and belonged to no man. Why would he immediately make himself a slave to Jesus and the Gospel?
  - If you are a slave to Jesus, is it really slavery? Explain your answer.
  - If you are a slave to the person you love the most, is it really slavery? Explain your answer.

## **Go and Do Likewise**

1. Do you believe that those who are in Christ Jesus, you are no longer under the Law of Moses?
  - What does it mean to be a new creation?
  - What happened to the old sinful self?
2. What is the new covenant?
  - Do you believe the Law of Love is the law associated with the new covenant and the Priesthood of Christ and of Melchizedek? If not what law is?
  - Do you believe followers of Jesus are priests in the Order of Melchizedek?
3. What does it mean to you to be able to approach the throne of Grace to make your petitions known to God the Father?
4. How do we know we have been adopted as children of God?  
**We have been given the Holy Spirit. The sons of God are led by the Spirit of God.**
5. Does the New Testament really tell us to live by the Spirit as you act on your faith in love?
6. Do you believe that why you do what you do is the difference between religion and true faith?
  - What difference does it make if you are doing many of the same things?
  - What should be the motivation of a true believer when they pray?  
**To hear from the Holy Spirit**
  - What should be the motivation of a true believer when they read the Bible?  
**To hear from the Holy Spirit**
7. When Jesus said “If you love me, you will obey what I commands?”  
**He was referring to his commands directly to you through the Holy Spirit; not just his words that are written in the Bible.**
8. If you live a life controlled by your loving relationships with God and man will you be under grace?
  - What does it mean to live under grace?
9. What is the over-riding principle of living by the Law of Love?  
**Live in loving relationships with God and man.**