

Skeptics Guide to the Universe

Week Two: Rules



One of the questions people often ask is, “What about the rules in the Old Testament?” They want to know which rules we still have to obey and which are outdated. Bottom line: What will get you drowned in the flood? Jesus taught us that it wasn’t the letter of the law that was most important; it was the heart behind the law. In this study, we will examine the shift from Old Testament Law to New Testament Grace and how we can not only know we won’t be drowned, but also know how to keep in step with God every day. **Begin by reading Genesis 6:9.**

What Do You Think?

- In the message, we saw that some people like to get right up to the edge of sin and some choose to stay far away. What is your relationship like with rules? Are you a rule-follower, or do you live by the motto “rules are meant to be broken”? Why?
- What is your experience with rules? Are they a “necessary evil”? Why do you think they exist?

What Does God Say?

- Read Galatians 3:19-23.** If righteousness in the Old Testament did not come by keeping the rules, why was the law necessary? What did it mean to be “held captive” by the law?

“Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.”

Galatians 3:25-26 (NLT)

- Read Galatians 3:24-29 and Romans 10:1-4.** There is a clear shift here from rules to relationships. Does this mean that rules are now unnecessary? Why or why not?



- Although he was under the law, Noah became an “heir of the promise” by faith, not by his obedience to the law (Hebrews 11:7). **Read Galatians 3:13-14.** What must we have faith in, and what is the promise we can receive?

“And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:24-25 (ESV)

- **Read John 14:26 and Galatians 5:1,13-25.** As we discussed in the weekend message, Jesus said that He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. How do the sacrifice of Jesus and the sending of the Holy Spirit fulfill the law and help us “walk with God” like Noah?

What Will You Do?

- The Bible does define what is sin, and that God’s desire for our life is holiness. However, our relationship with God is not based on our pursuit of holiness; our pursuit of holiness is based on our relationship with God. How does your daily commitment to your relationship with God help you keep in step with the Spirit and pursue holiness?
- Is there an area of your life where you tend to flirt with the edge of the cliff? Maybe you have been keeping the letter of the law but ignoring the spirit of the law. Is there something this group can do to help pull you back towards Christ? (Is it prayer, research, accountability, etc.?)

