

**The Righteous Requirement  
Of The Law  
4146**

**I. Foundation**

- A. Righteousness is not achieved by keeping the law (Rom. 3:20–21)
  - 1. You are either under law *or* grace, not both (Rom. 6:14)
  - 2. Christ put an end to the law for all who believe (Rom. 10:4)
- B. God chooses the middle road which is not legalism nor antinomianism
- C. We are not free to practice lawlessness
  - 1. Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4)
  - 2. More people are deceived by legalism
  - 3. Embrace the cross and renounce self-will (Matt. 7:21–23)

**II. What Should Be The Place Of Law?**

- A. *Grace* received through being made *righteous by faith* will enable us to keep those *laws* which are appropriate
  - 1. Secular government—unless directly contrary to God (1 Peter 2:13–14, et al)
  - 2. Any social group to which we are committed:
    - a. Family
    - b. Church
    - c. Place of work, etc.
  - 3. In family or church, laws should be:
    - a. Simple
    - b. Practical
    - c. In harmony with Scripture
    - d. Open to modification where necessary
  - 4. God’s Word: being obedient to the Word of God
- B. What is the *righteous requirement*?
  - 1. God has set aside the law so we can fulfill the righteous requirement (Rom. 8:3–4; Rev. 19:8)
  - 2. The righteous requirement of the law is *love*
    - a. The law was meant to produce love for God and neighbors (Matt. 22:35–40)
    - b. Our *goal* is *love* (1 Tim. 1:5–7)
    - c. *Love* is the fulfillment of the law (Rom. 13:8–10)
    - d. When in doubt, *serve* (Gal. 5:13–14)
- C. Love only comes through *faith*
  - 1. Supernaturally, through the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:6)
  - 2. The love of *God* was poured . . . (Rom. 5:5)
- D. Love supplies a double motivation
  - 1. Obedience to the Lord (John 14:15, 23–24 [contrast 1 John 4:18 NKJ])
  - 2. Right conduct toward men (Rom. 13:10)
- E. New Testament law is progressive
  - 1. Increase in love *and* discernment (Phil. 1:9–11)
  - 2. With the law you must keep it all, *all the time* (James 2:10–11)
- F. Look to the *Spirit*, not the *system*

**G.** *Faith* is counted to us as righteousness:

1. Even as we stumble, fall, make mistakes—as long as we hold on to our faith
2. Stop working, *but* believe on *Him* (Rom. 4:4–5)
3. Jesus prayed that Peter's *faith* might not fail (Luke 22:31–34)

### **III. Application**

**A.** Maintain and build up your faith

Check that your faith is biblical, a channel for God's love

**B.** Work out your love by serving

**C.** Learn the way love applies to every situation

1. Through prayer
2. Through Bible study