

Hidden Spiritual Law

Law affects each one of us, be it civil, moral, scientific – or spiritual!

We all live under 'law'. From a secular point of view, 'law' is a system of rules usually enforced through a set of institutions. For example, Criminal Law pertains to crimes and punishment, Civil Law (based on Roman Law and Corpus Juris) deals with the private relations between members of a community, and Common Law (as in England and America) is the legal system where decisions by judges in courts are explicitly acknowledged to be legal sources.

Then we have the scientific laws of mathematics, physics and chemistry which determine the functioning of everything from the atom to galaxies!

Lastly, we have the concept of 'moral law' which might be defined as a set of rules of behaviour that an individual or a group may follow out of personal conscience; sadly, such rules are not necessarily part of legislated law.

So our lives are governed by sets of rules, most of which are unseen until we 'rub up against them'.

Christians argue that all such law originates from the God of the Bible; He set out basic rules governing right and wrong in the Ten Commandments (moral law), and gave man many basic civil laws for the good of society in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Jesus underscored the importance of such law (Mat 5.17) and showed His followers how they can fulfil it (Mat 22.37-40):

"You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour ... on these two commandments hang all the Law"

Christians also maintain that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things visible and invisible and that man observes God's underlying design through his scientific laws.

1. The Effect of Law

When we unintentionally *obey* a law (be it criminal, civil, common, scientific or moral), then we are largely unaware of the law. But when we deliberately break a law there are serious consequences:

- Stealing can land us in prison (Criminal Law)
- Placing a lighted match over a can of petrol can blow us up! (Scientific Law)

So the operation of a law for an individual might be stated as follows:

"If you do action A then action B will follow"

If action 'A' conflicts with the law then action 'B' will be some form of reprimand. Conversely, if action 'A' is good, then action 'B' will also be good. For example, if we keep our car speed below the legal limit of 70 mph, then there will be a significant fuel saving.

2. God's Hidden Spiritual Law

Besides the well-known forms of law e.g. criminal, civil, common, scientific or moral, there is yet another law, *God's Spiritual Law* (Mat 5.17). Like other laws it is usually hidden until we 'rub up against it'.

Spiritual Law is tightly linked to *truth*; it is the mysterious (or hidden) law of the Kingdom of Heaven and stems from the only source of real truth, Jesus Christ. Jesus said to His disciples:

"It has been given to you to know the mysteries (hidden truths) of the kingdom of heaven, but to them (unbelievers) it has not been given." (Mat 13.11)

Here, Jesus is saying that, since truth is spiritually revealed (Jn 16.13,14), then God's Spiritual Law is unlikely to be appreciated and understood by unbelievers. And even Christians are unaware of many aspects of it. Nevertheless, this law affects everyone and every nation and is inescapable. Let's examine the two main aspects of this law, bearing in mind the logic concept 'if A - then B'.

The Spiritual Law of Bad Actions

- Nations or individuals that curse Israel – will be cursed (Gen 12.3)
- National disobedience - brings disgrace and curses upon a nation (Deut 11.26,28; 28.15)(Prov 14.34)
- Persistent national unfaithfulness – brings famine upon the land (Ezek 14.13)
- Rebellious cities - will be judged by God (Lk 10.12-16)
- A divided nation, city or house - will not stand or prosper (Mat 12.25)(Mk 3.24,25)
- If we have unforgiveness in our heart, - God will not forgive us (Mk 11.25,26)
- Commit sin – and it will find us out (Num 32.23)
- God is not mocked: sow the wind - and reap the whirlwind (Gal 6.7)(Hos 8.7)
- Grief and a broken spirit - have a detrimental effect upon the body (Ps 31. 9,10)(Prov 17.22)
- Speak idle (useless, unhelpful) words - and we will have to account for them (Mat 12.36,37)
- Draw children away from God and His Law – and we will be judged for doing so (Mat 18.6)
- Blaspheme against the Holy Spirit - and we will not be forgiven (Lk 12.10)
- Deny Christ before men - and we will be denied before the angels of heaven (Lk 12.9)
- Whoever exalts himself - will be humbled (Lk 14.11)
- Live a self-centred life - and we will lose it (Mat 16.25)

The Spiritual Law of Good Actions

- Nations or individuals that bless Israel – will be blessed (Gen 12.3)
- National obedience - brings God's blessings upon a nation (Deut 11.26,27; 28.2)(Prov 14.34)
- National repentance - can stay God's hand of judgement (Jer 18.8)(2 Chron 7.14)
- Obedient cities - will be blessed by God (Deut 28.3)
- Confess our sin - and God will forgive us (1 Jn 1.9)
- If we are merciful - we will receive mercy (Mat 5.7)
- Have faith - move mountains (Mat 17.20)
- Follow Christ and seek God's kingdom - and God will supply our need (Lk 12.31)(Phil 4.19)(Mat 6.33)
- Follow Christ - and all things in our life will work together for our good (Rom 8.28)
- Do good and lend to others - and our reward will be great (Lk 6.35)
- Give - and it will be given back to us in good measure (Lk 6.38)
- Give up things or relationships for Christ's sake - and receive a hundred-fold in return (Mat 20.29)
- Do a charitable deed in secret - and we will be rewarded openly (Mat 6.4)
- A good spirit, wisdom and a merry heart - is like medicine to our body (Prov 17.22, 18.14)(Prov 4.22)
- Trusting in God - renews our bodily strength and energy (Isa 40.31)
- Get wisdom - and wisdom will promote us and bring us honour (Prov 4.5-9)
- Be diligent, work hard and give to the poor - and we will have blessings and plenty (Prov 21.5, 28.27)
- Trust totally in God at all times - and He will keep us in perfect peace (Isa 26.3)
- Tell God our plans and trust Him – and He will bring them to pass (Ps 37.5)
- Make God our refuge - and His angels will protect and guide us (Ps 92.9-13)
- Live a Christ-centred life - and we will find it (Mat 16.25)