

Divine Law

What is it?

Deuteronomy 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

p.335 "The law of God is the teaching given by God which prescribes what we are to be and what we are to do and no do, requiring perfect obedience toward God and pronouncing that God is angry and punishes with eternal death those who do not present perfect obedience" (Loci Theologici, Chemnitz).

What does it require?

Leviticus 19:2 Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy.

What does it pronounce?

James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

Deuteronomy 27:26, "'Cursed *is* the one who does not confirm *all* the words of this law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' "

Romans 4:15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law *there is* no transgression.

(The Divine Law includes promises and threats.)

How does it differ from Natural Law?

(Human Law, Philosophy, ethics, reason, government)

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Natural Law

What is it?

Romans 2:14-16 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

p.434 "Therefore the correct definition of the law of nature is this: The law of nature is the knowledge of the divine law which has been grafted into the nature of man." (Loci Theologici, Chemnitz).

What does it require?

Matthew 7:11-12 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!¹² Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

What does it pronounce?

Romans 1:18-21 For **the wrath of God is revealed from heaven** against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:32 who, knowing **the righteous judgment of God**, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Creation

Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God.

Romans 1:20-21 (above)

Psalms 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

(Natural Law includes promises and threats.)

Creation Genesis 1-2

The Fall into Sin Genesis 3

Cain Murders Abel Genesis 4

Genesis 9:5-7 Surely for your lifeblood I will demand *a reckoning*; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. ⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. ⁷ And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

Exodus 20:13 You shall not murder.

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.*' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Galatians 3:19-25, "What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator does not *mediate* for one *only*, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. ²² **But the Scripture has confined all under sin**, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 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. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

The Divine light is known

Romans 1 and 2

Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God

Romans 1:18-21 **the truth in unrighteousness,**

Romans 1:19 because what may be known of God **is manifest in them**, for God has shown *it* to them.

Romans 2:15 **the work of the law written in their hearts,**

Romans 2:14-16 **by nature do the things in the law,**

And yet Suppressed

Romans 1:18-21 ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

Romans 1:32 who, knowing **the righteous judgment of God**, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Jeremiah 2:10-11 For pass beyond the coasts of Cyprus and see, Send to Kedar and consider diligently, And see if there has been such *a thing*. ¹¹Has a nation changed *its* gods, Which *are* not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For *what* does not profit.

Matthew 7:12 ¹²**Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.**

Acts 14:15-17 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, ¹⁶who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Acts 17:26-28 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Galatians 4:8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

2 Thessalonians 2:11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

John 16:2 **They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.**

Rom 14:1ff

Romans 1-2

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it **the righteousness of God** is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” {*Habakkuk 2:4*}

18 For **the wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice

such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Chapter 2

1Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. 3And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 5But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: 7eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, 9tribulation and anguish, **on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek**; 10but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11For there is no partiality with God.

12For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law 13(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; 14for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, 15who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) 16in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.