



# ***America: land of the law?***

***Truth about freedom and the law***

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Patriotic anthems declare America to be the “land of the free and home of the brave.” Indeed, the United States is the sweet land of liberty which guarantees religious and political freedom. These freedoms are protected from abuse through various legislation. Congress passes and revises thousands of laws each year. Each state, county, and city has their own rules which govern everything from taxes to parking. Violation of such laws results in fines, jail time and even capital punishment. Some have speculated that America has more laws in place than any other country in the world. Isn't it strange that the land of the free is in reality the land of the law?

The law could be viewed as a binding list of do's and don'ts. The law could also be accepted as a fence that regulates behavior. That same stop light that irritates the morning drive to work actually stops wrecks from occurring throughout the day. Truth be told, the law is not for the criminal but for the free person. The law protects from abuse or anarchy by ensuring an orderly society. In these ways, the laws of the United States are much like the Laws of the Bible. The Mosaic Law teaches the believer how to serve and worship the Creator (Psalm 19:7-9, Acts 13:13-15.) The Law, or “torah” in Hebrew, also gives instructions on how to treat one another (Leviticus 19:18, Galatians 6:2.) The Torah of Moses is a school master that defines sin and leads a person to the Messiah (Romans 7:7,

Galatians 3:21-2.) The Law is the viable standard of the Almighty's will. "So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good," Romans 7:12.

Consider the Bible to be a type of constitution for the saints. It is a law of liberty that leads to freedom and blessing. The founding father's Bill of Rights and the Torah are still in affect today. There are over 613 commandments in the first five books of Moses and over 1,100 commands in the four Gospels. Many verses are specifically given to only certain groups of people or individuals for that very moment. For example, Leviticus 15 reads that women are to separate themselves during their menstrual cycle. Some of the controversial commandments, like stoning a person or sacrificing animals, are regulated in the Scripture to only occur "in the Land" of Israel or only when the Temple is functioning. For each command of the Law there are spiritual insights and practical applications.

It isn't legalism when a person obeys the law, it's righteousness! The Law should be followed through heart-felt devotion. The Savior said, "If you love me then keep my commandments," John 14:15. Here, the Messiah is referencing the commandments found in the Old Testament. Not a single word in the US Constitution or the Bible has become outdated or unimportant.

"It is sometimes taught that no one can keep the Law of Moses because it is too difficult. The Bible says otherwise (Deuteronomy 30:11-14). To say that we cannot keep Torah diminishes both the truth and the potential of the new life planted within us. Christians have been given a job to do! Christians are to display His majesty, holiness, righteousness, mercy, and goodness. We are commanded to be holy, to be set apart for God. This means being faithful to His instructions on how to be holy. We can do it through faith in His Son, our Savior, and the life that He now lives in us," wrote Bible teacher Boaz Michael.