



August 17, 2025

Grace: A Most Precious and Loving Gift from God *God's Law and Grace*

*"Divine help comes to him in Christ through the **law that guides him and the grace that sustains him.**" ¹*

1.) God created the heavens and the earth,² to be governed by laws. For example, the Laws of Nature dictate when plants and trees will shed their leaves and bloom, and when the seasons will change. Man was created with laws that govern their actions as individuals and nations. In humanity's fallen condition, the original justice and harmony between men, women, and God have been darkened and made unreachable. Men and women are in dire need of God's help and guidance. The Lord God has intervened to redirect humanity's heart, mind, and soul, to re-establish original justice (*law*) and beatitude (*holiness*).

2.) Divine intervention and guidance come in the form of "**Law**" and "**Grace**". Most often, the word "**Law**" is understood primarily as a set of rules, a list of things we can or cannot do. Our lives are governed by State, Federal, and local laws and regulations, for better or for worse. What is meant by God's Law? How does God's Law relate to civil laws? How does God's Law relate to grace and the Christian life?

What is Moral Law?

4.) Moral or morals comes from the Latin word "*moralis*", related to conduct or behavior. Moral law "*prescribes for man the ways, the rules of conduct that lead to the promised beatitude; it proscribes the ways of evil which turn him away from God and his love.*" ³ Moral law or God's law is superior to all laws, civil or otherwise, because Divine Wisdom and Divine Justice establish them. The Law of God primarily serves to reconcile man to God, then people and nations. Matthew's gospel quotes Our Lord as saying, "*I came not to abolish, but to fulfill the law.*" ⁴ This moral law is what has been

¹ CCC #1949

² Gen 1:1-2

³ CCC #1950

⁴ Matthew 5:17

completed with and in Jesus Christ. The Father's most perfect instruction is the person of Jesus Christ. *"For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified."*⁵ Jesus Christ, our Divine Teacher, was sent to teach and show us the way to the Father and eternal life.

5.) Without God's laws, we would be lost, unable to discern the true good according to the Father. His fatherly guidance or pedagogy is the light that guides us through the darkness. Instead of leaving humanity to fend for itself, our loving God has taught and guided us in the ways of righteousness, showing us the path to eternity with Him.

How does Civil Law relate to Moral Law?

6.) Moral Law (God's law or eternal law) is always superior to the laws of governments. Ranked from the most supreme to the least, eternal, natural, and revealed law outranks civil and ecclesial law.⁶ God's moral law is unchangeable and definitive and originates from His divine justice and wisdom. The goodness and truthfulness of civil, federal, and ecclesial law are measured against the Supreme Law of God. As citizens, we are bound by the laws of our state and nation. Christian disciples must reject any law that contradicts the revealed Law of God.

Conclusion

7.) The Law of God is His providential care of man and creation. Living according to His moral law entails humble and faithful acceptance of God's providential and loving gift. God's laws are demanding and at times precise. They are this way to give man a firm foundation on which to stand and, with God's grace, live and maintain a life of sanctity. The body is the Temple or Dwelling of the Holy Spirit⁷ His moral laws are the building blocks.

What is meant by "Natural Moral Law?" It sounds like a "theological word salad", but it's not as bad as it sounds. See the Bulletin, Sunday, Aug 24th.

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⁵ CCC #1353, Rom 10:4

⁶ CCC #1952

⁷ 1 Cor 6:19