

Working definition of the law:

The law is the rule of life given to man by God, the only Lawgiver, to govern the disposition of his heart, thoughts, words, and conduct thereby.
(The Christian's Reasonable Service, by Wilhelms à Brakel, vol.3, p.37)

1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

Chapter 19: Of the Law of God

1. God gave to Adam a law of universal obedience written in his heart, and a particular precept of not eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil; by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it. ([Genesis 1:27](#); [Ecclesiastes 7:29](#); [Romans 10:5](#); [Galatians 3:10,12](#))
 2. The same law that was first written in the heart of man continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness after the fall, and was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in ten commandments, and written in two tables, the four first containing our duty towards God, and the other six, our duty to man. ([Romans 2:14,15](#); [Deuteronomy 10:4](#))
 3. Besides this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly holding forth divers instructions of moral duties, all which ceremonial laws being appointed only to the time of reformation, are, by Jesus Christ the true Messiah and only law-giver, who was furnished with power from the Father for that end abrogated and taken away. ([Hebrews 10:1](#); [Colossians 2:17](#); [1 Corinthians 5:7](#); [Colossians 2:14,16,17](#); [Ephesians 2:14,16](#))
 4. To them also he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the state of that people, not obliging any now by virtue of that institution; their general equity only being of moral use. ([1 Corinthians 9:8-10](#))
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The Law by which God rules us is as dear to Him as the Gospel by which he saves us.
William Secker

As a looking-glass (mirror) doth neither wash nor make him fair, that looketh therein, but giveth him occasion either to seek for water or else for some other thing that may make him fair and clean: even so the law showeth unto us our sins, and maketh known unto us our miserable estate and wretchedness, and how that there is nothing good in us, and that we are far off from all manner of righteousness, and so driveth us of necessity to seek righteousness in Christ. Daniel Cawdray