**The Law: A Gift?**

A fond memory of my childhood was listening to my Grandma tell me stories. One of my favorites was the story of a boy named Billy, who didn’t like to follow his parents’ rules. His parents let him visit the land of Do-As-You-Please. On arrival to the land of Do-As-You-Please, he slipped on a banana peel, couldn’t cross the street because the cars wouldn’t stop, and then he got hungry. Billy quickly discovered he would rather live by the loving rules his parents had set, than live in the land of Do-As-You-Please, where laws didn’t exist.

One of God’s seven blessings to His people was the law to govern them. The Ten Commandments may be up on your wall at home or may be verses you can quote, but have they become real in your heart? Jesus said that He did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. Jesus’ greatest commandments are for us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. He searches our hearts and examines our motives.

Have you ever thought of the law as a gift? Sometimes, God gives us gifts we don’t have to ask for—gifts He knows we need. Until this week, I had never thought of the law as a gift. It is definitely something given to me that I never asked for. When we surrender to Jesus, we are also surrendering to His love (1 Peter 4:8), His ways (Isaiah 55:9), and His law (Matthew 5:17). You may have never given much thought to the law as a gift from God, but He established His law to keep us holy.

Manmade laws are established with the intention that they will be obeyed for the good of the individual and the community. God’s laws were established for our good as well, but God knew that we could not follow His laws perfectly. He had another purpose in mind—to show us our desperate need for a Savior!

Laws and rules aren’t given for the one that keeps them, but for the one who breaks them. I am thankful for the law as a guideline for righteous living, but I’m even more thankful for the grace that is extended when I can’t keep His perfect law.

You may be thinking right now, “But I’m a rule keeper. I know God’s law, I know man’s law, I know my family’s rules, and I am good at following them.” Take time today to see just how many opportunities you have to choose to keep the law or break it. I think you will be amazed at the amount of choice afforded you. Apart from His grace, we are all destined for eternal separation from God, the Creator of the Universe, our Father. Today, I pray that you choose to see the law as a gift God has given you, to help you see His love and grace, but most importantly, your need for a Savior!