

The strength of sin . . .

The strength of sin is the law (I Cor. 15:56.)

No! This is not a typographical error. The Bible teaches that the strength of sin is the law. The word translated as “strength” in this verse is “dunamis.” It is the basis of our English word “dynamite” and “dynamo.” It is the same word translated as “power” in Rom. 1:16. The Gospel is the POWER of God unto salvation, but the Law is the STRENGTH or POWER of sin.

This, as you know, is exactly the opposite of human thinking. As a general rule, we think that law prevents sin. The Scriptures teach otherwise.

Please prayerfully consider these Scriptures:

- The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law (I Cor. 15:56.)
- Sin was in the world before the Law was given, but sin is not imputed where there is no law (Rom. 5:13.)
- The Law works wrath: for where there is no law, there is no transgression. The word translated as “wrath” is “orge.” It refers to anger which arises slowly and is the basis of our English word “orgasm.”
- By the Law is the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20.)
- The Law entered that the offence might abound (Rom. 5:20.)
- If you are not under Law, sin does not have dominion over you (Rom. 6:14.) By implication we can infer that sin does have dominion over you if you are under Law.
- When we were in the flesh, our sinful passions were aroused by the Law (Rom. 7:5.)
- Paul would not have known sin but by the Law. He would not have known lust of the Law had not said: “Thou shalt not covet.” (Rom. 7:7.)
- Without the Law sin was dead (Rom. 7:8.)
- But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law (Gal. 5:18.)
- Etc.

A proper understanding of Law was a major problem in the primitive church. There were men who wanted to be teachers of the Law but were totally wrong about that which they confidently affirmed (I Tim. 1:7.) Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to charge such men not to teach this way (I Tim. 1:3.)

The Law, of course, is good if it is used lawfully. It was, however, not made for righteous people. It was made for the unrighteousness (I Tim. 1:9-10.) It was made that every mouth might be stopped and all the world become guilty before God (Rom. 3:19.) Commandments did not stop sin, they made it “exceeding sinful” (Rom. 7:13.) Law does not do away with sin, it strengthens and empowers it. Remember! The strength of sin is the law!

Take, for example, the Church at Colosse. They sought to make people holy by law. When they commanded “touch not, taste not, and handle not” it seems to be the right thing to do. The Scriptures teach otherwise. The NIV puts it like this: **Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self imposed worship, their false humility, and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.” (Col. 2:23)**

The Lord Himself, Who wrote the Law, found fault with it (Heb. 8:8.) Therefore, He determined to write a new law. This time, however, the law would not be written in stone. It would be written in the minds and hearts of believers. God would put His Spirit within man and cause him to walk in the right way (Ez. 36:26-27.) Those who received His Holy Spirit would have a “righteousness without law” (Rom. 3:21.) Don’t forget! The strength of sin is the Law!