

Doctrine of Being Under the Law

1. During the Days of the Old Testament economy, fellowship with God was predicated upon keeping the Law which can be understood with a threefold division: The Moral Law, consisting of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17); The Social or Civil Law, consisting of The Judgments (Exodus 21ff); and The Ceremonial Law, which constituted the feasts and sacrifices (Leviticus 1ff).
2. The Law was never given as a way of salvation.
 - *Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*
3. The Law was given as a rule of life which souls were placed under in order to accentuate guilt, and thus the need for a Savior.
 - *Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*
4. With the death of Christ the dominion of the Law in the life of the believer is abolished, so that it can now be said that Christians are not under the law as a rule of life, with all of its civil and ceremonial rules and regulations, but are under the rule and reign of grace.
 - *Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*
5. To recognize the freedom to be found in grace by not being “under the law”, is not a license to sin, for that would be antinomian. God forbid that grace becomes a license for licentiousness.
 - *Romans 6:15 What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*
6. In the early days of his ministry, for the sake of expediency, Paul temporarily placed himself back “under the law” in order to effectively witness to the Jews.
 - *1 Corinthians 9:20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law.*
7. In like manner, in order to witness effectively to the Gentiles, Paul conducted his life as being apart from the Mosaic Law that he might gain an audience and win them to Christ.

- *1 Corinthians 9:21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.*
8. Before Christ came to bring in the reign of Christ, souls were kept “*under the law*” as a rule of life.
- *Galatians 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.*
11. In the fullness of time, according to divine design, God sent Christ into the world and placed Him “*under the law*” in order to abolish the law and set captives free from the curse of the law, allowing them to be adopted as the sons of God.
- *Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*
12. No person should ever desire to be “*under the law*”, especially a Christian.
- *Galatians 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?*
13. The way to be free from being “*under the law*” is to be led by the Holy Spirit.
- *Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*