

# Freedumb In America Today, And The Christian's Duty.

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The Natural Laws of God

Part 2

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## What Are The Natural Laws of God?

In the history of God's dealing with men and prior to the written Law of Moses to the children of Israel, God dealt directly with the Patriarchs (father rule). These family leaders were the elder rulers of their extensive families, and the religious leaders as well.

Although God did not give them a written law, He made known His will via direct communication to these men of God. We can learn what this universal moral law was by the practices, and words of these early fathers.

For example:

### 1. They Worshiped God.

As early as Cain and Able, we can see that sacrifice and worship were necessary components in the natural laws of God (**Genesis 4:1-8**). As Noah exited the ark (having been saved by the grace of God), he built an altar and sacrificed to the Lord God (**Genesis 8:20-21**). This same pattern can be seen in Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the remainder of these father leaders.

Embedded within this pattern of worship is also the training that when this is done in an acceptable manner to God (heart and practice in tune with the will of God = righteousness), God blessed them and caused them, as these family fathers, to prosper among those they dwelt around.

### 2. They Were to Abstain From Idolatry.

These fathers were for generations faithful to God and in their service we find absolutely no idolatrous activity. This lack of transgression is testament within itself that they had been instructed of God, concerning His jealous nature (**Deuteronomy 5:9**). However, this would not be the case for many of the nations and peoples around them.

As God elaborated to Abraham concerning His covenant with him (a great nation and land – **Genesis 12: 1-2**), He told Abraham that his descendants will be strangers (slaves) in a land that is not theirs. God told him that this would last for four hundred years and that He would then judge that nation (because of their idolatry), as well as the nations of the land that God had promised him (because of their idolatry – **Genesis 15:13-16**).

### 3. They were to Preserve Chastity.

There was much taught concerning the natural fleshly morals that God has set in place for man; but universally they revolved around the command to be fruitful and multiply. This could only be accomplished by a man and a woman together. In addition, God established a sacred unification to protect and enhance this undefiled relationship between men and women (see: **Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18; 24**), marriage! Any other practice apart from this sanctified unity was strictly condemned (for an example, see: **Genesis 9:18-25**).

#### **4. They Were Not To Commit Murder.**

After the evil of men caused God to destroy every living thing on the face of the earth, He set out to establish with Noah certain precepts designed to enhance life and protect men from the forms of evil that caused their demise, note:

**Genesis 9:6** *"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man."*

#### **5. They were Respect All Life.**

This law is taught in the abstinence of eating things alive. Although every beast and herb was given to men as food, as a steward of God here on earth, man was expected to respect and protect life as a gift of God (See: **Genesis 9:3-5**).

#### **6. To Establish Justice.**

Within the interaction of the patriarchs with those around about them, we see an expectation of fairness and justice. Agreements were expected to be honored, possessions were protected, and criminal actions against individuals were punished (see: **Genesis 14; 20; 24**).

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Many more examples and details can be added to this list of universal moral Laws of God (natural laws), however, this gives us an indication that God has always expected His creation to live with laws and that these laws were always a part of us.

Many generations after the patriarchs went down into Egypt as God had told Abraham; He brought them forth as a nation and gave them a written law (Mosaic Law). This detailed Law would establish these same precepts as a communal guide (as well as a religious Law), to the children of Israel. However, apart from the Law to Israel, the universal moral law continued to exist for the Gentile world. The problem for the Bible student is that since the Old Law was given to the children of Israel only! Little is recorded throughout the history of the Bible concerning these natural laws of God.

However, knowing what to look for there are bold clues given within the body of the Law and prophets to Israel that reiterate that God had expected these laws to continue among the Gentile world, just as He expected His people to live with them.

There were men of God recorded in and among the Gentile nations (Balaam, who lived in Mesopotamia – **Numbers 22** – for example). These men of God would continue to proclaim Gods natural laws among these people. Jonah was a Prophet of God, however, he wasn't sent to Israel or Judah during the time of the

divided kingdom; he was sent to Nineveh (the capital of Assyria). When he finally accepted his assignment, he went to Assyria and preached their need to repent and return to God. They did! There had to be something (a law) that God had expected them to live by and repent with respect to (apart from the Law of Moses); the natural laws of God!

Within the prophecies of Jeremiah and Isaiah, are judgments proclaimed against the nations of the world at this time. God would pronounce His judgments through these prophets on these nations because they turned so far from God as to provoke His wrath. The only way God's judgments could be righteous was for these nations to be under law to God. Since this was not the Law of Moses, it had to be the natural laws of God.

The greatest body of evidence that these natural laws of God continued to exist and that God expected men to adhere to them, can be found within the letter of the Apostle Paul, to Christians in Rome. Within the first chapter of his letter, Paul would describe the sins of the Gentiles. By reading what they were guilty of, we also learn what was expected of them by God, note:

### **Romans 1:18-32**

***“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup>because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup>because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup>Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup>who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. <sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup>Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. <sup>28</sup>And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup>being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, <sup>30</sup>backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup>who, knowing the righteous judgment of***

***God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”***

What you should find particularly interesting within the body of this teaching of Paul, is the existence of all the natural laws that we listed earlier.

- **Worship God – 18-21.**
- **Abstain from idolatry – 23-25.**
- **Preserve Chastity – 26-28.**
- **Not to Murder – 29.**
- **Honoring Life – 29-30.**
- **Justice – 29-31.**

In addition, we can clearly see the detail of the natural laws of God. Their existence co-existed side by side with the Law of Moses. Within the body of the perfect law of liberty (the New Testament of Christ Jesus our Lord), are given to every Christian the masterful unity of spiritual instruction for salvation and a universal morality patterned after these same principles (see: **Romans 12: 9-21; 13:1-10; Galatians 5:22-26; Colossians 3:12- 4:6; I Thessalonians 5:12-22; Titus 3; Hebrews 13:1-6; I Peter 2:11-3:12**).

Anyone looking to establish an earthly set of social regulations apart from a mandated theistic government could clearly find God’s wisdom and thumb print within these natural laws.

Our founding fathers were just such a group of seekers, note:

Over two decades ago, in December 1982, on the eve of the International Year of the Bible (1983), *Newsweek Magazine* did a cover story discussing the Bible’s impact on America. Many *Newsweek* readers were probably shocked to read these remarkable words:

***“For centuries the Bible has exerted an unrivaled influence on American culture, politics and social life. Now historians are discovering that the Bible, perhaps even more than the Constitution, is our founding document; the source of the powerful myth of the United States as a special, sacred nation, a beacon to the world.”***

One of the great influences on our declaration of independence came from the writings, *‘The Spirit of Laws’*, by Baron Charles Louis Joseph de Secondat Montesquieu (1689 – 1755), who wrote:

***“God is related to the universe, as Creator and Preserver’ the laws by which He created all things are those by which He preserves them. He acts according to these rules, because He knows them; He knows them, because He made them; and He made them, because they are in relation to His Wisdom and power.”***

Add these thoughts to Sir William Blackstone’s (his quote introduced this segment), who was probably one of the most influential sources on law for our founding fathers, and you have a formula for our constitution based on the natural laws of God!

In the introduction to the Declaration of Independence it is written:

***“When in the Course of Human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected the with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to Separation.”***

The sources for these two insertions within our Declaration can be seen in the influence of Sir William Blackstone, note (*from a section of his commentaries*):  
***“Law, in its most general and comprehensive sense, signifies a rule of action, and is applied indiscriminately to all kinds of action, whether animate or inanimate, rational or irrational. Thus we say, the laws of motion, of gravitation, of optics, or mechanics, as well as the laws of nature and of nations. And it is that rule of action which prescribed by some superior, and which the inferior is bound to obey.***

***Thus, when the Supreme Being formed the universe, and created matter out of nothing, He impressed certain principles upon matter, from which it can never depart, and without which it would cease to be. When He put that matter into motion, He established certain laws of motion, to which all bodies must conform.”***

Just as these universal laws of nature could not be denied, the same application would be made to men as a creation of the Supreme Being, note:

***“Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his Creator, for he is entirely a dependent being. A being, independent of any other, has no rule to pursue but such as he prescribes to himself; but a state of dependence will inevitably oblige the inferior to take the will of him on whom he depends as the rule of his conduct; not, indeed, in every particular, but in all those points wherein his dependence consists... and, consequently as man depends absolutely upon his Maker for everything, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to Maker’s will. This will of His maker is called the law of nature.”***

We will revisit much more of this influence on our founding fathers within the pages to come; however, it is important to know the simple logic our fathers sought in drafting our laws and where the influence came from.

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So, how did we get from a society based on the natural laws of God, to a secular and individual based society that is bent on the removal of God? Less blame should be affixed to the secular influences of today and much more blame should be focused on the God fearing men and women who profess to be Christians! We believe that we live to serve God through Christ Jesus apart from how we live and serve each other. This misconception has led many a Christian to stand idly by, while the forces of immorality and un-godliness have actively established

themselves over us and decimated the principles our nation were truly founded upon.

One of the most destructive influences on Christians today is set forth in this next portion of the natural laws of God.

**Next: It's My Life!**

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