

Two Types of Laws

When you hear the word “law”, what comes to mind? Speed limits? Judges in long black robes overseeing legal battles in courthouses? Lady Justice seeking to balance justice and mercy? Or perhaps the system of law enforcement with police officers, cars, and badges? These are the typical associations people have with laws. However, laws can be divided into two categories: **man-made laws** and the **laws of nature**.

Man-Made Laws	Laws of Nature
<i>Have only existed since humans created them at some point in history.</i>	Have existed before humans were created.
<i>Do not carry inherent punishment; the punishment is externally inflicted.</i>	Have inherent punishments attached; transgressors punish themselves.
<i>Can be changed arbitrarily by human councils.</i>	Cannot be changed arbitrarily by humans.

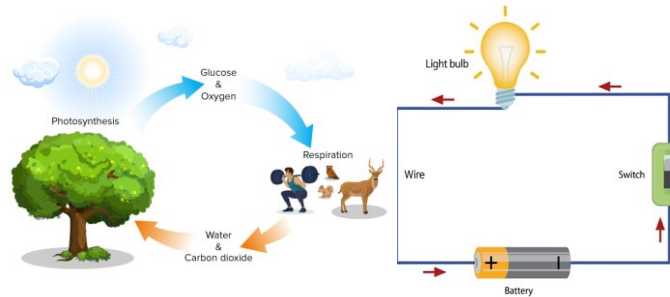
This raises the question of where the laws of God fit into these categories. Did God come up with a set of laws and impose them on His creation? Are there inherent consequences for breaking God's laws, or does He need to externally inflict punishment? To answer these questions, let's explore the foundation of God's Kingdom and laws.

By examining the mechanics of the laws of nature, we will see that God's laws operate like natural laws rather than imposed laws established by human governments.

The Circuit of Life

In nature, living things flourish when they exist in harmonious relationships where they receive life to give life. For example, in the **respiration cycle** we *selflessly give* our CO2 to the plants when we exhale, and the plants *selflessly give* oxygen back to us. **Electric circuits** are based on the *circulation* of electricity. A battery *gives* electricity through wires to a light bulb, which then *gives* electricity back through a wire to the battery, forming a circuit, or cycle. In

the **water cycle** oceans *give* their water to the clouds, the clouds *give* water to the land, the land *gives* the water to streams and bodies of water, which *give* water to plants and animals, the plants *give* back water to the clouds via transpiration and the animals *give* back water to the clouds via respiration and the earth via their excretory systems.



Did you notice the common thread in these natural laws of nature? They all involve some sort of *giving relationship* for life to exist (this same law can also be seen in the cycle of reaping and sowing, the life cycle of trees, the cardiac cycle, the cycle of a healthy economy, etc.).

Just as the laws of life in nature are based on selfless relationships, so too did Jesus declare that all of God's laws are based on selflessly loving God and others (Matt. 22:36-40). This is why Paul could say that **“all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”** (Rom. 13:10; Also see: Rom. 13:8; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8). The first four commandments explain how to love God, and the last six show how to love our neighbor.

Cut Off from the Source of Life

Just as a lightbulb must be connected to a source of energy and power for there to be light, so too can we only have the light of life if we are connected to the Father of lights (Jam. 1:17), who is the ultimate Source of life (1 Cor. 8:6). Scripture says that with **God “is the fountain of life”** (Ps. 36:9), **“For in him we live, and move, and have our being...”** (Acts 17:28). Only by being in a loving relationship with God through Christ can we have access to the life of God. But what happens if we are not in a relationship with the Source of life?

If a lightbulb is disconnected from a battery, if a plant is uprooted from the soil, if a dying man is taken off life support, the inevitable result is darkness and death.

If we were to violate the law of respiration by *selfishly withholding* our CO2 from the plants by putting a bag over our head, we will not be able to receive life from them, and the natural result is death. Do the plants, from where we receive oxygen, kill us because we transgressed the law? Of course not! The punishments for violating the law are intrinsic within the very nature of things, and if this is the case in the natural world, what of the spiritual?

When we violate God's moral law, it creates a separation between us and God: **“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”** Isaiah 59:2. Our wicked works **alienate us from the Source of life** and make us hostile against God and in need of reconciliation (Eph. 4:18; Col. 1:21; Rom. 8:7). Just as death naturally results from breaking the law of respiration, being cut off from the Source of Life likewise results in spiritual death. The self-destructive nature of sin (selfishness) is evident from Scripture:

O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help. Hosea 13:9

O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Hosea 14:1

Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. Psalms 34:21

For sin pays its wage — death... Romans 6:23 (GNB)

... sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. James 1:15

God is pleading with every soul to come into harmony with the universal laws of love so they can enjoy a continued existence with Him. But if we continue to resist the Lord's Spirit and ignore His pleas, thereby declaring that we do not want to have any connection with the Lord, His

hand is forced to allow us to pursue our own destructive path.

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:12

If we resist God and His Son, They will not condemn us to death as Judges in a legal system, for neither partake of judgment which condemns (John 5:22; 8:15). If we reject a relationship with God through Christ we are self-condemned, and our death will be the natural outcome of the path we have chosen, just as the intrinsic result of rejecting a relationship with plants and their gift of oxygen is death. If we refuse to be in God's presence, He is compelled to leave us to our own devices.

But where can we exist apart from God? Let us consider the words of the Psalmist:

⁷ Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸ If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. Psalms 139:7-8

God's Spirit upholds the entire universe. There is no location in the universe where we can exist apart from the presence of the Lord. That being said, when God allows us to be fully separated from Him, the natural result will be the cessation of our being. This is precisely what the Lord declares will be their fate.

⁹ And selfish people will sever themselves from life, but those who trust in the Lord will inherit the earth. ¹⁰ It won't be long, and the selfish will be no more; you will consider their place in the universe and realize they no longer exist. Psalms 37:9-10, (The Remedy Paraphrase)

Learning the truth about God's character and His laws is of the utmost importance if we want to be fully reconciled to Him. But these new revelations leave us with many unanswered questions, for example: what about all of the violent portraits of God in the Old Testament? For a more in depth study, please visit fatheroflove.info

Are God's laws like man-made laws where the Law-Giver must externally punish the transgressor?
Or are His laws like the laws of nature where the transgressor punishes himself for violating a law with intrinsic consequences?

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying... ¹⁷ of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 2:16-17

Was this a threat where God said "if you eat from this tree I am going to kill you"? Or was this a description of the very nature of things, saying in effect, "If you eat that fruit it will be a visible sign of the fact that you have believed lies about Me and no longer trust Me, our good relationship is broken, and the natural result is death, because I am the only Source of life!" Our answer to this question will determine if we will, like Adam, be subconsciously afraid of God and run from Him, or if we will be like Christ and trust and run to Him.



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The Fountain of Life



What happens when we separate ourselves from the Source of life?