

# FAITH REFINED

## A BETTER MOTIVATION (Romans 6:12-14) Talk-it-Over Notes | May 16-17, 2026

### REVIEW IT

This week's passage in Romans teaches us that true freedom and belonging come not from following the law, but from embracing God's grace through faith in Christ, which transforms our hearts and motivations. While the law was useful as a guardian, we are now under grace.

#### 7 New Testament Pictures of the Law

1. The Law is pictured as a yoke of slavery [Galatians 5:1]  
Lesson: The purpose of the law is to control us not change us
2. The Law is pictured as a guardian [Galatians 4:1-7]  
Lesson: The more mature a relationship is, the less guidelines you need for it
3. The Law is pictured as a slave woman [Galatians 4:21-31]  
Lesson: Only if we live by grace are we part of the legitimate family of God
4. The Law is pictured as a debt [Colossians 2:13-14]  
Lesson: Christ paid our debt to the Law
5. The Law is pictured as a shadow of things to come [Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:1]  
Lesson: If you insist on living under the law, you're returning to the shadow, not walking in Christ's light
6. The Law is pictured as a mirror [James 1:22-25; 2 Corinthians 3:18]  
Lesson: The Law reveals your condition but it doesn't cure it
7. The Law is pictured as a husband [Romans 7:1-6]  
Lesson: We serve Christ out of love, not legalism

**Spend some time in the word:** Romans 6:12-14; Galatians chapter 4

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. Of the seven new testament pictures of the law, which stood out to you or resonated with you most?
2. Jesus has fulfilled the law. The Christian is not under obligation to keep the law as a way of earning his or her way to God. However, how might the moral laws like the 10 Commandments still be useful for the believer today?
3. The Law is said to reveal our condition but not cure it, like a mirror. How has your understanding of your own need for grace deepened as you've reflected on the purpose of the Law?
4. Why does God want us motivated by love rather than law? What's transformational about that?
5. What are some examples of ways we try to fall back into legalism rather than living out our identity as God's children?

### ACT ON IT

This week, identify areas where you might be trying to figure out if something is sin and how close you can get to the edge, and instead ask, "What's the most loving way for me to act? What gets me closest to a Christlike character?" and respond accordingly.

### PRAY ABOUT IT

Take time to ask how you can pray for and support one another in prayer. Then, close in prayer.