

Jesus Had to Submit to the Law, but We Do Not!

Paul's whole purpose for the book of Galatians was to convince the believers that they were not saved because they obeyed the Law but because they had faith. Yet despite this, Jesus had to submit Himself to the Law. Why did Jesus have to do this, but we do not?

Galatians 4 (explanation)

¹Children who are under age are no better off than slaves, even though everything their parents own will someday be theirs.

²This is because children are placed in the care of guardians and teachers until the time their parents have set.

³That is how it was with us. We were like children ruled by the powers of this world.

⁴But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. His Son obeyed the Law,

⁵so he could set us free from the Law, and we could become God's children. (CEV)

Paul uses the example of a minor to explain spiritual immaturity. A minor could only inherit from his father on the day that his father determined he would be mature. Up until that day, the minor's position was equal to that of a slave—even though the whole inheritance belonged to him. Like a slave, his whole life was ruled by others and his belongings were under their control (vv. 1–2). The age of the minor stood in his way.

Similarly, the Law stands in the way preventing human beings from inheriting eternal life. The Law keeps us spiritually immature because we constantly stumble over the demands (obedience) of the Law. Stumbling (disobedience) means that the punishment of the Law, eternal death, awaits us—which means we inherit nothing.

However, when Jesus became human and submitted to the Law, He did not falter. As a perfect human being, He could meet the demands of the Law. He conquered the consequence of our stumbling—namely, eternal death—on the cross. Believing in Him enables us to share in this triumph and inherit eternal life. The Law has now become a guideline instead of a precondition.



Thank You, Lord, for enabling me to have eternal life.

If God would have wanted us to live in a permissive society He would have given us

Ten Suggestions and not Ten Commandments.

—Zig Ziglar, American motivational speaker and author