

Contents

1	Laws in Christ's Day— <i>March 29–April 4</i> —————	5
2	Christ and the Law of Moses— <i>April 5–11</i> —————	17
3	Christ and Religious Tradition— <i>April 12–18</i> —————	29
4	Christ and the Law in the Sermon on the Mount— <i>April 19–25</i> —————	41
5	Christ and the Sabbath— <i>April 26–May 2</i> —————	53
6	Christ's Death and the Law— <i>May 3–9</i> —————	65
7	Christ, the End of the Law— <i>May 10–16</i> —————	77
8	The Law of God and the Law of Christ— <i>May 17–23</i> —————	89
9	Christ, the Law and the Gospel— <i>May 24–30</i> —————	101
10	Christ, the Law and the Covenants— <i>May 31–June 6</i> —————	113
11	The Apostles and the Law— <i>June 7–13</i> —————	125
12	Christ's Church and the Law— <i>June 14–20</i> —————	137
13	Christ's Kingdom and the Law— <i>June 21–27</i> —————	149

Editorial Office 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904
Come visit us at our Web site at <http://www.absg.adventist.org>

Principal Contributor

Keith Burton

Associate Editor

Soraya Homayouni

Pacific Press® Coordinator

Wendy Marcum

Editor

Clifford R. Goldstein

Publication Manager

Lea Alexander Greve

Art Director and Illustrator

Lars Justinen

Editorial Assistant

Sharon Thomas-Crews

The teachers edition components were written by the following:

The Lesson in Brief, Lessons 1-13, and The Learning Cycles 1-13: Gerald Klingbeil, associate editor, *Adventist Review*, *Adventist World*®, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A.; and Chantal Klingbeil, associate director, Ellen G. White Estate, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Silver Spring, Maryland, U.S.A.

© 2014 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. All rights reserved. No part of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* (Teachers Edition) may be edited, altered, modified, adapted, translated, reproduced, or published by any person or entity without prior written authorization from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The division offices of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® are authorized to arrange for translation of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* (Teachers Edition), under specific guidelines. Copyright of such translations and their publication shall remain with the General Conference. "Seventh-day Adventist," "Adventist," and the flame logo are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® and may not be used without prior authorization from the General Conference.



The Law and Love

From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan’s purpose to overthrow the law of God.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 582.

Why? Because the law, as the foundation of God’s government, expresses the moral integrity of the cosmos, and to overthrow that law would be to overthrow the moral order of the creation itself.

Think about it. If no god existed, and no life either, the universe would be amoral. Not *immoral*, as in having bad morals, but *amoral*, as in having no morals, because nothing in it—such as lifeless rocks hurtling through a godless cosmos—could manifest moral qualities.

However, God exists, and humans do as well, and we have been created as moral beings with the capacity to give and to receive love. For this love to exist, however, freedom, *moral* freedom, must exist, too, because love is a moral concept that couldn’t arise in an amoral universe (such as one composed of only rocks and cold space).

Morality, though, means the ability to choose right or wrong, good or evil—and the only way for the universe to be moral, to allow the potential for good or evil, for right or wrong, would be for it to have a law that defines right or wrong.

And, of course, it does have such a law.

“What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed, I would not have

known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, ‘Do not covet’ ” (*Rom. 7:7, NIV*).

Is it sinful to have red hair? Why not? Because God’s law doesn’t forbid red hair. If it did, as the law forbids covetousness, then having red hair would be a sin. But it cannot be a sin if no divine law defines it as such.

Morality without law is as impossible as is thought without mind. Our universe is moral because God created free beings answerable to His law. If there were no law against coveting, there would be no sin of covetousness; if there were no law against red hair, there would be no sin of red headedness—no matter how many red-haired coveters populated the cosmos.

God created humans as creatures who can love. Love, though, can’t exist without freedom, moral freedom. And moral freedom can’t exist without law, moral law. Love rests on freedom, and freedom rests on law.

Hence, the core of God’s government, the foundation of that government—a government of love—has to be His law. That’s why Ellen G. White wrote what she did about Satan’s desire “to overthrow the law of God.” The attack on the law is an attack not just on Christ’s character but on the moral order of the creation itself.

Hence, the topic for our quarter: Christ and His law. We will study the law, especially the question of why so many Christians—misunderstanding the relationship between law and grace—have fallen into the trap of denying the continued validity of the Ten Commandments; thus, unwittingly helping the attempt to “overthrow” God’s law.

The Bible, though, is clear: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments” (*1 John 5:3, NKJV*). The link between our loving God and the keeping of His commandments is stronger than we realize. We can love God because we live in a universe where love can exist, and it can exist because the universe is moral. That morality is based, at least for us as created beings, on God’s moral law—the subject we will now explore.

The link between our loving God and the keeping of His commandments is stronger than we realize.

Keith Augustus Burton is a professor of religion at Oakwood University, where he also serves as the coordinator of the Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations. His doctoral dissertation from Northwestern University focused on the role of the law in Paul’s letter to the Romans.

How to Use This Teachers Edition

Get Motivated to Explore, Apply, and Create

We hope that this format of the teachers edition will encourage adult Sabbath School class members to do just that—explore, apply, and create. Each weekly teachers lesson takes your class through the following learning process, based on the Natural Learning Cycle:

1. Why is this lesson important to me? (Motivate);
2. What do I need to know from God’s Word? (Explore);
3. How can I practice what I’ve learned from God’s Word? (Apply); and
4. What can I do with what I’ve learned from God’s Word? (Create).

And for teachers who haven’t had time to prepare during the week for class, there is a one-page outline of easy-to-digest material in “The Lesson in Brief” section.

Here’s a closer look at the four steps of the Natural Learning Cycle and suggestions for how you, the teacher, can approach each one:

Step 1—Motivate: Link the learners’ experiences to the central concept of the lesson to show why the lesson is relevant to their lives. Help them answer the question, Why is this week’s lesson important to me?

Step 2—Explore: Present learners with the biblical information they need to understand the central concept of the lesson. (Such information could include facts about the people; the setting; cultural, historical, and/or geographical details; the plot or what’s happening; and conflicts or tension of the texts you are studying.) Help learners answer the question, What do I need to know from God’s Word?

Step 3—Apply: Provide learners with opportunities to practice the information given in Step 2. This is a crucial step; information alone is not enough to help a person grow in Christ. Assist the learners in answering the question, How can I apply to my life what I’ve learned?

Step 4—Create: Finally, encourage learners to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only” (*James 1:22*). Invite them to make a life response to the lesson. This step provides individuals and groups with opportunities for creative self-expression and exploration. All such activities should help learners answer the question, With God’s help, what can I do with what I’ve learned from this week’s lesson?

When teachers use material from each of these four steps, they will appeal to most every student in their class: those who enjoy talking about what’s happening in their lives, those who want more information about the texts being studied, those who want to know how it all fits in with real life, and those who want to get out and apply what they’ve learned.