

Volume 4, Day 5: Law or Love/ Letter or Spirit

Wrap every rule in its reason.

Then use the rule in its season.

If it's peace that you want,

then the rule you won't flaunt.

You'll apply it by only its reason.

Here's what I do, when a rule's in my way.

I use its reason that lets me play.

But you, my friend, if you try this too,

I'll use the rule as a club to beat you.

You always must play it my way.

I have a reason for each rule I break.

And to me it makes sense, make no mistake.

If you'd simply give me benefit of the

doubt,

I highly suspect that you would find out,

the same rule you'd break,

if you swam in my lake. — J. H. Alan

Laws, man's or God's, are written and enforced as a matter of safety not mindless restriction or constraint. It is because of the affections we have and the desire to live safely in community, that we create laws at all. Yet much of the division and conflict within a society is created when we fight over the letter of the law versus the spirit of the law.

The first 4 of the 10 Commands of God are about breaking relationship with God and the last six are about breaking relationship with people. So when you are tempted to resist the constraint brought by law, consider that the purpose of that law is to promote healthy, affectionate relationships (love). Then attempt to comply with it in the spirit (reason) which it was established.

Jesus summed up God's 10 Laws as, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and expression, and to love your neighbor as much as you love yourself." Mark 12:30. But, to His own disciples He gave His Own new command, "Love each other as much as I have loved you." (Jesus was willing to die for the safety of all, even His enemies.)

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan