

PRAYER MEETING: **Design Law** and **Imposed Law**
Righteousness By Faith

Central Valley Deaf Ministries - Fresno Central SDA Church

“At this time a **message** from God is to be proclaimed, a **message** illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. ... The last rays of merciful light, **the last message of mercy** to be given to the world, is **the revelation of His character of love.**”

— *Christ's Object Lessons, p.415*

God's Law: Designed or Imposed?

Discovering God's True Character
Through the Nature of His Law





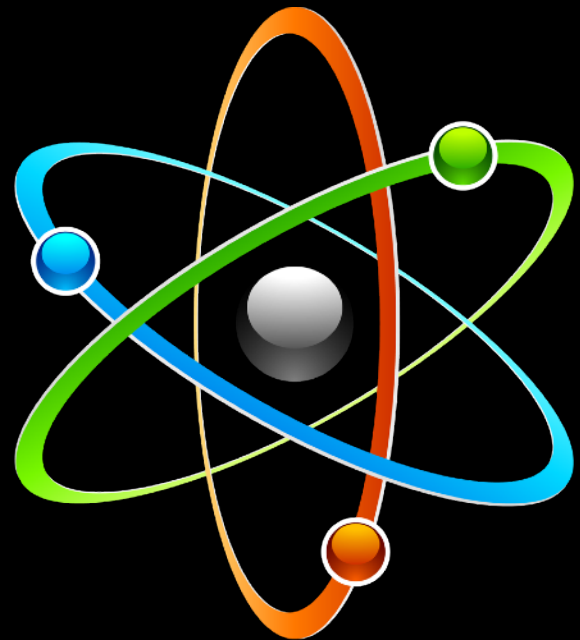
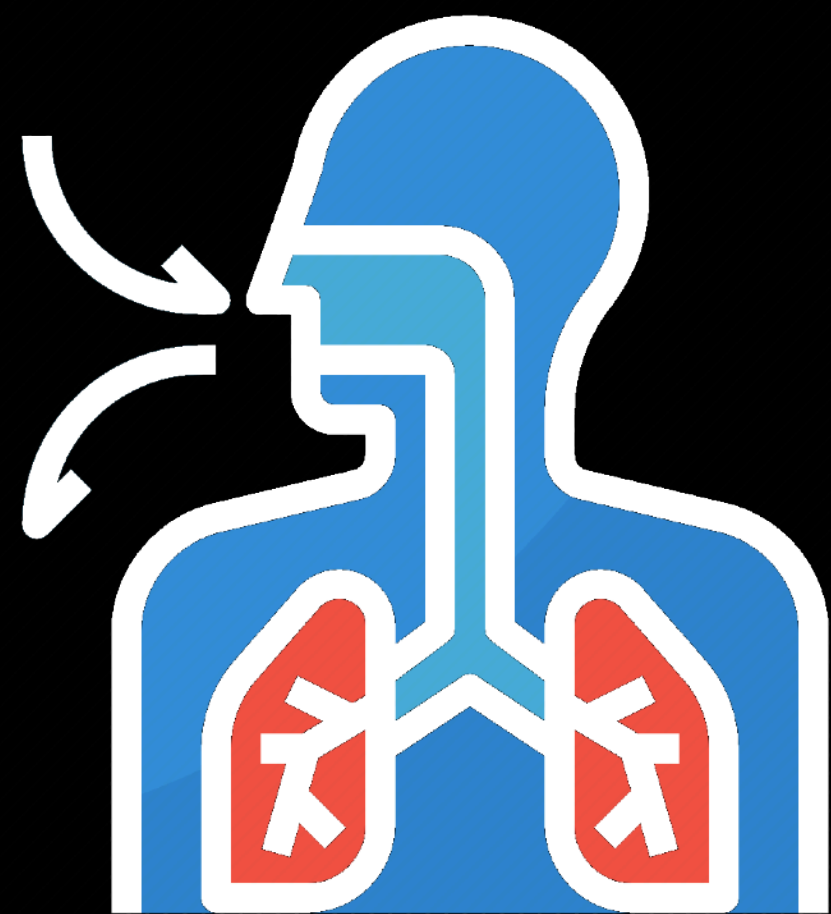
The Bible provides powerful verses for understanding the difference between **Design Law** and **Imposed Law**, especially when studying God's character, sin, righteousness, love, and salvation.

What do you think of when you see the word "LAW"?

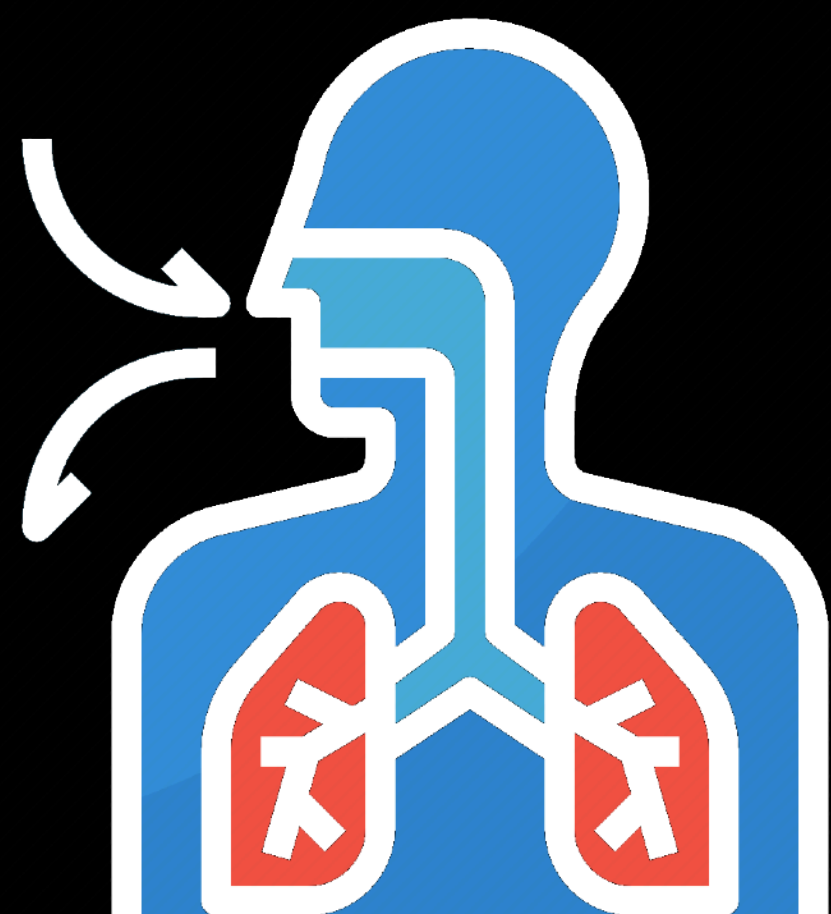
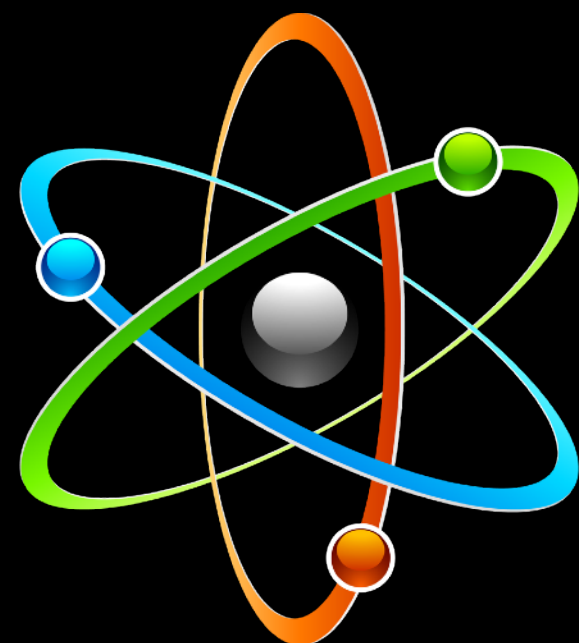




It's just how people are;
we think about laws this
way because it's part of
our everyday life. People
make up rules, and we
have to follow them.
These rules are known as
"imposed laws."



God made certain laws for life to work properly. These laws help us understand how life functions - it's simply the way things are. We refer to these as "**design laws.**"



functions - it's simply the way things are. We refer to these as "**design laws**."

Examples of design laws are the law of gravity, the laws of physics, and the law of respiration.

Breaking the Law

IMPOSED LAW

DESIGN LAW

Breaking the Law

IMPOSED LAW

needs someone to watch
for rule-breaking and then
“inflict” punishment when
the law is broken.

DESIGN LAW

Breaking the Law

IMPOSED LAW

needs someone to watch for rule-breaking and then “inflict” punishment when the law is broken.

DESIGN LAW

The “punishment” (or consequence) is a natural result of breaking the law.

This key difference greatly affects how you understand biblical ideas and your perception of God. Therefore, when we read the Bible, we should always remember to ask...

This key difference greatly affects how you understand biblical ideas and your perception of God. Therefore, when we read the Bible, we should always remember to ask...



**"What law lens am
I seeing this
through?"**

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you don't brush your teeth, no bedtime story.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you don't brush your teeth, no bedtime story.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you must breathe in oxygen and breathe out
CO₂.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you must breathe in oxygen and breathe out
CO₂.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you must wear shoes to enter the store.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you must wear shoes to enter the store.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you might get a ticket if you drive over the speed limit.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you might get a ticket if you drive over the speed limit.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you step off a cliff, you will fall and get injured.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you step off a cliff, you will fall and get injured.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you get bad grades, you can't play sports.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you get bad grades, you can't play sports.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you must practice piano, or you can't watch TV.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you must practice piano, or you can't watch TV.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you must practice piano to get better at piano.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

you must practice piano to get better at piano.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you steal, you might get caught and go to jail.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you steal, you might get caught and go to jail.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you steal, you will create the heart of a thief.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you steal, you will create the heart of a thief.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you plant tomato seeds, you will get tomatoes.

Imposed

Design

IMPOSED or DESIGN ?

A law that says ...

if you plant tomato seeds, you will get tomatoes.

Imposed

Design

GOD'S DESIGN LAW

Design laws, or principles, are unchangeable. They can be tested repeatedly and will always produce the same, expected results. If design laws are violated, the result is a natural consequence.

GOD'S DESIGN LAW

- Law built into God's creation
- Describes how life is designed to function
- Freedom of choice
- Breaking it brings natural consequences
- Obey – Listen + Do with Love Attitude
- Emphasis: Healing and restoration

For example, if you jumped off a 500-foot cliff, you would naturally fall due to gravity. If nothing stops your fall or softens your landing, the outcome would be death because humans can't



fall due to gravity. If nothing stops your fall or softens your landing, the outcome would be death because humans can't handle the impact of falling from that high up.



IMPOSED LAW

- Law established by an authority
- Specifies what people must or must not do
- Fear of choice
- Breaking it brings penalties imposed by an authority
- Example: A judge sentences someone for violating a law
- Emphasis: Rules, judgment, and penalties

“We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. **The sinner brings the punishment upon himself.** His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result.”

— *Selected Messages Book 1 p.235*

The distinction is especially useful
for understanding the difference
between the **consequences of sin** and
punishment for sin.

Love is rooted in God's nature.

1 John 4:8 *NKJV*

8 ... God is love.

Design Law principle: **Love is not an arbitrary rule God invented. Love reflects who God is. His commandments express His character.**

The seed principle

The law of sowing and reaping

Galatians 6:7-8 NKJV

⁸ For he who **sows to his flesh** will of the flesh **reap corruption**, but he who **sows to the Spirit** will of the Spirit **reap everlasting life**.

Design Law principle: **Sin produces destructive results, just as planting a seed produces a harvest.**
The consequences arise from what is sown.

How sin produces death

James 1:14-15 NKJV

¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, **brings forth death.**

Design Law principle: **Death is the outcome of sin, whereas eternal life is God's gift through Jesus Christ.**

The vine principle

Life depends on connection with Christ

John 15:5-6 NKJV

⁸ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Design Law principle: **A branch separated from the vine cannot continue producing fruit. Similarly, spiritual life depends upon remaining connected to Christ.**

The restoration principle

God's law written in the heart

Jeremiah 31:33 NKJV

33 But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

God's law written in the heart

Romans 8:2 NKJV

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ
Jesus has made me free from the law of sin
and death.

Design Law principle: Life comes through Christ,
while sin produces death. Paul describes two
opposing principles operating in human experience.

Romans 6:23 NKJV

²³ For the **wages of sin is death**, but the **gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Design Law principle: Sin produces destructive results, just as planting a seed produces a harvest.

The consequences arise from what is sown.

