

# Catechesis Minute: The Purposes of the Law

We've been talking about the Ten Commandments, God's Law. I told you last week that today we were going to be talking about the purpose of the Law. Really, there are three purposes of the Law, three things the Law does.

1. First, the Law serves as a *curb*. A curb on a street shows people where the edge of the street is. Stay safe and stay within the curbs. As we've said before, the Law shows us how we were created to live. If we want to have a good life, stay within the curbs. However, if someone is driving fast enough, they can jump the curb. That's what we do. As a curb, the Law helps control sin in the world, but it doesn't stop it.
2. Second, the Law is a *mirror*. You don't really know what you look like until you see your face. Since your eyes are on your face, how can you see it? If you hold a mirror up to your face, you can see what you really look like. We don't see all the sin in our lives. But when we hold the Law up in front of us, we see how far short we fall of what God wants for us. This is the main use for the Law.
3. Third, the Law is a *guide*. A guide knows the way and shows us how to get where we want to go. Jesus says, that as His followers, we are to love God and love others. The Law shows us how to love. As Christians, the Law isn't something to be feared or avoided. We want to follow it because we love God and want to do what He says.

So, what are the purposes of the Law? Why did God give us the Law? As a curb to control sin, a mirror to show us our sin, and for the Christian, a guide to show us how to love. Let's pray.

*Dear Lord, thank You for giving us Your Law. It helps control sin in the world. Let us use it as a mirror to see our sin and live by it as a guide to know how to love You and others. In Jesus' name, Amen.*