



# Here's why God's Law is Good for You!

## תּוֹרָה – Torah – LAW

**S**trict. Strait. Stern. Uncompromising. Unmerciful. Ritualistic. Rigorous. Restrictive. Repressive. Hard. Harsh. Legal. Solemn. Iron-fisted. Negative. Austere.

That's God's Law.

Or so we have been taught.

Because in the English language the word "law" has come to carry the connotation of unrelenting, cruel authority. "Law" has come to mean the opposite of "fun." And this is especially true of *God's Law*. Because most people believe that *God's Law* is tougher, rougher, more confining and more debilitating than man's law.

That's what "religion" has drummed into our heads.

Interested in what God has to say? It's His Law — He should know.

The Hebrew word translated "law" is תּוֹרָה, pronounced "*torah*." And it is absolutely absurd to transform *torah* into a straitjacketing set of restrictive rules which deprive man of fun.

So let's find out just what *GOD* means by *torah*.

The noun *torah* is derived from the verb "*yarab*" ( יָרָה ). *Yarab* is akin to "*or*" ( אֹר ), the Hebrew word for *light*, and means *to shine, to light, to see*. However the exact grammatical form of *yarab* from which *torah* (law) is derived — which is "*yoreb*" ( יוֹרֵב ) — is in a special Hebrew conjugation (called the "*Hipbil*") which emphasizes CAUSE. In other words, *yoreb* literally means *to cause to see*, or more fully, *to cause to see the light* — and has thereby come to mean *to teach* and *to instruct*. (The Hebrew word for teacher or instructor — "*moreh*," [ מוֹרֵה ] — is built from the same root.)

Another word which helps us understand the real meaning of *torah* is "*tor*" ( תוֹר ) which can mean *turn, course, order*.

Putting all the concepts together, we find that *torah* means — *God's Law* is — an "*order of teaching*" or a "*course of instruction*" which causes man to see the light of God's Truth.

*Order of teaching!*

*Course of instruction!*

How radically different from the stern, harsh, unmerciful restrictions

which the English word "*law*" conjures up!

The word "*curriculum*" expresses what *torah* — what God's Law — really is. A "*curriculum*" is the "*order of teaching*" or "*course of instruction*" which teachers use to bring their students from point A to point B. For example, the third-grade curriculum is designed to bring students from the second grade level to the fourth grade level in reading, writing, arithmetic, etc.

Likewise, God's *overall curriculum* — God's Law, God's *Torah* — is the "*order of teaching*" and the "*course of instruction*" which God designed for the express purpose of bringing man from the carnal, human level of thinking and existing up to the incredible *God* level of thinking and existing. *Because that's the purpose of human life — that's why God created all of us — to literally become God ourselves* (I John 3:1-2; Ps. 17:15; John 10:34, etc.). *And God's Torah is the only way to reach this awesome goal.*

In this context we note the comments of the eminent Hebraist, Samson Raphael Hirsch. He states that *torah* comes from the verb *harab*

( תָּרָה ) — which means to receive a seed within oneself or *to conceive*. More specifically, *torah* is derived from the *causative* form of this verb (*Hiphil* conjugation) — which is *horeh* ( הוֹרָה ), meaning to plant a seed in someone else or *to beget*. That's the *crux* of *torah* — *TO BEGET*. Consequently, according to Hirsch, *torah* (God's Law) is the method by which God *begets within us* the knowledge of truth, the decision to goodness, the mind of morality and the essence of God-like spirituality.

Which all together means that God's Law is *not* "a set of strait-jacketing rules for limiting the human experience" as the religions of this world would have us believe.

Rather, *God's Law is the totality of God's revelation to man — God's complete Plan for reproducing Himself through human beings* (Gen. 1:26). *God's Law is the full expression of God's desire to beget, nourish and develop a future member of His eternally ruling God Family in every one of us! God's Law is holy, just and good* (Rom. 7:12).