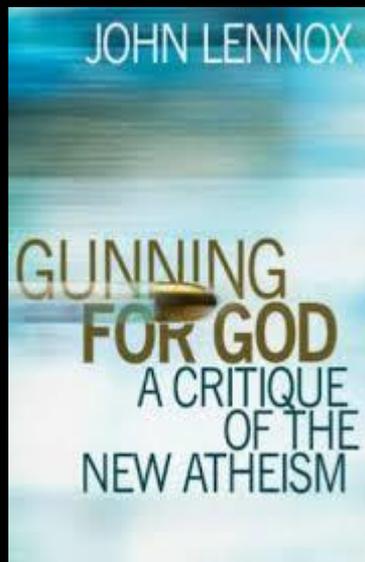


Fatal Attraction

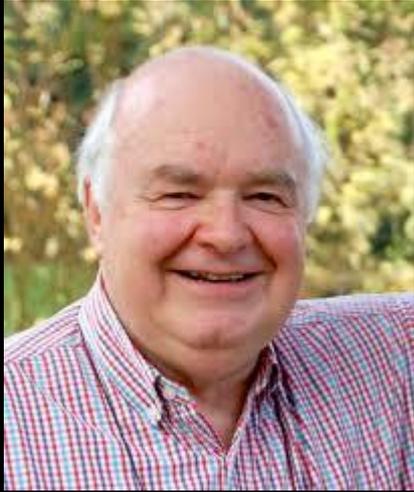
Rom.7:7-13



“Dawkins first objects that the ‘Christian focus is overwhelmingly on sin sin sin sin sin sin sin sin. What a nasty little preoccupation to have dominating your life.’
But, sin, though it can be very nasty, is not a little preoccupation: it is a major preoccupation that dominates the world...

“...It is the root cause of tyrannies, wars, genocide, murder, exploitation, financial crises, injustice; of international, societal, and family breakdown; of incalculable unhappiness due to lying, cheating, slander, bullying, stealing, domestic violence, and every form of crime, and so on and so on and on and on and on and on.

John Lennox [Gunning for God: chapter 6]



“What is overwhelming (to use Dawkins’ word) is the horrendous destructive-ness of sin, daily forcing us to admit the bitter fact, as written long ago, that ‘the wages of sin is death.’”

John Lennox [Gunning for God: chapter 6]

There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

(Rom.3:10-12)

The Law



'I have described atonement, the central doctrine of Christianity, as vicious, sadomasochistic and repellent. We should also dismiss it as barking mad...'

Richard Dawkins: *The God Delusion*

The Law

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

(Rom.3:20)

The Law



“The law is apparently characterized as barring marriage to Christ, arousing sin, causing death, and impeding life in the spirit, so that the sooner we gain freedom from it, the better.”

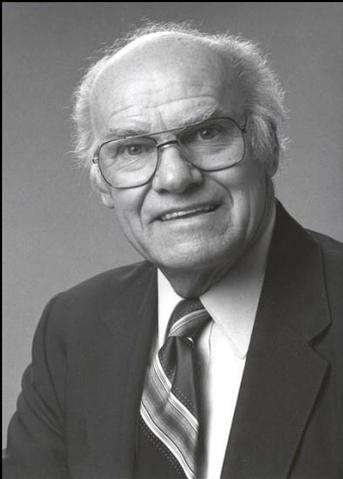
[John Stott: *The Message of Romans*]

The Law reveals our sin

I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

(Rom.7:7)

The Law reveals our sin



Sin is –

“Any thought, word, action,
omission or desire contrary to
the mind of God.”

Charlie Riggs

The Law provokes our sin

But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting.

(Rom.7:8)



Achan:
“I coveted them
and took them.”

The Law condemns our sin

For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.

(Rom.7:11)

Is the law bad?

The law of the LORD is perfect... The commands of the LORD are radiant... They are more precious than gold... they are sweeter than honey.

(Psalm 19:7,8,10)

Is the law bad?

Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

(Rom.7:13)

Is the law bad?



“But God will never accept that our lies, greed, theft, adultery, violence, murder, etc. do not matter. He takes our sin seriously, not because he hates us but because he loves us.”

John Lennox

Law and Sin

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

(Rom.6:23)

Law and Sin

*Nevertheless, in order that **sin might be recognized as sin**, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment **sin might become utterly sinful**.*

(Rom.7:13)