

- To all the lovers of God's holy word,
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**SCRIPTURE:**

John 1:17 (The Message) – Larger reading: John 1:1-1

*We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving, This endless knowing and understanding - all this came through Jesus, the Messiah.*

**STORY - of random laws:**

**Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

**Law of Mechanical Repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

**Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

**Law of Random Numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

**Variation Law** - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

**Law of the Bath** - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

**Law of Close Encounters** - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

**Law of the Result** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

**Law of Biomechanics** - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

**Law of the Theater & Hockey Arena** - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

**The Coffee Law** - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

**Murphy's Law of Lockers** - If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

**Law of Physical Surfaces** - The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

**Law of Logical Argument** - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

**Brown's Law of Physical Appearance** - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

**Oliver's Law of Public Speaking** - A closed mouth gathers no feet.

**Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy** - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

**Doctors' Law** - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment, and you'll stay sick.

**OBSERVATION:**

Our lives are governed by laws – some good, some just okay and some just outright stupid, but there they are still on the books long after they have stopped having any real purpose. In Miami there was a law, probably still on the books, that a person could not ride a horse down Flagler street (the main street in downtown Miami). Go figure!

There are certain laws on which we “fudge” just a little – myself included – like the speed limit on the highways when we “bounce” our speed up just 5 mph over the posted limit. After all, it doesn't apply to us ... right? At least that is how others riding in my vehicle are interpreting my “bounce”.

Laws are funny things, especially God's law. We apply certain ones to our lives while ignoring others. The “thou shalt nots” of the 10 commandments are well known and universally followed by most of us ... except maybe the one on coveting. Also, as a general rule the “average” Christian doesn't think the biblical instruction on tithing applies to them and their resources. After all, there is a mortgage to pay (some have two mortgages now because of the housing bust) and then there is retirement to plan for and/or college tuition for the children or grandchildren ... and is that based on “before taxes or after taxes” money.

Or how about Jesus' instructions to love our enemies and those who seek to do all sorts of evil against us. Well, yes, that is extremely hard and downright challenging. It can be creatively interpreted as well like the senior citizen in one of my churches who shared ... with a straight face ... *“Oh, preacher, I don't hated anybody, I just have a listed of*

*people I will not speak to nor about.*” If I thought on that one for a while I probably could come up with a “Murphy Law” to add to the list above.

While God’s laws were created for us and not us for them – to give us guidance through this life and how we are to relate to each other – nevertheless, they shouldn’t be ignored nor “bounced around” as some kind of celestial volleyball.

I don’t know about you, but the challenge ever before me is the “love” laws of the scriptural teachings.

**QUOTE:**

*“When honor and the Law no longer stand on the same side of the line, how do we choose[?]” – Anne Bishop*

**PRAYER:**

Dear Lord, do not allow me to rest or become comfortable with my relationship with you as long as there is one negative feelings about others housed within my heart. Give me restless nights and troubled thoughts until I am at peace with everyone. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim

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***May this be a holy Sunday for you and your family. Don’t forget to join together for worship via our Facebook page @ Manatee United Methodist Church.***

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