



## [Romans 3:20](#)

(20) Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

## [Romans 4:15](#)

(15) because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law *there is* no transgression.

*New King James Version*

Together, [Romans 3:20](#) and [Romans 4:15](#) produce a general principle that covers, not just biblical morality, but also secular. Laws reveal to us our religious and/or civic duties. In reference to [God](#), law awakens us to a consciousness of [sin](#). Through God's laws we become aware of the contrast between *what we do* and *what we ought to do*.

By enacting laws, our legislators tell us what is moral, right, and good in secular areas of life, but instead of calling a transgression of the state's laws "sin," we call it "crime." In many cases, crimes are also sins. The difference between secular law and [God's law](#) is that the latter contains clear moral values and reveals our duties toward the Creator God. Where do people get their ideas regarding what is moral?

We must conclude that religion, law, the state, and morality are each parts of the same family. Thus, every system of law is a system of ethics and morality. Since law establishes standards of conduct, those standards are the establishment of religion, a way of life we are to be devoted to following. Therefore, in [truth](#), there can be no absolute separation of church and state.

This point escapes most Americans, but not every American. For instance, some journalists have clearly identified communism as a religion. In such a system, the government is the god. At the height of the Roman Empire, the Romans made no bones about this principle, declaring and demanding under the penalty of death that Caesar be

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Romans 3:20 (<http://www.theberean.org>) worshipped as a god. This is part of the "divine right of kings" principle. Beware, because this idea is about to be reborn:

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ([Revelation 13:11-12](#))

When the Beast arises, he will be accorded this honor that belongs only to God.

In the Western world, a new religion is rising. It is not really new, but it has a fairly new name: secularism. It is a type of [idolatry](#), one that has been increasingly challenging this world's Christianity over the past century, and it is gaining ever more strength in numbers and devotion here in America. The war between it and this world's Christianity is virtually over—with Christianity rapidly becoming irrelevant. [Persecution](#) in the courts is already an established fact, and outright persecution on the streets cannot be very many years away.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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