

# KidZone

Guide 8



Living to the Limit  
Lawfully

Did you know it's against the law in Lawrence, Kansas, to walk down the street with bees in your hat? You could get arrested, so don't try it.

It's illegal in Topeka, Kansas, to annoy a squirrel. (How do you annoy a squirrel?)

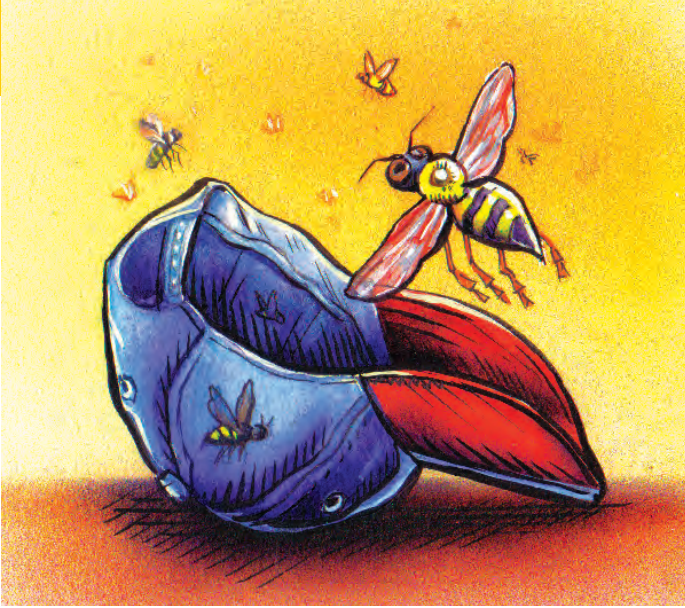
In Lexington, Kentucky, it's against the law to carry ice-cream cones in your pockets.

In Danville, Pennsylvania, by law, every fire hydrant must be checked one hour before a fire. (How do you know when a fire's about to happen?)

Our world is governed by all sorts of laws—local, state, national, religious, natural, ceremonial, economic, environmental, and moral. Some laws seem senseless. Other laws are essential to our freedom and security—especially God's laws found in the Bible.

# Learning about laws

As a child Karl thought his parents were ruining his life.



When he was two years old, he tried to stick a fork in an electrical outlet. But his parents stopped him. Can you believe it?

Only as he got older did he begin to see the value of his parents' rules (laws). In the same way, when we grow as God's children, we begin to understand how His laws promise us freedom and safety.

As for the laws in the Bible that we cannot understand, often we don't see the full picture. If we understood the culture of the time or could see things from God's perspective, we would make the same statement that the apostle Paul makes in the Bible.

1. Read Romans 7:12 and write in your own words what Paul is saying:

# Living God's laws

Some of God's most important rules for living a healthy Christian life are found in the Ten Commandments. Read these commands in Exodus 20:3-17.

2. The first two commandments guide our friendship with God and the way we worship Him. Summarize them here:

a.  (verse 3).

b.  (verses 4-6).

3. The third and fourth commandments define our relationship to God's name and to His holy day. What do they say?

a.  (verse 7).

b.  (verses 8-11).

4. Commandments five and seven protect the family. Write them in your own words here:

a.  (verse 12).

b.  (verse 14).

5. Commandments six, eight, nine, and ten safeguard our friendships. In your own words, write each commandment.

a.  (verse 13).

b.  (verse 15).

c.  (verse 16).

d.  (verse 17).

Jesus taught the importance of keeping the Ten Commandments. One time a young businessman came to Jesus and asked, “What do I have to do in order to go to heaven?”

Jesus said, “Obey the commandments.”

“Which ones?” the businessman asked.

Jesus listed several of the Ten Commandments—don’t murder; don’t steal; honor your parents; and others. The businessman claimed that he was keeping the Ten Commandments and that he always had.

But then the story takes an interesting twist. When Jesus pressed him to live out the spirit of the commandments and give up his great wealth to help the poor, he crumpled under the challenge.

## Loving God’s laws

In the end, keeping the commandments is about more than just following certain behaviors; it’s about showing the amazing love of Jesus to others. Jesus said that keeping the commandments is about “abiding” or “remaining” in His love. That means we live with a constant awareness that Jesus loves us no matter what, and then we model that same love to people everywhere. Now that’s a really secure way to live!





6. Read John 15:10, 11 and write what will happen if we keep Jesus' commands.

If you want to feel “full joy” in life, then keep the commandments. They apply in every culture and offer the perfect guide to happy living. That’s because they actually show us what God is like!

Jesus loves you so much that He invites you to follow a lifestyle that results in deep, inner happiness. This lifestyle comes only through a friendship with Jesus.

7. Read 2 Peter 1:2–4. Who gives us the power for doing what’s right?

Once again, Jesus is the answer! When we totally trust Jesus with everything, by faith we can receive power from Him to obey the law. By obeying the law, we show our love for Jesus (John 14:15).

The bottom line is this: Jesus loves you too much to sit at a distance and watch you stumble unhappily through life and miss the chance to live with Him forever. So He provided guidelines that will result in a life of complete joy and perfect love—if you follow them.

This doesn’t mean bad things will never happen, but it does mean we’ll avoid the pain that comes from making wrong choices. The proof of Jesus’ love came at the cross where He died for your sin. In this ultimate act of love, He offers to “make you complete in every good work to do His will” (Hebrews 13:21). Doesn’t this cause you to want to follow Jesus?



**Q:** Dear Pastor Karl, I'm a boy, twelve years old. My question is this: Why do we have to obey rules? Sincerely, Sick of Rules.

**A:** Dear Sick,

Imagine this. What if a gang of boys snuck into town at 2 A.M. and started tearing down or turning around all the traffic signs? What if they ripped out the stop signs and turned around the one-way signs? What if one of the kids was a computer whiz and knew how to make all the lights turn green at the same time?

You can imagine what would happen the next day when everybody started driving to work and school. Because of the messed-up traffic signs and lights, there would be a lot of accidents. Some people might even die on the highway because they drove onto the freeway going the wrong direction. The whole city would be confused and upset because the rules were not there to protect them.

Rules guide us and protect us. That's the reason God (and parents, teachers, police officers, and others) blesses us with them.

—Pastor Karl



# Talking to God

*Dear God, Thank You for loving me enough to provide guidelines on how to live a life of joy with You. Thank You for the power of Your love that makes it possible to live for You. Please fill my life with that kind of love. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**kidZone**

*Produced by the Voice of Prophecy*

*Editors: Kurt Johnson, Russell Holt, Rachel Whitaker*

*Writer: Karl Haffner*

*Illustrations: Marcus Mashburn*

*Design: Michelle C. Petz*

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