



SAME LIE—DIFFERENT ANGLE

NO LAW / LAW

- The root system of human reasoning has been poisoned by the depravity of man. All decisions are undermined by human arrogance and the willful refusal to glorify God as God. (See Romans 1:18-25.)
- It is important to note that both the “no law” and “law” positions are based on the faulty presupposition that depraved humans are capable of knowing what is good and what is evil apart from the specific instruction of God through his Bible. Those who do not recognize this will sin as Adam and Eve did and exchange the truth of God for a lie. And also like Adam and Eve, rather than being “God-like” will be merely fools groping in the darkness.

1. Adam and Eve were told that if they ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that they would become like divine beings—that they would become like God.

(Genesis 3:5 NET) For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like divine beings who know good and evil.

2. But they were lied to and never came to know good and evil, but only evil continually, as they immediately fell into the darkness.

(Genesis 6:5 ESV) The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

(Romans 1:21 ESV) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

*(Romans 3:10–12 ESV) As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; **no one***

***understands**; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; **no one does good, not even one.**”*

¹³ In this case one might translate: “You will be, like God himself, knowers of good and evil.” On the other hand, it could be ... taken as a numerical plural referring to “gods,” “divine beings” ... Following this line of interpretation, one could translate, “You will be like divine beings who know good and evil.”

¹⁴ You will be like divine beings who know good and evil. The serpent raises doubts about the integrity of God. **He implies that the only reason for the prohibition was that God was protecting the divine domain.** If the man and woman were to eat, they would enter into that domain. The temptation is to overstep divinely established boundaries. (See D. E. Gowan, When Man Becomes God [PTMS], 25.) [Biblical Studies Press. (2005). *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible. Biblical Studies Press.*]

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- (Galatians 5:1 ESV) For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.