It's the law!

➤Pentateuch – First five books of the Bible
➤Torah – "instruction" or "guidance"
      Originally used only for Pentateuch, later the entirety of Hebrew Bible
➤Decalogue – The 10 Commandments (Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5)
      God's proclamation of his will to all the people of Israel

➤Ethos (Greek) – implies customs
➤Nomos (Greek) – law, norm

 In ancient times, civil, ethical and religious behavior were inseparable

Did laws exist before the 10 Commandments?
      Gen. 23 – Abraham buying land for Sarah's grave

Hebrew law covered variety of topics: marriage; debt; punishment and its
   limits; ownership; inheritance

- By the last two centuries B.C. (BCE), "nomos" was seen as the absolute law for the Jewish people all by itself.
- Law was independent of the covenant.
- Your status as a member of God's people depended on your obedience to the law, not on the covenant.

Rabbinical though was the Pentateuch was delivered by God, as one unit, and was all anyone needed. By the time that Christ came into the world, study and fulfillment of the Pentateuch was *the* only way to righteousness

Jesus observed the Law (ethos); Said he didn't come to destroy it, but fulfill it

"In all that he (Jesus) said and did, he removed the law from its mediatorial position and opened up immediate access to God."

"But I say to you…" – Sermon on the Mount

Jesus wasn't opposed to the Law, but the way it was being used

Paul used "nomos" for the Pentateuch, and specifically the Decalogue

Paul sees the law as excellent and divine, but it cannot deliver us from evil

Law is a temporary fix designed to point us to Christ
      Where is salvation found?

The Law, according to Paul, is what condemns all people
  – we are saved from the law by the cross.

"The law of Christ" – the commandment to love

Romans 7:6 (NRSV)

"But now we are discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we are slaves not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit."