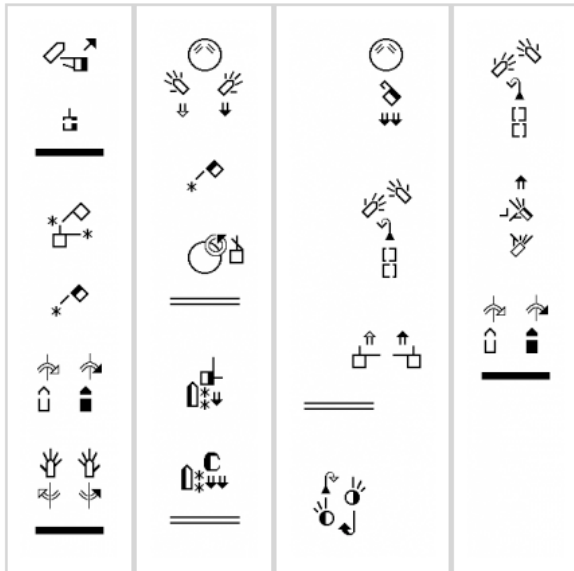


HOW WE BECAME CRIMINALS.

What makes someone a criminal? Committing a crime. What makes a crime? A law.

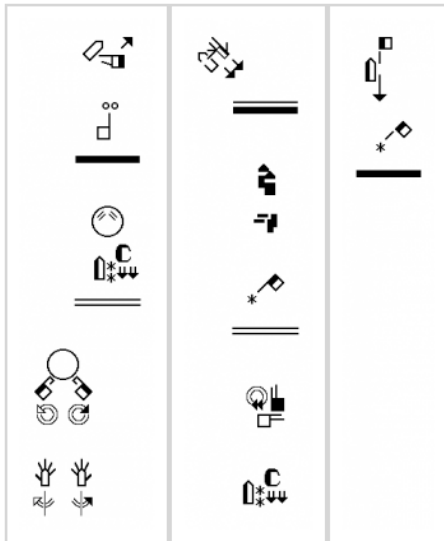


Romans 7:10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. (NLT)

(Lev. 18:5) A person can live if he obeys the commands, but if he disobey, he will die.

(ill.) People molested children before there was a law. The law made it possible to prosecute the molester.



11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

11 Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me.

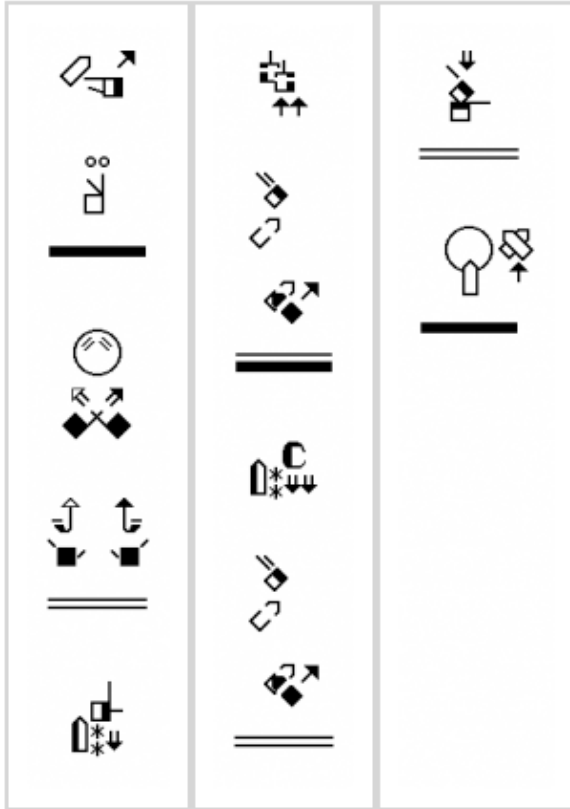
(1 Cor. 15:56) It (sin) killed/made wretched me. Again sin is personified just like we might see a bacteria as something that seemed to have a will of its own.

Sin/Satan used the Law to unseat humanity's authority.

Daniel's enemies could not unseat his authority until they had a law implemented which made Daniel a criminal.

Daniel 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

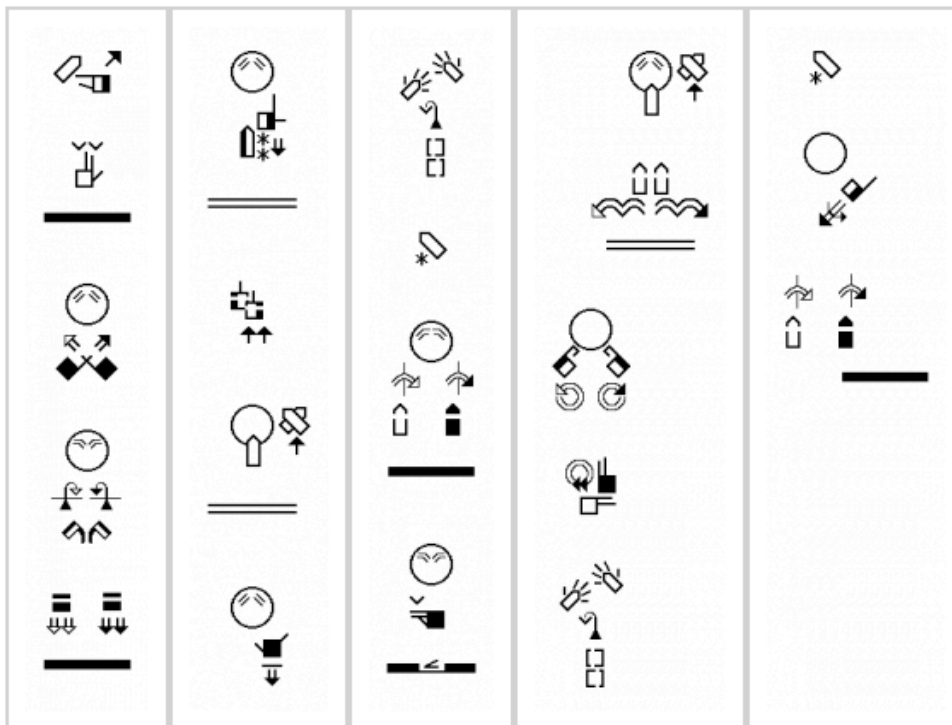
5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.



12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

12 But still the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.

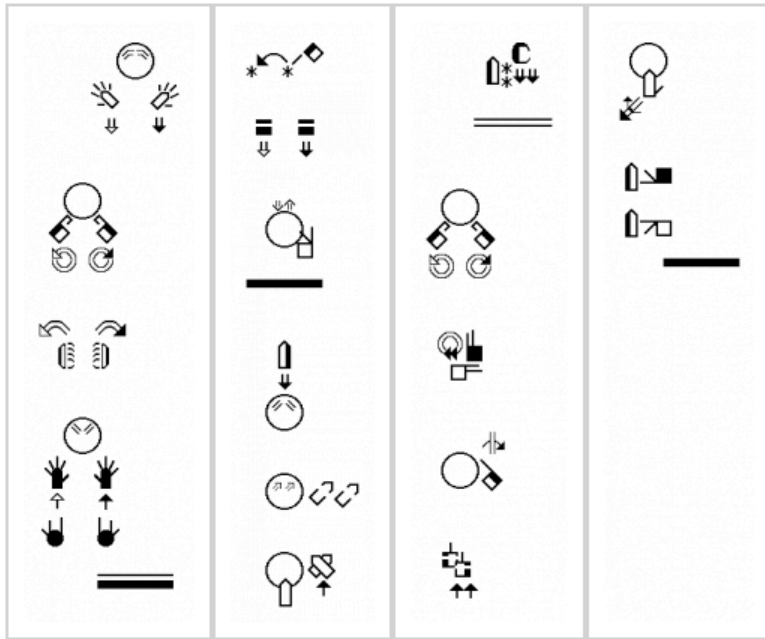
We cannot blame the law for our sin anymore than we can blame a traffic sign for an accident. (ill.) There is a sign on the Expressway ramp to slow down to 25 mph. If I do not slow down, I cannot blame the sign for telling me the truth. Suppose the sign said, "70 mph?" Then I could blame the sign for deceiving me. All the Law did was tell me what can kill me, what can make me wretched and miserable.



13a Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good;

13a But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death.

(ill.) The condemned house. (In another country it might be considered good.)



13b that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

13b So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.

(III.) I thought I could play tennis until I played with a pro. I thought I lived in a nice house until I saw the Biltmore Mansion.

I thought I was good enough until I learned the 10 Commandments.

Sin, just like Satan did to Eve, used the Law to slay me. I had not known sin but by the Law. (7)

“**Appear**” not in the sense of “seem” but in the sense shine, to be seen and exposed. The Law exposes sin. The exact same Greek word is applied to Christ and gospel.

1Jo 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shines.