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WHOSE LAW?

Some of you can remember, as I can, the time when May 1 was called May Day. Now it's Law Day. May Day was always a looked-forward-to day at school. Classes were dismissed for the day, or at least for the afternoon, and everybody, including parents who made a special effort to be present, gathered on the school grounds for the games and refreshments that were traditional on May Day.

Of course there was a Maypole. Young people today need to look that word up in a dictionary to understand what it means!

The Maypole! A tall flower and crepe-paper wreathed pole which stood majestically at the center of all the activities. Around it we danced, each of us grasping a streamer, winding and unwinding it around the pole.

But today May 1 is Law Day. Whose law?

In Russia the day serves as the occasion for showing off the military might of that nation as Red Square becomes a parade ground for troops and weaponry. Russian law is law even though only a few have a part in making it. Dictatorial law. Inequitable law. Crushing law for those who do not conform.

Whose law? In the United States it is law in which many have a voice in making. Because of our heritage it sometimes reflects divine standards, but basically it is human law and only as right as the humans who devised it. Democratic law. Law that provides for justice. But law which penalizes those who overstep it.

Whose law? Law Day might well remind us that God has given mankind law as well. And since God is perfect, His law is perfect also--something no set of human laws can ever claim. Since God is eternal, His law reflects

standards that are applicable for all generations and situations. Since God is loving, His law shows us the best way to enjoy that love.

Whose law? One might even say there is a Law of the Maypole. "Which way do we go 'round the pole?" the children ask. "This way," says one. "No, this way," cries another, grabbing his streamer and starting in the opposite direction. Finally, the majority, or possibly the teacher, decides which way to dance around the maypole.

But what happens to the child who insists on violating the Law of the Maypole? He is quickly pushed aside, loses his place, and misses out on the fun of the game.

God's law is for our good, so that we can enjoy life to the fullest. He knows what is best, and in His mercy He has given us guidelines for enjoying His best. When we break God's law we lose our way and stumble blindly through life. When we live by it, we find harmony with ourselves, others, and, most important, with Him.

The psalmist David sang the praises of God's law this way:

"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

And then the punch line--

"By them is thy servant warned;

and in keeping them there is great reward."

(Psalm 19:7-9, 11)

Law Day. Whose law? Don't leave out God's.