

Walking with Jesus Through Sinai:
 Seeking Moral Clarity in an Age of Chaos with the 10 Commandments
 CPC Adult Sunday Studies Fall 2024
 1 - Christ & the Law

Christ and the Law: How Jesus Fulfills It and Forms It In Us

What do you think of when you hear "the law"? Preconceived notions? Negative? Positive?

1. What is the Law?

1. *Matt. 22.36-40 - "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*
2. Love God - Commandments 1-4
3. Love neighbor - Commandments 5-10

2. We were made for the Law

1. *Remembering the Covenant to Moses* - Exod. 3-Numbers 36 (Ex. 20-24.11 is the majority of it) - *Bilateral, conditional law*, yet still based on the gracious promise of the Abrahamic covenant, with the intent of highlighting God's holiness, humanity's sin, and what it should look like to be God's chosen people. They weren't saved by following it, they were already saved, and this explained what "saved people" should look like if they were to live in the promised land.
 1. WCF 19.1-2 - "God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience, promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it. This law, after his fall, continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness; and, as such, was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in ten commandments, and written in two tables: the first four

commandments containing our duty towards God; and the other six, our duty to man”

2. *The Law reflects God’s relationship to all of humanity* - this is how you were made and how you ought to act.

3. We are SO FAR from the Law

1. *Matt. 5 - “You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. . . . You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. . . . You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

1. Jesus NEVER lowers the demands of the Law. That is a common misunderstanding of Christianity. In fact, he raises what the Pharisees thought was the standard. They thought they could keep the law, but they weren’t even close!
 1. This is not unlike how the Prophets, in applying the law to Israel, condemn them for all the ways they fall short of the law and are worthy of condemnation.
 2. How desperately we need a Savior!

4. Jesus Fulfills the Law

1. *Matt. 5.17-20 - “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all*

is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

5. Freedom from the Law in Christ

1. Rom. 8.1-3 - *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh"*
2. WCF 20 - *"The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the gospel consists in their freedom from the **guilt** of sin, the condemning **wrath** of God, the **curse** of the moral law; and, in their being **delivered** from this present evil world, **bondage** to Satan, and **dominion** of sin; from the **evil** of afflictions, the **sting** of death, the **victory** of the grave, and everlasting **damnation**; as also, in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but a childlike love and willing mind. All which were common also to believers under the law. But, under the new testament, the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected; and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of."*

6. The Spirit Applies the Law to our Hearts

1. Ezekiel 36.22-28 - *"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. 23 And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. 24 I will take you from the nations and*

gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. 28 You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.” (See also Ezek. 11.19 and Jer. 31.31-34)

2. 2Cor. 3-6 - In sum, this section says that the Spirit of the living God, the same One who said “let light shine out of darkness,” is remaking us into the new image of Christ and the holy dwelling of God.

7. **Summary - The Christians’ Movement Under, Through, and Back To the Law**

1. All - Born for and under the law
2. In Christ - Freed from the punishment of the law
3. In Christ - Back to the law
 1. Returning to the Sermon on the Mount - How does God lead us to become obedient? By first making us humble, such that those who are poor in spirit, who mourn, are meek and hungry for righteousness, merciful and pure in heart, and are persecuted for Jesus’ sake (Matt. 5.1-10) are precisely the people who will and are becoming obedient to the Law.