

CALL to PRAYER - pray for the churches in Canada - new law criminalizes Biblical standards

## Matthew 5:17-20 – Intro to/Purpose of the Law

INTRO - Today we begin a new series on the 10 Commandments. My intention is to hit on per week...know what's coming. I also want to encourage everyone to memorize these 10 Words. These 10 are the foundation for all just law and the standard for how we relate to our Maker, interactions between mankind, and the basic book on (grand)parenting. The 10 are to be upon our own hearts - impress them on children - talk about them, ponder them, and write them... memorize them. Nothing more practical for the NT church than the OT law...nor needed for a godless/lawless society than to be confronted with God's holy Law. We will begin with an overview of the purpose of the Law. Why did God give the Law? We are not saved by the law so what is its purpose? *Exposes Sin... Shows Savior...Standard for Living...it's what Love looks like*

### THE LAW EXPOSES OUR SIN

- God's law defines right & wrong. It is the standard for what is good or bad
  - The law is holy                      Romans 7:12                      The standard for righteousness
  - Sin = lawlessness                      1 John 3:4
    - All sin falls under these 10                      THE 10 DEFINE SIN
    - Romans 3:20                      Romans 7:7
  - God's law defines Gods (perceptive) will                      God's word is God's will
- God's standard is *transcendent, unchanging* and *holy*                      (exalted, reliable, right)
  - Man's definitions and standards are always changing and fluctuating
    - Mankind's "golden rule" = he who has the gold makes the rules
    - Man's standards are based on opinion, preference, power, and sin
- God's law is complete.                      there is a completeness to the commandments
  - There are 10 - no more and no less      Deut. 5:22
  - If it doesn't fit in these 10 it's not sin.      The 10 are the foundation for all just law
  - Man's laws can be enormous - 1000's of pages (1 law/bill bigger than our Bible)

### THE LAW SHOWS US THE SAVIOR

- The law shows us our need.                      It cannot save me; it just shows me I need a Savior
  - The law is a mirror when I look in it, I see how dirty I am
  - Sinners cannot come to faith without the law. The law brings conviction of sin.
    - Until you face the law you can never know your need of a Savior. (Ps 19:7)
      - We can't keep it.                      We don't keep it.                      We won't keep it
- We can't, but HE can.                      We don't, but HE did.                      We won't, but HE will
  - The Law points away from ourselves to the One Law keeper                      Gal. 4:4-5
    - Christ came to keep the law.                      He came to do God's will - Heb.10:7
  - Jesus came to fulfill the law - *Matt. 5:17* - The law is the shadow; but Jesus is the substance. The law is a figure; but Christ is the fulfillment (sacrificial/obedience)

- The law is our schoolmaster to lead us to Christ - Gal. 3:24
  - Jesus kept it all (the obedience part). He fulfilled it all (sacrificial part)
  - The law brings conviction & conversion (Ps. 19:7) because it points to Christ

## THE LAW IS THE STANDARD FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

1. Does the OT law have any bearing for the NT Christian?
  - a. We are not under law but under grace. We are not justified by law but by faith
2. Faith doesn't do away with the law, it fulfills the law
  - a. Romans 3:(28)31      Romans 8:3-4
3. In the New Covenant the law is written upon our hearts.      Heb. 8:10-11
  - a. Not external rules written on stone but internal relationship engraved on heart
  - b. The new covenant & new birth enables us to keep the law out of love for God
    - i. We couldn't and wouldn't before. But now our "wanter" wants to
  - c. The law tells us what God's will is and the Christian wants to do God's will
4. Gods law is the *Law of Liberty*      (James 1:25)
  - a. We were slaves to sin (John 8:34) but now we are free to obey
    - i. His commandments are not burdensome to the believer (1 John 5:3b)
    - ii. We should keep and teach them      Matthew 5:18-19
  - b. We are under the Law of Christ (1 Cor. 9:21)
    - i. His laws show us how to live...and how to live with love

## THE LAW IS THE OUTWORKING OF LOVE

1. The law is all about love
  - a. Love is not a "warm fuzzy feeling" ... love is an action
  - b. The law shows us how to live in love with our God and with our neighbor
  - c. 1 John 5:3      John 14:15      John 15:10
2. Love is defined by Law
  - a. The sum of the commandments - Matt. 22:36-40      (law hangs on love)
  - b. The 10 commands show us what love looks like. How to love God & neighbor
    - i. Table I - How to love God      Commands 1-4
      1. Exclusive Person, No Image, Honor Name and Remember Day
    - ii. Table II      how to love neighbor      Commands 5-10
      1. Honor authority, respect live, marriage, property, truth, content
      2. Love is the fulfillment of the law      Rom. 13:10      Gal. 5:14
  - c. Breaking these 10 is how to hate God and neighbor
3. A lawless society is a loveless society
  - a. Idolatry, blasphemy, 24/7, rebellion, murder, immorality, stealing, lying, envy
  - b. The 10 define sin. They show what hate looks like
  - c. These 10 words from above are the standard of how to live in love