

The Teachings of Jesus Christ fulfil the Law

“Do no think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfil” (Matt. 5:17).

How did Jesus fulfil the Law?

By looking at what Jesus taught, it soon becomes clear what He meant when he said that He came to fulfil the Law. Jesus repeatedly quoted what the Law stated, and then emphasized what He had to say about it. Time and again we see how he replaces the requirements of the Law with the much higher standard of His teachings. So for example, He is not satisfied with the standard of the law as recorded in **Ex. 20:13** –

*“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgement.’ **But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgement. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell” (Matt. 5:21-22, My emphasis).***

Jesus sets a much higher standard. He does the same with the seventh commandment: *“You shall not commit adultery” (Ex. 20:14)*. Under the Law proof had to be given before anybody could be found guilty of adultery. Once again this standard is not good enough for Jesus and He fulfils it by stating what He requires:

*“You heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ **But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matt. 5:27, My emphasis).***

He does not only judge the deed, but also the attitude before the deed has even been committed. As can be seen in the comparison made below, not one single of the moral standards of the Law is broken or contradicted by what is taught in the New Testament. **Because the moral standards of the New Testament are so high, spiritual rebirth is necessary so that the indwelling Holy Spirit can enable the believer to live it.**

Summary of the Sermon on the Mount

*“Therefore everyone who hears **these words of mine** and puts them into practice is like a man who built his house on the rock” (Matt. 7:24, my emphasis).*

This statement confirms the importance of doing the things that Jesus taught. The phrase **“These words of mine”** refers to the context of what He says in chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the

book of Matthew, also known as “The Sermon on the Mount.” In this section He gives a condensed account of the godly life He expects of His followers. Some of the things that He says, should not to be taken literally, but have a spiritual application. So for example, the historian Eusebius, writes that Origen, one of the so-called church fathers, because he took **Matt. 5:29** literally, had himself emasculated in order to prevent him from sinning! Physical deformity does not prevent sin! Sin comes from the heart (**Mark 7:23**).

We see that while Jesus ignores certain things required by the Law, like for example circumcision, holy days, and tithing, He forbids other things which under the Law were allowed. Here we think of the easy way in which divorces and the taking of oaths were permitted in the days of the Old Testament. Other things not even mentioned in the Law, like love for your enemies and praying for the them, are commanded by Christ.

The fulfilment of the Law

The Ten Commandments

1. No other gods (**Ex.20:3**)

2. No idols (**Ex.20:4**)

3. Not to take the Name of God in vain (**Ex.20:7**).

4. Sabbath – One Holy day in a week

5. Honouring your father and mother

6. May not commit murder

7. May not commit deed of adultery

8. You may not steal

9. May not give false witness

The New Testament

“I am the way..the truth and the life”(**John 14:6**).

“...no other name under heaven...”(**Acts 4:12**).

“...they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man..” (**Rom.1:22-25**).

Must give an account of **every** vain word (**Matt.12:36**).

Type of rest in Christ (**Heb.4:10**).

Every day a holy life in Christ Jesus –*“whether you eat or drink or whatever you do”* (**1 Cor.10:31**). 7 days out of 7 holy.

(**Eph.6:1-4**), not only children are addressed, but also parents.

Will give account of every malicious word (**Matt.5:22-23**).

Thinking with lust, you have already committed the deed (**Matt.5:28**).

Must not only stop stealing, you must work in order to share with others (**Eph.4:28**).

Your “yes” must be yes” and your “no” must

be “no” (**Matt.5:33-37**).

10. May not covet

Whole life must be free of greed(**Heb.13:5,**
1 Tim.6:6-10).

So we see how each one of the requirements of the Ten Commandments is “fulfilled” by the teachings of the New Testament.

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