

Matthew 22:37–40

- 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?
37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,
and with all thy mind.
38 This is the first and great commandment.
39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

THE LAW OF GOD: FOUNDATIONAL FOR ALL OF SCRIPTURE

1. The revelation of God's good pleasure
2. The foundation of the gospel
3. The norm for the Christian's walk

I. THE LAW: THE REVELATION OF GOD'S GOOD PLEASURE

A. *Christ's Assessment of the Law: Foundational to the Entire Body of Revealed Truth*

1. The Living Word, the Angel of the Covenant (!),
 - gave the Law verbally at Mt. Sinai
Act 7:38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina,
 - inscribed the Law with His own finger in tables of stone—doing so 2x!
2. Bottom line: The entire body of revealed truth flows out of the Law!
Mat 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets

B. *Matt. 22:37–40: The Law in its Original Form!*

1. This law was written upon Adam's heart
2. The Law as given at Mt. Sinai: Consistent with man's sinful nature (8 prohibitions—"Thou shalt not...")

C. *The Law: God Reveals the Purpose of Man's Creation*

1. Man: Created to function in a dual love relationship
2. Man: Created as a relational being by a relational God—by a Triune God!
3. Man: Created with unique faculties to know, love, and serve His Creator
4. Man's sacred obligation: To respond in love to God's revelation of love—toward Him & men

D. *The Focus of the Two Tables of the Law: The Son of God*

1. The requirement of the 1st table: To love God as He has revealed Himself in His Son
John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

2. The requirement of the 2nd table: To love our neighbor, *created in the image of God's Son*
3. Obedience to the Law: Rendering supreme honor to the Son of God's love

E. The Law: The Eternal & Abiding Standard of Moral Conduct

1. The eternal transcript of the mind of an Eternal God—who loves His Son!
2. God's holiness: His utter and infinite devotion to the glory and honor of His Son
Psa 89:35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.
3. The law: The eternal norm of conduct for the redeemed—who will honor God's Son by honoring His law

II. THE LAW: THE FOUNDATION OF THE GOSPEL

A. Fallen Man: Required to Obey God's Law Perfectly (Non-negotiable!)

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

B. Sinful man, as a Law-breaker,

1. Inclined to hate God and his neighbor
2. Provokes God to infinite wrath by his transgression of the Law—the standard that defines all sin
3. The reason for the Father's wrath: Transgression of His written Word dishonors His Living Word—His Son!
4. Sinners are, therefore, subject to the infinite curse of the Law
Gal 3:10 It is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

C. An Astounding Truth: An Offended Lawgiver Provides Salvation for Law-breakers!

1. The Ceremonial & Civil Laws: God's Exposition of the Moral Law!
2. The Ceremonial Law: God's gracious revelation of His Law—a schoolmaster to Christ (Gal. 3:24)
 - the divine solution for law-breakers
 - the law of God immersed in blood—silencing the curse of the law!
 - fulfilled by the Lamb of God in the fullness of time

D. The Wonder of the Incarnation—the Word (!) Made Flesh

1. The Lawgiver = the Law Keeper—the Holy One!
Psa 40:7-8 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.
2. The Lawgiver willingly becomes the Substitute for Lawbreakers
 - He willingly permits Himself to be treated as a law breaker
2 Cor 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
 - He willingly submits Himself to the curse of His own law
Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
3. The cross: The Lawgiver secures redemption for law breakers!
Col. 1:20 [Christ] having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself;

E. The Gospel: Good News for Law Breakers!

1. Christ has obeyed the Law perfectly
2. Christ has paid the penalty of the Law exhaustively
3. Christ has silenced the curse of the Law eternally
4. **The cross: The vindication of the law!**
Rom 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

III. THE NORM FOR THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK

A. The Blessed Fruit of the Cross: Justification and Sanctification

1. **Justification: Complete pardon of law-breakers**
2. **Sanctification: Law-breakers transformed into law-keepers!**
3. **Christians: Sinners who come to Christ & become like Christ!**
1 Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

B. Obedience to the Law: The Believer's Expression of Love for their Savior

1. **Christ's emphasis on the connection between loving Him and obeying Him**
John 14:15, 21, 23 If ye love me, keep my commandments.... He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...If a man love me, he will keep my words.
2. **We honor the Living Word by honoring His written Word!**
Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
3. **Christians: Men & women who begin to answer to the purpose for which we were created**
1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

C. The Secret of a Christ-honoring Life: Abiding in Christ—the Incarnate Lawgiver

1. **Christ urges us to stay with Him—to walk with Him**
John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
2. **The crucial truth of John 15: Union to Christ results in likeness to Christ!**
1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

D. The Confession of the Genuine Believer: Oh, How Love I Thy Law!

- 1 Jn 2:3-5* And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.