

More than Religion – Maybe you have heard ‘Christianity is not a religion...relationship’
Not entirely accurate...Christianity is religion – **James 1:27 ‘Pure and undefiled religion’**
System of beliefs, practices, and values by which people understand & relate to God

Everyone has a religion – Estimate 10k religions worldwide – Atheism is a religion
Christianity is a religion based on a relationship w/ Jesus Christ – We relate God through JC
Most religions are based on priority list of do’s and don’ts – Most are works based religions
We break rules – I bet all of you broke some law on way here today...Speed – Lane – Turn
The problem with **works-based religions** is...when is too much too much – Enough...Enough
How do you know when your good deeds outweigh deeds – **Gong that goes off...screw up**
What if it only takes one bad deed to set you apart from God? Isn’t he holy? Perfect?
How can a sinful person ever be righteous before a holy God?

613 Commandments – 278 positive ("You shall...") - 365 negative ("You shall not...")
We group the laws into three broad categories: **Moral laws - Ceremonial laws - Civil laws**
Let’s not worry about 613...let’s talk about 10 – **The 10 Commandments | How many broken**
I bet if you were a Jew, you would have broken all 613! We cannot get 10 things right!
How can a sinful person ever be righteous before a holy God? | Text answers question

¹⁷ “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.

Teacher – Perfect Paper – You Cannot do it – Someone hands you their paper – Perfect
You hand it in...teacher knows it isn’t yours...it’s not fair that you get the grade...teacher accepts
Heart of the Gospel - Jesus did we could never do – Perfectly fulfilled God’s righteous standard
Big Idea - Christ’s righteousness saves our souls and guides our lives

Jesus did not merely teach righteousness—Jesus became our righteousness
Today we are going to give you three things Jesus accomplished as it pertains to the law

1. **Jesus Came to Give: Satisfaction of the Law (17-18)**

¹⁷ “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. | I’m sure is answering a question that has come up in his traveling

How does Jesus, and in turn we, relate to the Mosaic Covenant and the Law

- People throughout history have thought Jesus came to start a new religion...not true
 - Believed Christianity was something completely disconnected from the Old Testament
 - Jesus did not come erase the Old Testament – God’s Word was wrong – Replace easier
- Imagine man standing before a massive stone wall...something that had taken years to build**
Carefully Completed | Tear it down | I didn’t come to destroy wall...complete what was begun
I’m going to give us five ways that we relate to the Law...these are important...listen up

a. **We Recognize the Law as God’s Word**

- The OT Law was given by God reveals His character, holiness, righteousness, and will
- Christians do not dismiss it as irrelevant – **Andy Stanley – ‘Unhitch their faith from OT’**
Romans 7:12 - “The law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.”

b. **We See Christ as the Fulfillment of the Law**

- Perfectly obeyed the Law – Jesus lived out all 613 Laws to perfection | Sacrifice Pure
- Completed what the Law pointed toward – Animal | Lamb | High Priest
- Fulfilled the Law’s purpose – Showed that we could not make it...Jesus Could

c. **We Are Not Justified by Keeping the Law** | Saved by Grace through Faith

- Law exposes our sin and shows us our need for a Savior – **We break it...He bought it**
Galatians 2:16 “For by works of the law no human being will be justified.”

d. **We Use the Law to Understand Our Need for Christ**

- Law shows us God’s perfect standard and exposes our inability to meet that standard
- Points us away self-righteousness and toward righteousness we receive through Christ
Romans 3:20 - “Through the law comes knowledge of sin.”

e. **We Follow the Moral Truths of God’s Law**

- Moral principles revealed in God’s Law continue to instruct believers | **Letter v Spirit**
- **“Not to gather gleanings” – Lev. 19:9 | The letter would be...the Spirit = Take care poor**
Commands concerning things such as honesty, sexual purity, worship, justice, love, and
honoring others remain consistent with God’s moral character

2. **Jesus Came to Give: Standards for the believer (19)**

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

- We live in a culture that often treats rules as suggestions – **Rule Followers vs Rebellious**
 - If a rule seems inconvenient, we find a way around it
 - If a command seems unpopular, we reinterpret it
 - If a teaching of Scripture makes us uncomfortable, we are tempted to explain it away

a. **Respect God’s Commands** – 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
Jesus gives a warning about ‘relaxing’ God’s commands...taking them less than seriously
Idea is to loosen, lessen, or treat something as though it were less important it really is

- We must be careful not to rank God’s commands according to our preferences
- Some Christians emphasize passages they like and minimize the passages they don’t
God’s Word doesn’t become less authoritative because we don’t like what it says
(Pirate) Private getting orders from a Captain – I’ll pick and choose what of this I want

Four ‘Don’ts’ when it comes to the commands of God

- **Don’t ignore the difficult passages of Scripture** – All Scripture is God breathed
- **Don’t reshape Scripture to fit the culture** – Popular opinion doesn’t matter
- **Don’t treat God’s commands as suggestions** – Yes is Yes and No is No
- **Don’t obey only the commands that are convenient** – Justification of sin is still sin
will be called least in the kingdom of heaven

The person who minimizes God’s Word will be considered insignificant in God’s kingdom

b. **Promote God’s Commands** - **whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven** - Jesus expects His followers to obey God’s Word and also to **teach it to others**
Parents teach children - Pastors teach churches - Older believers teach younger believers

Disciples make disciples | Jesus → Disciples → Others → 2000 years → You

- Discipleship is not a single relationship or activity
- It is a network of relationships and responsibilities that all work together
How many people have you been disciplined by? My number is literally hundreds
- **The countless conversations** – Small Groups – Books – Sermons – Podcasts...all add up
will be called great in the kingdom of heaven

The person who maximizes God’s Word will be considered significant in God’s kingdom
Kingdom greatness is found in faithful obedience and faithful influence

3. Jesus Came to Give: Salvation for the sinner (20)

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

What Jesus lays out is an impossible order...be more righteous than the Pharisees & Scribes

- They looked incredibly righteous. Knew Scriptures – Prayed -Fasted – Gave – Religious
- Anyone looking at them would have said, “That is what righteousness looks like,”

⁹ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. | Shocked the listeners – Be better than the pharisees?!?! No chance!

Jesus was not saying, “**Try harder than the Pharisees.**”

He was saying, “**You need a different kind of righteousness.**”

The righteousness God requires is not external conformity – Internal transformation Christ

The two Resume’s | First is full of accomplishments | Second only has a reference

a. **Recognize the Limits of External Righteousness** – Not that external works don’t matter

"That they may see your good works and glorify God" – Matthew 5:16

It’s that your external good works cannot save you...why are so many Pharisees in Hell?

Religious People – Knew Scriptures – Disciplines – Morally Serious | They Rejected Jesus

All the religious acts in the world cannot save you...but one act of confession can

How can a sinful person ever be righteous before a holy God?

Big Idea - Christ's righteousness saves our souls and guides our lives

On this ‘All In’ Sunday let’s make sure you’re all in for Jesus – Give the Gospel

Communion