



## The Fundamental List - Part 3

In every generation, new and sometimes toxic opinions get woven into streams of Christianity. Which is why it is essential to remembering one primary fact—the starting point and the ending point for understanding what God is like, is Jesus. And what did Jesus have to say about sin? Did he make his “rules” clear by clarifying what is and isn’t a sin? Or is that what the Bible is for— an exhaustive list of what is and isn’t acceptable? It’s an important question in a world where every community and faith tradition seems to have its own inflexible list.

### Getting Started

1. Did you ever have a parent, teacher, or leader who was exceptionally good about making the boundaries clear?

### What About You?

2. What were some of the big rules in your childhood home?
3. Have you ever found yourself asking if an avenue of action is technically still “lawful,” rather than whether it is good?
4. Have you ever seen somebody technically keep “the rules” while still hurting others? What about *using* the rules to hurt other people?

### Look It Up

*Matthew 22:36–40. Mark 2:23–27. Matthew 23:23.*

6. What does Jesus reveal about his priorities, here?
7. What do you think makes the second commandment “like” the first one, according to Jesus’s answer?
8. If you had to summarize Jesus’s view of sin, how would you put it?
9. What do all the more important matters of the law that Jesus lists in Matthew 23 have in common?



### **Putting It All Together**

10. Are there any relationships, habits, needs, attitudes that are currently harming you or the people around you? Chipping away at your self-respect?
11. Who can support you by being an honest listener as you begin to walk away from this sin?
12. Are you willing to listen when the people closest to you confront you about behavior that harms them? What is your normal response?
13. Do you regularly incorporate time in your prayer to reflect on your habits, needs, attitudes, and relationships? Would you be willing to begin this practice?

