

# **Why The New Testament Is Harder To Follow Than The Old Testament?**

## **Matthew 5:17-27**

### **What Does The Bible Say?**

17 “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. (Matthew 5:17 NLT)

18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. (Matthew 5:18 NLT)

19 So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them

will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 5:19  
NLT)

20 “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the  
righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees,  
you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven! (Matthew 5:20  
NLT)

21 “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not  
murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’

22 But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are  
subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in  
danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse  
someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. (Matthew 5:21–  
22 NLT)

23 “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple  
and you suddenly remember that someone has something against

you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. (Matthew 5:23–24 NLT)

25 “When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny. (Matthew 5:25–26 NLT)

## **How Can You Obey?**

**The first five books of the Old Testament contain 613 rules the Israelites were to obey. Why did Jesus pick these six?**

**It is because of what binds them all together—love toward others! These are all relational commands.**

**First, be more concerned with the spirit of the Law than adherence to the letter of the Law.**

**Second, don't have your pet-project laws that you focus on versus all that God demands.**

**Additional Notes:**

If you want to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at [www.crosswaveschurch.com/host](http://www.crosswaveschurch.com/host). Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

**Explore:**

Christianity is about more than attending church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each learner enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it.

As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not mere decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and allow them to respond.

If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ-followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

### **Question 1 of 4**

How should the career ambitions of a Christian differ from those of an unbeliever?

### **Question 2 of 4**

Explain what Jesus means when He says our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees.

### **Question 3 of 4**

Is the Sermon on the Mount meant to be obeyed now, or is it a set of ideals only to be achieved in eternity? Explain your answer.

### **Question 4 of 4**

How would you respond to an unbeliever who asks, “How can I live out the kind of righteousness Jesus is talking about in this sermon?”

