# **SOTM Pt 20 - The Law and the Believer Pt 3**

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Sermon on the Mount / Tanakh; Law in the OT; Fulfillment of Prophecy / Matthew 5:17–20

[2 Peter 3:3–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Pe3.3-4) “3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, **“Where is the promise of His coming?** For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation… [2 Peter 3:9](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Pe3.9) “9 **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise**, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

[2 Peter 3:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Pe3.14) “14 Therefore, beloved, **looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless**;”

Without Spot and Blameless brings us back around to our Sermon on the mount passage and our question: Since Christ has fulfilled the law how does the believer relate to the law?:

**Matthew 5:17–20 NKJV**

17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them,* he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

[Matthew 5:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.19) “19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

If then, Christ has fulfilled the law - that is in relation to the moral law He perfectly lived the moral law, and by His coming and fulfilling the law Romans tells us that Righteousness has now been revealed apart from the law ([Romans 3:21–22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro3.21-22) “21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe...” )

[2 Corinthians 5:21](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Co5.21) “21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

And yet, Paul also tells us in [Romans 6:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro6.14) we are not under law but grace, and in [Romans 8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro8) that Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death

If we have been set free from the Law of sin and death, which is what the Law reveals for us, that in it is only death because we can never attain fulfilling it **what then does the believe have in relation to it**:

So then in Christ we have been freed from the penalty of the law, and from the binding of adherence to the law for righteousness for our righteousness is found in Christ.

[Romans 8:1–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro8.1-4) “1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**”

Christ took the Curse of the Law - The Consequences, The Penalty with Him to the Cross [Galatians 3:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ga3.10) “10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “**Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”**” [Galatians 3:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ga3.13) “13 **Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law**, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),”

So then if He bore the Curse for us are we then freed from the responsibility to continue in them? NO. For remember the moral law we discussed last week applies to all people across all space, everywhere and all time for it reveals the expectation of morality God has.

His morality has not changed! His Holiness has not abated

So then what happened to the Law?

It became a law of the heart not a law of external requirements

[Jeremiah 31:33](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Je31.33) “33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” [Hebrews 10:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Heb10.16) “16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,””

[Ezekiel 36:26–27](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze36.26-27) “26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

### Legalism vs Antinomianism

Legalism could be defined as: Having a **strict outward conformity to moral and religious practices in order to be righteous,** and an expectation that others have the same.

Jesus quickly addresses this in verse 20 of [Matthew 5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5) “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” **The Pharisees were legalist. They believed their strict outward conformity to the moral and religious practices made them righteous.**

Antinomianism is a fancy big theological term that comes from the compound of two Greek words - “Anti” meaning against and “Nomos” meaning law, So Antinomianism is defined as the belief that Christians are freed by Grace from the necessity of obeying the law.

**Antinomianism and legalism are the characteristics that a believer can get out of balance towards.** On the one hand legalism says one must be obedient to the law in order to be righteous before God and the world. On the other hand, antinomianism says because we have been freed from the law and have no obligation to it whatsoever **AND** we are free to live apart from it.

The truth is we are free from the consequences of the law and are unable to obtain righteousness by observance of it, but we ARE expected to follow the morality of God as He has outlined it in His word!

The following of the moral law **now** is a matter of the heart. The Gospel of Jesus Christ transforms the heart:

If you LOVE ME...

[John 14:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn14.15) “15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” [John 14:21](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn14.21) “21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.””

[1 John 2:3–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Jn2.3-5) “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

[Matthew 5:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.19) “19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Christ still expects us to live a life of the moral law of God but our righteousness is not obtained by them, and they are not the requirement for entrance into the kingdom.

Only those who are born again [John 3:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn3.3) “3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot **see the kingdom of God**.”” [John 3:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn3.5) “5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot **enter the kingdom of God**.”

So in [Matthew 5:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.19) Jesus is talking to believers keeping the law, which is now written on their hearts and minds and the Spirit dwells in them and empowers them to keep the law ([Jeremiah 31:33](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Je31.33) & [Ezekiel 36:26-27](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eze36.26-27))

So then the moral law is not where we find our righteousness, for our righteousness is in Christ, but is by no means abandoned. Thou shall not covet still means we should not covet. Thou shall not commit adultery still means we are not to commit adultery, etc.

Believers, who are Kingdom citizens live the Law through obedience to the Spirit and espouse a new “Christian Ethic” because of the heart:

1. Right action - What we do must be in obedience to Christ Commands [John 14:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.15) ““If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

2. Right Motivate - Why we do it - Must flow from the greatest commandment - **“Love God - Love People”** any other motivation is the wrong motivation [Matthew 22:37-40](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt22.37-40) “Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.””

a. ANY other motivation for right action creates legalism -

3. Right Goal - [Matthew 5:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.16) “16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” [Isaiah 43:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Is43.7) “7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”” The Goal is that God is Glorified