

Sovereign Grace Church
“Whence the Law?” outline
June 10, 2018

Matthew 5: 17-20

Having considered how Christ's Kingdom is now open for entry, especially to those who are powerless, disenfranchised, considered inadequate and unworthy by worldly standards....what are we to make of those who thought they were already ready?...or perhaps even already in?! Jesus was not perceived as a friend by the religious establishment of His day. If the “experts” in God's law were not looked to as those having real authority in these matters then did that mean that the Mosaic Law could be ignored?! Did Jesus' coming mean that folks no longer have any need for God's Law?

The answer to this question is both obvious and mysterious at the same time. Jesus embraced God's law but at the same time seemed to take a certain inordinate pleasure in breaking this same law in so far as it was understood by the religious experts, especially the scribes and Pharisees. These people were always looking for an opportunity to trip Jesus up by presenting Him with certain legal conundrums geared to entrap Him as a law-breaker. They always failed but were eventually able to get Him arrested, tried and executed....mostly for His strong opposition to their understanding of God's Law. It is important that we ourselves do not fall into the same Pharisaical trap! This morning we will consider the place of God's law in Christ's Kingdom.

1. Law and Covenant v. 17

- “Law or the Prophets” Hos. 6:6; Jer. 31: 33; Ezk 36: 26-27

- Covenantal Unfolding
Gen. 17: 19,21; Deut 5: 32-33; 6:5-6; Jn. 6:28; Gal. 5:6; II Cor. 3:6

- Jesus and the New Covenant Matt 1: 19

2. Law and Kingdom vv. 18-19

- Law as eternal in itself v. 18a

- **But presently understood as Fulfilled in Christ/Spirit v. 18b -19**

3. Law and Righteousness v. 20

- **What is righteousness?**

- **What was the “Righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees”?**

- **What was their mistake? Matt. 12: 34**

- **Jesus' fundamental and essential Correction Lk 11: 39-40. 52**

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. What is your understanding of what Jesus meant when He said that He had fulfilled the law? Does His fulfillment cancel the requirements of the law for us? Or does His fulfillment enrich our call to obedience? How do other Christians you know tend to answer this question? What difference does it make as we seek to be disciples of Jesus?**
- 2. Do you know any “scribes or Pharisees” today? Are you one? What is to be prior...our love for the Law or our love for God? What happens when we put love for law before love for God? What happens to our understanding of God?! What happens to our understanding of discipleship?**
- 3. How do we go about teaching our children a love for God's law? What happens when we teach them a love for God's law without teaching them a prior and deeper love for God? Can this even be taught? How? How do you teach someone TO love as opposed to teaching them that they OUGHT to love?**
- 4. Are you righteous? How do you know? Or does your deep humility hinder you from making any real self-analysis? If so, is this really humility?!**