

# Fulfillment of the Law | Family Worship Guide

*Matthew 5:17-18*



**MAIN IDEA:** Christ fulfills the law and then gives His people the heart to obey it.

## **PREPARATION:**

Write down and discuss the meaning of some of the laws given to God's people in the time of Moses.

## **EXPLANATION:**

In the earlier passage, Jesus tells his disciples how vital their role is by saying, "You are the salt of the earth...and the light of the world." This is important to note, though the Jews thought of themselves as the light of the world (Ro 2:19), the true light is the Suffering Servant (Isa 42:26; 49:6), fulfilled in Jesus himself (Mt 4:16; cf. Jn 8:12; 9:5; 12:35; 1 Jn 1:7). In v. 17 Jesus does not waste time in bringing up the fact that he does not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill them. The purpose was not to dissolve the Word, but to accomplish the purpose for which it was given (Is 55:10-11).

Jesus wanted to point out that He was here to embody the Word, and to fully accomplish what was written (Ro 10:4). He was bringing all of the words of the Prophets to a realization. Jesus would be the one that would perfectly uphold the standards of the Law and it was fulfilled in two ways: as a teacher and as a doer. For example, He would teach his followers to obey the Law (Mt 22:35-40; Luke 24:44) and He would obey the Law Himself (Jn 8:46; 1 Peter 2:22). Thus, Jesus was here to satisfy the demands of the Old Covenant Law, fulfill the prophecies given by the old prophets and establish the New Covenant between God and His people.

As Jesus fulfilled the Old Covenant he opened the door for a New Covenant (contractual agreement) between Himself and his followers where we are no longer just striving to fulfill an external law, but His Holy Spirit works in our hearts as we submit to follow Him. As believers, we are perfectly righteous in our standing before God because Jesus fulfilled the demands of the Law, and we continue to progress in practical righteousness because the Spirit is working it out in our character.

**"by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:14)**

## **CONVERSATION:**

1. Discuss with your family, why Jesus had to come to fulfill the Law.
2. What is the difference between the Old Covenant between God and Israel, and the New Covenant between God and those who follow Jesus?
3. Look through the support verses and discuss the fulfillment and accomplishment of Jesus.

## **APPLICATION:**

- Consider how the Old Covenant Law applies to followers of Jesus today.
- Compare what people did after they sinned in the Old Testament, and what we should do now.

## SUPPLICATION:

- Father, we are thankful for your redemptive purpose and how you fulfilled the Law's demands that we cannot meet.
- Let us be willing and able to discuss the great gift you brought to us with one another and with people who are stuck in the guilt of their sin.

## EXULTATION:

Worthy of Affection by Shane and Shane. <https://youtu.be/UmUBBQu6S00>

Deliver you brought us out of the miry clay  
You set our feet upon the rock  
And You made us sing, holy is the Lord

If You would declare Your thoughts about us  
One by one it would be too many to count  
So we simply come to sing of your great love  
So we sing, we lift our hands and sing

You are worthy of affection  
You're the radiance of all of His glory  
Let our adoration fill this place  
You hold everything together  
By the word of your immovable power  
We sing this song of praise

We are the broken down  
And we are the beaten up  
But what can stop us  
From the song of unending love, Holy is the Lord

You are the treasure  
The hope, the bright and morning star  
You are the lover of our soul  
And you won our hearts we sing of Your great love  
So we sing we lift our hands and sing

You are worthy of affection  
You're the radiance of all of His glory  
Let our adoration fill this place  
You hold everything together  
By the word of your immovable power  
We sing a song of praise, a song of praise

Worthy are You Lord, worthy are You Lord  
Oh, worthy are You Lord of all praise  
All glory to You Lord, all glory to You Lord  
All glory to You Lord forevermore, forevermore

You are worthy of affection  
You're the radiance of all of His glory  
Let our adoration fill this place  
You hold everything together  
By the word of your immovable power  
We sing a song of praise  
We sing a song of praise

Holy are You Lord, holy are You Lord  
Oh, holy are You Lord  
Faithful are You Lord, Oh, Faithful are you Lord  
You are worthy of affection  
You're the radiance of all of His glory  
Let our adoration fill this place  
You hold everything together  
By the word of your immovable power  
We sing a song of praise  
We sing a song of praise

# What to do with Law? | Family Worship Guide

Matthew 5:19-20



**MAIN IDEA:** What one does with the God's Law matters in both this life and the next.

## PREPARATION:

Work together to write down (or discuss) 3-5 reasons people accept laws in general. Then briefly relate that to why followers of Jesus should value God's Law, as delivered through Moses and Jesus.

## EXPLANATION:

In vv. 17-18 we saw that Jesus highlights the realities of the **pre-eminence** (exalted worth) of, the **perfection** of (it and its author are without flaw), and the **permanence** of God's Word, i.e. the Law. Then in verse 19 our Lord and Savior transitions into highlighting that a Christ follower's "rank" in the kingdom of God is determined by our obedience to His commands and our faithful communication of them to others. Have you ever thought about that? Consider our earthly citizenship as an illustration: We can either retain our freedom and observe the laws of the country or reject those laws and give up some or all our freedoms. There are only three things we can do with God's Law, and what we do with it will determine our status in the Kingdom:

1. We can seek to destroy or lay aside the law. (but, it will be in vain for it is permanent)
2. We can seek to follow and fulfill the law, in and of ourselves. (but this too will be in vain)
3. Or, we can seek to simply do and faithfully teach the law in love, via God's enablement.

But, here in v 20 Jesus drops the bomb shell on them that the most respected, pious, and dedicated of them, the scribes and Pharisees, still fall short. He says that if His followers cannot surpass the observable righteousness which they have seen in the scribes and Pharisees lives they cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven. These men were known for their careful study of the Law and outward actions designed to the strictest keeping of it. One thing we learn is that *it is not the quantity of works but the quality of works that our savior has in mind*. But even more importantly, *genuine righteousness, or heavenly righteousness which fits us for heaven, can only be acquired through trust in God*

The Bible plainly reveals that no one can fulfill the law and thereby be justified [see: Rom. 7:7, 12; James 2:10; Gal 3:19, 21; Rom 3:20, 28; Gal. 2:16, 3:11, 5:1-4]. Yet, it is also clear that God in His Omnibenevolence (all goodness) and perfect love provided a righteousness greater than what is available through keeping the law [Rom. 3:21; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Matt. 5:17 & 6:33; Eph. 4:22-24; 1 John 1:9; 1 Peter 2:24 & 3:18; Philippians 3:9; Gal. 2:16; Is. 53:11; Rom. 10:24]. We can only be made righteous by our position in Christ through faith in God's good news. Then, God's design is for us to progressively grow in practical righteousness through the process of sanctification [Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Hebrews 10:38; Habakkuk 2:4; Eph. 2:8-10; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 John 5:3; Luke 24:44; Matt. 5:17]. We are enabled by the Holy Spirit to obey and teach the Truth of God' Law in love. Likewise we see, *the purpose of The Law, and all of scripture, is to train us, by God's grace, to embrace God's righteousness (in both its positional and progressive forms)* through Jesus and His teachings.

D. A. Carson noted, "the religion Jesus came to establish, did not only exclude the badness, but excelled the goodness of the scribes and Pharisees." The bottom line is that Jesus demands pure, wholehearted commitment to Himself and His teachings. The Law (God's Word) is not made void through faith, but is rather established by it. The righteousness Jesus gives us is both inward and outward and all done solely for His glory.

#### CONVERSATION:

1. Does your righteousness exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees? Why or Why not?
2. In what ways can you practically embrace God's righteousness?
3. How can you, or anyone, become great in the kingdom of God? What does it mean to be such?

#### APPLICATION:

- Consider in what ways you can cultivate a righteousness which is both inward and outward?
- Consider how you can testify to others and teach them what God has taught you in your relationships with others. (If age and time allows share some of your thoughts with each other on both these considerations).

#### SUPPLICATION:

- Father, help us to both do and faithfully teach Your Word in love, via Your enablement.
- Jesus, we pray that you would continue to purify our hearts and deepen our understanding of what it means to trust in and follow you.
- Spirit, help us to always remember it is not the quantity of good works but the quality and source of them that matters. May each of ours be pure and plentiful to your glory, Amen.

#### EXULTATION:

**Trust and Obey** Hymn by John H. Sammis. For the original hymn lyrics Big Daddy Weave's modern worship song is based off of as well as its meaning and history visit <https://www.godtube.com/popular-hymns/trust-and-obey/>

**Trust and Obey by Big Daddy Weave** <https://www.godtube.com/popular-hymns/trust-and-obey/>

Note: online video displays lyrics.

### Misc. Notes

\*Keep in mind the distinction between positional righteousness and progressive (or practical) righteousness. As the reformer Martin Luther said: "while our works do not generate righteousness our righteousness in Christ generates works" this is in keeping with the apostle Paul's teaching in Eph. 2:8-10. Jesus' teaching in the rest of the Sermon on the Mount explains how our practical righteousness should surpass that of the Pharisees. It is clear throughout that one's righteous works are only as good as their source and the motivation behind them.

\* Christians still debate to this day the scope of the OT laws' role in NT believers' lives. The scope of this FWG does not allow covering this debate although this FWG's title may seem at first glance to indicate otherwise. Nonetheless, our passage sheds light on it in terms of any serious follower of Jesus mandatory starting point in such considerations.