

Why Then the Law?

Series: Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:17-20

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In the Old Testament, there were three categories of law: ceremonial, civil and moral.

(1) The *ceremonial law* related specifically to Israel's worship (Lev. 1:2-3, for example). Its primary purpose was to point forward to Jesus Christ. These laws, therefore, were no longer necessary after Jesus' death and resurrection. While we are no longer bound by ceremonial law, the principles behind them—to worship and love a holy God—still apply. Jesus was often accused by the Pharisees of violating ceremonial law.

(2) The *civil law* applied to daily living in Israel (Deut. 24:10-11, for example). Because we are no longer living in a theocracy in ancient Israel, all of these guidelines cannot be followed specifically. But the principles behind the commands are timeless and should guide our conduct. Jesus demonstrated these principles by example.

(3) The *moral law* (such as the 10 Commandments) is the direct command of God, and it requires strict obedience (Exodus 20:13, for example). The moral law reveals the nature and will of God, and it still applies today. Jesus obeyed the moral law completely.

What is the Law Jesus was talking about?

I. The Law is **V**_____ (v. 17).

The Law does three things:

1. Expresses the character of **G**_____.
2. Teaches the true character of **M**_____.
3. Teaches the character of **S**_____.

II. The Law is **F**_____ (v. 18).

1. Jesus fulfills the Law in His **D**_____.
2. Jesus fulfills the Law in His **D**_____.
3. Jesus fulfills the Law in His **D**_____.
4. Jesus fulfills the Law in His **D**_____.

III. The Law is **S**_____ (v. 20).

IV. The Law is an **I**_____ (v. 19).