

Mission

“And the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” Matt. 24:14

All four Gospel writers close their books with Jesus gospel commission to His followers.



How has God called you to work in His mission?

How has the church equipped you for completing “our mission”?

How are you letting your light shine for God?

How are you carrying out God’s mission?

How have you been using the gifts God has blessed you with in furthering His kingdom?

What is God trying to tell you when He says that “faith without works is dead”?

When have you walked the walk? How did it make you feel?

The Law of God

“if you love Me, keep My commandments” John 14:15

His law is His word – a translation of His love

We witness God’s unchanging and eternal love through His eternal law

Faith makes the law stronger



Can you claim to be moral without keeping the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?

What emotions stir up within you when someone brings up God's law? Interest, excitement, irritation, boredom?

How would your life be different if you expressed your love for God simply by being obedient to His Word?

Are you saved by faith or by works? Explain.

How do we present the law of God when witnessing to unbelievers? How do we challenge the view that the law no longer applies in the twenty-first century?

As a church, how do we live the law as Jesus did? Do our local communities see love in action?

Law Is Not a Change in the Law (Matt. 5:17–19)

Jesus didn't come to abolish the law or the writings of the prophets. He came to accomplish their purpose. The word abolish comes from the Greek word kataluo, which means “to loosen down” or to “annul.”¹ Jesus did not come to “loosen down” the law, oppose it, diminish it, or sideline it. He came to uphold it and to reveal what God had originally intended it to be. Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection were fulfillments of God's law. He lived it, correctly interpreted it, and fulfilled some of its predictions. Remember that when the Bible refers to law it isn't referring to only the Ten Commandments, but also to other teachings and instructions.

Law Is an Expression of Love (John 14:15)

Jesus plainly told His disciples that their love for Him was expressed in keeping His commandments. According to C. K. Barrett, “John never allowed love to devolve into a sentiment or emotion. Its expression is always moral and is revealed in obedience.”² Law 2.0 is where Jesus presents God's law and love, not as opposite ends of a spectrum, unrelated and in opposition with each other, but as one producing the other. Love for God is expressed by keeping the law of God. One who loves God lives His law.

Law Gets to the Heart of Things (Matt. 5:27)

Jesus alerts us to the fact that the law is not about just what you do, but who you are. In Matthew 5:27, 28, Jesus reveals that you don't have to commit illicit sex to be an adulterer. You don't have to engage in premarital sex to commit fornication. Your thoughts are an indicator of the kind of person you are. God's law shines light on human actions and thoughts and motives. In 1 John 3:15 we are shocked to learn that, “whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him” (NKJV). Many of us must confess to being murderers, even

though we have never committed an act of violence. Law 2.0 leads us to ask searching questions about the true nature of our relationships with others. Jesus opens our eyes to a dizzying height of godliness that is attainable only through His Spirit.

Law Is Made Stronger by Faith (Rom. 3:31)

There is a temptation to believe that Jesus' emphasis on faith (trust in God) makes the law of lesser importance. Paul asks the question, "Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law?" (Rom. 3:31, NLT). When faith is central to the Christian life, do we diminish the law? Paul emphatically says no! Faith makes the law stronger because when we have faith in God, we are willing to do what He commands. Therefore, our inclination is to follow the law because we trust in God.

Law Can't Save You (Rom. 3:20)

The law of God cannot save us. There is one Savior, and He is Jesus Christ. Paul leaves us with no doubt. "No one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are" (Rom. 3:20, NLT). Jesus teaches us to uphold and follow His law, but we are not to be deceived into believing that keeping it will save us. We know that one click of a mouse does not make a friendship or that a text message is not the essence of true communication. "The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith" (Gal. 3:24, NLT). Law 2.0 points us to Jesus, God's Son; and God saved you by His grace when you believed in Jesus. "God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (Eph. 2:8–10, NLT).