

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Did Jesus teach a higher Law?**

**Did Jesus teach a higher Law? - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/24 21:27**

I want to ask if you believe that Jesus taught a higher moral standard in the Sermon on the Mount and the Gospels than the standard that the Law of Moses taught? Another related question: Did Jesus change the mechanics of salvation so that people are saved by grace through faith now in a way that they were not prior to Christ?

I'll state my position off the bat that God's Law was already perfect (Psalm 19) and perfection cannot be improved upon. In the Sermon on the Mount and the Gospels Jesus is defending the proper interpretation of the Law of Moses (the Law which He Himself inspired) against the abuses of it which were being taught by the Jewish religious leaders of His day (Matthew 5:17-20). Any who try to go to higher than the Old Testament moral standard will end up with something lower and be in danger of being shut out of heaven as workers of lawlessness. I'll also state that people were saved by grace through a living obedient faith from the times of Genesis- and Jesus never changed that. Abraham and David were the two men whom the Apostle used to illustrate salvation by grace through faith in Romans 4.

If you agree or disagree please state at least one reason why and also state practical implications of your agreement or disagreement.

**Re: Did Jesus teach a higher Law? - posted by Sree (), on: 2019/6/24 22:01**

Quote:

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 I want to ask if you believe that Jesus taught a higher moral standard in the Sermon on the Mount and the Gospels than the standard that the Law of Moses taught? Another related question: Did Jesus change the mechanics of salvation so that people are saved by grace through faith now in a way that they were not prior to Christ?  
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I do not find these 2 questions being related. Salvation is by faith.

I believe that Jesus lived a higher standard than that was possible by any old testament person. He preached what he lived (Acts 1:1).

The very proof that Jesus preached something higher is the way he presented the sermon on the mount.

Matt 5:20 - "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

The scribes and Pharisees were those who kept the law outwardly. Jesus called them white washed tomb. Because they were good outside but dead inside. Jesus said under New Covenant our righteousness should surpass that of scribes and Pharisees, this is because New testament standard is not external purity but internal. That is why Jesus said, clean the inside of the cup first and the outside will be clean by itself.

9 Out of the 10 commandments are external. Only thou shall not covert was internal. Paul accepted that this one law he could not keep under old covenant. God kept this one internal law to keep them humble.

But in New Covenant, everything is inner, it is inner cleansing.

5:21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, "You shall not commit murder" and "Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court

If we ask a Child to read this above verse and ask what is Jesus trying to say, the child will plainly say that Jesus is tellin

g something different from what the people were told under the law. The phrase "BUT I Say to you", is very clear that Jesus taught something different. Something higher. Something that purifies a man inside. Example Murder (external sin) v s Anger (inner sin); Adultery vs Lust in heart;

In old testament the standard was jumping 10 feet then Jesus raised the bar to 100 feet. The one who jumps 100 feet automatically jumps 10 feet, that is why we do not need to keep external laws. If we are internally pure then we already cross 100 feet.

Jesus said the greatest man who ever lived under old covenant was John the Baptist. But the least in the New Covenant will be greater than this greatest man, because of the higher standard of New Covenant life (Matt 11:11).

Even under Old Covenant, God's desire for a man is to be pure internally as well, but it was impossible to be achieved unless the Holy Spirit could live inside them. Now we have the Holy Spirit living inside us under New Covenant. That is why it is possible to be cleansed inside out.

In either way New Covenant is far more higher standard than Old.

**Re: Sree - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 0:21**

Thank you sir for your answer. I was hoping to tackle many of the points you brought up because they are significant.

The two questions I asked are related because they both deal with whether the New Testament Scriptures complement or oppose the Old Testament Scriptures.

You wrote "I believe that Jesus lived a higher standard than that was possible by any old testament person. He preached what he lived (Acts 1:1)."

Obviously Jesus was sinless and perfect- and no other person under the Old nor New Covenant ever was besides. We're dealing with whether the Law that Christ lived and taught was a higher law morally than what had been revealed in the Old Testament. The words you wrote afterwards show that you know this is the issue, but I'm just clarifying that for the others who read this thread.

You wrote "The very proof that Jesus preached something higher is the way he presented the sermon on the mount. Matt 5:20 -'For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.' The scribes and Pharisees were those who kept the law outwardly. Jesus called them white washed tomb. Because they were good outside but dead inside. Jesus said under New Covenant our righteousness should surpass that of scribes and Pharisees, this is because New testament standard is not external purity but internal. That is why Jesus said, clean the inside of the cup first and the outside will be clean by itself."

You seem to be saying that hypocrisy and being a white-washed tomb was acceptable under the Old Covenant. Was it okay for the Scribes and Pharisees to only look righteous externally but not be righteous internally until Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount? How would the need for our righteousness to surpass that of the Scribes and Pharisees be a requirement to follow a higher law unless it were replacing the law already in place- a law which permitted hypocrisy and had no internal requirements? Were the Scribes and Pharisees righteous men up until Jesus preached the Sermon on the mount???

You wrote "9 Out of the 10 commandments are external. Only thou shalt not covet was internal. Paul accepted that this one law he could not keep under old covenant. God kept this one internal law to keep them humble. But in New Covenant, everything is inner, it is inner cleansing."

All of God's commandments have always had an internal requirement which was expressed externally when met from the heart. Look at the spirituality seen in the Law of Moses:

Leviticus 19:17-18 " 17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. 18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord."

This is what Jesus also taught on the Sermon on the Mount and He couldn't improve upon the perfect law which He had already given through Moses. And Paul never said that thou shalt not covet was the one law you could not keep under

the Old Covenant. Look at what the Holy Spirit says about Zachariah and Elisabeth serving God under the Old Covenant:

Luke 1:5-6 "5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."

You wrote: "But in New Covenant, everything is inner, it is inner cleansing. 5:21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, "You shall not commit murder" and "Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court." 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court. If we ask a Child to read this above verse and ask what is Jesus trying to say, the child will plainly say that Jesus is telling something different from what the people were told under the law. The phrase "BUT I Say to you", is very clear that Jesus taught something different. Something higher. Something that purifies a man inside. Example Murder (external sin) vs Anger (inner sin); Adultery vs Lust in heart. In old testament the standard was jumping 10 feet then Jesus raised the bar to 100 feet. The one who jumps 100 feet automatically jumps 10 feet, that is why we do not need to keep external laws. If we are internally pure then we already cross 100 feet."

The child would say that if he didn't know what the Law actually said as opposed to the corrupt interpretations of the Law that were prevalent in Jesus' day. Jesus never corrected nor improved upon the OT Scriptures since they were His own Law. Every commandment, whether it is Old or New Testament, challenges the heart and requires external conformity. I quoted Leviticus 19:17-18 above to show that the Law of Moses did deal with the heart and Paul himself said in Romans chapter 7 that "the law is spiritual" There are also external commandments in the New Testament (not brand new commandments, but echoes and re-phrasings of the morality of the Old Testament). Obviously God expects a heart in line with what He commands and the corresponding external practice.

1 Timothy 2:9-15 "9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. 11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

You wrote: "Jesus said the greatest man who ever lived under old covenant was John the Baptist. But the least in the New Covenant will be greater than this greatest man, because of the higher standard of New Covenant life (Matt 11:11).

Jesus did not say the reason the least in the kingdom of heaven was greater was the higher standard of life. Consider what a poor forerunner John the Baptist would have been to Christ if he had been calling people back to a law that Christ was about to improve upon and change.

You wrote "Even under Old Covenant, God's desire for a man is to be pure internally as well, but it was impossible to be achieved unless the Holy Spirit could live inside them. Now we have the Holy Spirit living inside us under New Covenant. That is why it is possible to be cleansed inside out."

You had said before that 9 of the 10 commandments were external and now you say something which implies they went deeper. But yes, God did indeed desire internal purity under the Old Covenant (and before that all the way back to the beginning). The godly people who inherited salvation before Christ were pure internally since they understood the spiritual nature of God's Law and walked in it in a manner that God was pleased with and commended.

Look at Job: Job 1:1- "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." Job 31:1-3- "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid? 2 For what portion of God is there from above? and what inheritance of the Almighty from on high? 3 Is not destruction to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?"

Every righteous person to ever live had the heart expressed here in Psalm 119:1-8 since God's law is eternal and also spiritual: "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. 2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. 3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. 4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. 5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! 6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. 7 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned t

hy righteous judgments. 8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly."

The righteous people before Christ had the Holy Spirit with them in some way to some measure which enabled them to keep His law acceptably as they sought Him and cooperated with Him by following the Truth they knew with an obedient faith. Remember how in Psalm 51 David prayed for God not to take his Holy Spirit from him as he repented and sought forgiveness and cleansing? (Psalm 51:11)

You wrote: "In either way New Covenant is far more higher standard than Old."

There is a major difference between a better covenant and a higher law standard of law. The New Covenant allows the faithful to be nearer to the Lord and indwelt by His Spirit to a depth and degree which enables an even better quality, more pure fulfillment of the same moral law which existed from the beginning.

Romans 8:4 "4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Thank you for being willing to reason.

**Re: Did Jesus teach a higher Law? - posted by savannah, on: 2019/6/25 4:12**

Q. "Did Jesus teach a higher Law?"

A. No He did not! There can be no higher Law.

"If you agree or disagree please state at least one reason why and also state practical implications of your agreement or disagreement."

I agree. Salvation is, and always has been, by grace through faith.

The Old Covenant saints looked forward to the righteousness of God in the Messiah Who was to come. The New Covenant saints look back to the righteousness of God in the Messiah.

As it is written, by the Law shall no flesh be justified.

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

That, according as it is written,

He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."  
1 Corinthians 1:30,31

**Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2019/6/25 4:45**

Yes, Jesus taught a "higher" law. He introduced to God's people the law that they should love their brothers the same way that Jesus loved them and that they should love their enemies. Before, there was the law to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. It is debatable that the law to love your enemy is new but the new standard of loving the brethren in this high and sacrificial way was "new" in that the standard was so high. The OT law was "perfect" in a morally pure sense, but the standard of brotherly love was more perfect.

The New Covenant people of God are called to a much higher standard of love in this most particular and special respect.

t. It is the mark and most evident fruit of a New Covenant Spirit indwelt believer.

**Re: CofG - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 5:20**

There is no doubt that Jesus as a man demonstrated the perfect love that the Law of God required and calls those who would be His disciples to that same love. You could say that was the highest revelation of love in that it was a perfect demonstration of God's law which had never been seen in a man before; and also a higher challenge in that the cost to Jesus to walk in that love was higher than any man had ever been faced with before in order to fulfill it and be faithful. Yet that is not a higher standard than the Law, rather it's a perfect demonstration of the Law and the love that always reflected God's perfect character.

The everlasting principles of God's law make a higher standard impossible and would make God opposed to Himself if He were to attempt to ordain a different standard and call it higher.

Psalm 119:142 "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth."

Psalm 119:160 "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

I don't know what this standard of brotherly love is that you're referring to besides the standard of the Law demonstrated to the highest height and breadth by Jesus. I see the Apostles quoting the Old Testament to teach Christian brotherly love as well as love of enemies since God's morals and ethics cannot change.

Obviously "the beginning" in the following quote is referring to the earliest generations of mankind in the Book of Genesis. 1 John 3:10-15 "10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." (a lesson taught from the beginning)

**Re: - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 5:38**

Here is the Apostle Paul teaching Christian love of enemies and not rewarding evil for evil- quoting from the Book of Proverbs to give an exhortation on these things. Romans 12:17-21 "17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

He'd go on immediately in what we call Romans 13 (the original letter contained no chapter breaks) to the subject of governmental authority and use of the sword against criminals as ordained by God and an appropriate venue of God's vengeance. This is obviously consistent with Christianity. Many have the idea that Jesus' teaching on love of enemies means we ought not to support Government punishment of duly convicted criminals and some churches even forbid their members from serving in the military and law enforcement due to the erroneous belief that love of enemies is something different now than it was in OT times. A faithful Israelite was obligated not to take personal vengeance against his enemies into his own hands and would feed them, give them drink, etc if he saw their need and could meet it. Yet he also was permitted and even obligated to appeal to the Judges to prosecute criminal acts against him and his family; he was obligated to protect those being victimized by criminal action- even with use of force if necessary. Pacifism is a doctrine which originated by separating Jesus from the Hebrew context and mindset of His words. The same could be set of many other erroneous concepts which misrepresent God and alter Christian doctrine and living from its Apostolic authenticity. The belief that Jesus taught a higher and better morality than the morality of the Law of Moses has been a major catalyst for these deadly alterations of the faith once delivered to the saints. This is the reason for my bringing this up.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2019/6/25 7:38

gt768 - I appreciate the fact that you have tried to put your argument with some sense of logic.

Quote:

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The two questions I asked are related because they both deal with whether the New Testament Scriptures complement or oppose the Old Testament Scriptures.  
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This is why I believe the questions are not related. I believe that Jesus preached a higher standard than OT. I have given the scriptural references in my previous post. But I also believe that OT and NT complement each other and do not oppose.

This is where you are wrong. You seem to think that OT and NT should say the same thing to complement each other. That is not true. That is why you misunderstood my post and my spirit because your initial assumption itself is wrong.

For example when my child is 5 years old, I tell my child not to use my laptop in my absence. When my child is 10 years old I tell my child to use my laptop in my absence but visit only certain sites. When my child is 15 years old, I tell my child to use the laptop as he wishes but not watch anything sinful like violence or sexual act etc.

Now if you see, I have given 3 different standards for my Child as my child grew. But all 3 are inline with one another. They do not contradict but complement. It is based on the Child's maturity to comprehend the command. My 5 year old cannot understand what is a sexual activity, hence I wait till 15 to tell not to watch Sexual activity, but at 5 I control my child from watching a sexual scene by other restrictions.

The objective of my commands to my child at all age level is same.

God always wanted inner purity, but it was impossible for a person who is not born again under OT to achieve it. David understood that God wants truth in innermost being. But he knew it was not there in him.

Even under OT people understood what God wanted from them like Job but not all of them could achieve it. That is why God had to restrict them with 600+ laws. And more than 90% of them are external.

Certainly using the laptop freely but yet not visiting the sites that have sexual content is a higher standard. But my 5 year old cannot achieve that.

Quote:

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Leviticus 19:17-18 " 17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. 18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord."  
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This is nothing but an expansion of one shall love their neighbor. Like I said, the objective of God from Man is the same in both NT and OT, which is total purity.

So if you see any external command like thou shalt not commit adultery then the heart of God is to have total sexual purity. But it is expressed by not committing adultery.

If we expand all the 600+ OT commands, we can also achieve internal purity, because that is the objective. But the requirement was only obeying those external command. Only those who meditated on the heart of God behind those external commands understood the inner purity. Like Job who did not even lust after a virgin.

Quote:

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The child would say that if he didn't know what the Law actually said as opposed to the corrupt interpretations of the Law that were prevalent in Jesus'

day. Jesus never corrected nor improved upon the OT Scriptures since they were His own Law.

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Again you are missing the point here. Jesus did not correct or improve. Those are not my points. Jesus came to increase the standard. He did not correct a mistake. Like the laptop usage I told you, I did not correct my command or improve it but I kept increasing the standard as my child grew. It is hard to understand from the perspective that you have. Also it is hard for me to type and explain things.

Jesus did not give the sermon on the mount to oppose the corrupt law. Jesus quoted , "You shall not murder" , "You shall not commit adultery" etc. These are not corrupt laws of his time. They are the words from scripture not from any corrupt book!

So the Child is right because it is not having a confused theological box like you! It can see plainly that you cannot see due to your theological mindset.

Quote:

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The righteous people before Christ had the Holy Spirit with them in some way to some measure which enabled them to keep His law acceptably as they sought Him and cooperated with Him by following the Truth they knew with an obedient faith. Remember how in Psalm 51 David prayed for God not to take his Holy Spirit from him as he repented and sought forgiveness and cleansing? (Psalm 51:11)

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See David wrote in Psalm 51, that God wanted truth in innermost being. How did he know that? Which piece of scripture it is? They all knew the objective of God because they searched God beyond his laws and found it. Same was the case with Job.

Take David for example, he did not get convicted for lusting against Bathseba but for committing adultery and killing her husband.

Even though he had forgiven Shimai who cursed David publically. He kept the anger and grudge in his heart till death bed. Proof that he wanted the man dead by his son.

Even the man from God's own heart could achieve only external purity but not internal.

John the Baptist, Jesus said was the greatest of all OT saints. This is Jesus own testimony. Others were also Good but none close like John. Still even the least in NT will be greater than John in terms of Standard of life.

Quote:

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1 Timothy 2:9-15 "9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel,

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Yes even under NT, there are few but very few external commands. Even here Paul does not write exactly what dress women should wear! There is a liberty in Christ because of the indwelling of Holy Spirit. Another example is head covering. That is why it is important to obey the external commands in NT because there are very few of them.

Quote:

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There is a major difference between a better covenant and a higher law standard of law. The New Covenant allows the faithful to be nearer to the Lord and indwelt by His Spirit to a depth and degree which enables an even better quality, more pure fulfillment of the same moral law which existed from the beginning.

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I agree that we can be nearer to the Lord than OT. Naturally the one to whom more is given, much more is expected. Hence our standard should also be higher than that of OT. We cannot keep hatred in our heart like David (forget about adultery), be discouraged like Elija, tell lies like Abraham, or doubt Jesus like John the Baptist! All these are OT saints whom God accepted and was not ashamed to be called their God. But in NT these things are not acceptable because we have God living inside us.

Heb 11:39 - 39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

Abraham, David and John the Baptist all got approval irrespective of their imperfections. But now we have something better, which is Jesus who is our example and forerunner and also the Holy Spirit living inside us.

**Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2019/6/25 8:41**

Quote:  
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The belief that Jesus taught a higher and better morality than the morality of the Law of Moses has been a major catalyst for these deadly alterations of the faith once delivered to the saints. This is the reason for my bringing this up.  
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I see that the greatest danger is in believing that OT and NT standard of requirements are the same.

How many times we hear of Pastors falling in adultery with their assistants and then claim that David fell so it is fine? A man after God's own heart can also fall so there is nothing wrong in them falling!

Another example is tithe. There is no mention of tithe in NT. Still if you go to any Church today, you will hear some part of teaching on tithe, and how God is dependent on the money that people give etc.

The NT standard is, God loves a Cheerful giver and not one who tithes 10% for the sake of giving! NT standard is not 'do not commit adultery' but to not even lust with another woman. So the Pastor should have repented of his lust well before it turned into Adultery!

Quote:  
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some churches even forbid their members from serving in the military and law enforcement due to the erroneous belief that love of enemies is something different now than it was in OT times.  
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I personally believe a Christian should avoid serving in Military and law enforcement as much as possible. The reason is not what you think. It is difficult to be a Christian in these environments. In those 2 jobs one is required to have absolute obedience to their boss and it is punishable to disobey. What if your boss orders you to do something unChristlike? Why do one inflict punishment by working in such jobs when plenty of other jobs are available.

I have spoken to believers in my Church who have served in armed forces, they too believe it is difficult to be a Christian in that field.

Temptation to sin is there in every field. But it is better to work in a restaurant than to be a bouncer in Strip club! Same logic.

**Re: Did Jesus teach a higher Law? - posted by JFW (), on: 2019/6/25 10:11**

Yes and a straightforward reading of Hebrews 8-10 will plainly establish this -

Brother Sree has done well to articulate Paul's use of the "schoolmaster" analogy, which itself is expounded upon in Hebrews-

There cannot be an honest comparison of Old Covenant and New Covenant without the book of Hebrews which straight way addresses these very questions»

**Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2019/6/25 10:24**

Quote:

Paul's use of the "schoolmaster" analogy, which itself is expounded upon in Hebrews-

I was driving and I just realized that I missed to put the term schoolmaster and mark that scripture. Thank you for emphasizing it. The whole purpose of my post was to show how under New Covenant we do not need this school master because the Law giver himself is dwelling inside us!

**Re: Did Jesus teach a higher Law? - posted by twayneb (), on: 2019/6/25 16:28**

gt768

Just a few verses that might apply to the discussion.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Romans 8:2-4 .2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath 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 sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:  
4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

I believe the law ( . I assume we are both talking about the ten commandments combined with the rest of the law given to Moses ) was holy and good (Rom 7). After all, it was given by God. However these verses show that it was only a shadow of good things to come and that it was weak in that it was up to us in our own flesh to keep it . So in ended up ministering death and strengthening sin (its God ordained purpose...see Rom. 7:13)in our lives.

Was it holy? Absolutely! But it was ordained with the express purpose of pointing the way to a new covenant that was to replace it, to supersede it. Gal. 2:21, 3:21.

Just some scriptures to consider in the discussion.

**Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2019/6/25 16:35**

Something that I believe might also help. Jesus did not teach a higher moral law than the old testament law. He came to taste death for every man. When He died, we died with Him. If one die for all, then are all dead. We are then risen to new life in Him. So the fleshly man that used to try to keep commandments in order to be holy and pleasing to God died . Now I have my life in Christ. It is not I but Christ who lives in me. The living word of God is now my very source of life. I no longer make any attempt to keep a moral law. To do so is to return to flesh attempting to be holy. Instead, I walk in intimacy with Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, a product of His great grace (divine empowerment). As a result, His grace teaches me that denying ungodly lust to live soberly and righteously in this present world. He lives through me. If Jesus Himself is holy, then so am I because I no longer live but He lives in me.

This is what Jeremiah prophesied when he said that the law would no longer be something external that I try to keep, but that it would be written on my heart.

If I am trying on my own effort, I need a law to follow . If Jesus lives through me, then He will fulfill holiness, the fruit of righteousness, in me.

**Re: Sree - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 16:42**

Sree, First of all, I never said that the Law in the OT was corrupt. I said that the leaders of Israel in Jesus' time were teaching corrupt interpretations of God's Law. And my contention in this thread has much to do with the teaching that you are putting forth which tries to say that the wicked religious leaders in Israel were accurately teaching God's law! They were not- Jesus didn't improve upon God's Law in the Gospels- He was correcting the corrupt interpretations of the Law that were common in His day.

Please answer this: Were the Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day who opposed Him being faithful with the Law or were they being hypocrites?

The OT would indeed oppose the NT if the NT standard was higher. But in reality Jesus was teaching the true interpretation of the law in the Sermon on the Mount and the Gospels. You need to beware lest you call the perfect, righteous morality seen in the OT (and NT) anything less than perfect righteousness lest you trample on God's law and be counted a transgressor and lest you take away from the Word of God.

Your child analogy is not comparable to our discussion, as the standard of morality for the child never changed, only the trust of the parent for the child as he grew.

You wrote on Leviticus 19:17-18 " This is nothing but an expansion of one shall love their neighbor. Like I said, the objective of God from Man is the same in both NT and OT, which is total purity. So if you see any external command like thou shall not commit adultery then the heart of God is to have total sexual purity. But it is expressed by not committing adultery. If we expand all the 600+ OT commands, we can also achieve internal purity, because that is the objective. But the requirement was only obeying those external command. Only those who meditated on the heart of God behind those external commands understood the inner purity. Like Job who did not even lust after a virgin."

One purpose of the Law is to show man the heart of God and bring him into line with that. You are not consistent on what you say about what the expectations of the Law were. Was it merely external purity or was it internal purity? If it was the latter, then how do you claim that Jesus taught a higher standard in the NT? Yes, the morality of the Law of Moses is an expression of how to love God and your neighbor as yourself. We are to love our neighbor by not only not committing the act of adultery, but by not lusting after his wife at all. That has never changed and your position actually justifies wicked men by saying the actual requirements of God's law were too much for them. You even confess that Job that did not lust after women- so how do you also claim that not doing this was not possible before Christ?

Jesus made it clear in Matthew 7:12 that He was teaching what the Law and the Prophets taught- not something beyond that or better. Matthew 7:12- "12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

You wrote: "See David wrote in Psalm 51, that God wanted truth in innermost being. How did he know that? Which piece of scripture it is? They all knew the objective of God because they searched God beyond his laws and found it. Same was the case with Job. Take David for example, he did not get convicted for lusting against Bathseba but for committing adultery and killing her husband. Even though he had forgiven Shimai who cursed David publically. He kept the anger and grudge in his heart till death bed. Proof that he wanted the man dead by his son. Even the man from God's own heart could achieve only external purity but not internal"

They knew he wanted truth in the inward parts because that is what the law required, not because they searched God beyond His laws. You are implicitly accusing them of practicing Gnosticism- the concept that there is a secret knowledge of God that man can find beyond the written Word of God. David did indeed get convicted lusting after Bathsheba- do you really think he didn't know better then? Do you really think his repentance wouldn't have included repentance from the lust that began that whole chain of sin? David probably considered Shimei a threat to the public welfare and wanted Solomon to deal with him for that reason. But even if had kept the grudge in his heart, that was

David's fault and he didn't need to do so. Have you not considered how David earlier in his life had loved his enemy Saul and didn't take vengeance against him into his own hand? There is hardly a better example in Scripture of loving one's enemy. Are you really saying that the godly men in the OT didn't have truth in their inward parts when David repented like he did, when the Holy Spirit commends Job, in light of Hebrews 11, and many, many other commendations in Scripture?

You wrote: "John the Baptist, Jesus said was the greatest of all OT saints. This is Jesus own testimony. Others were also Good but none close like John. Still even the least in NT will be greater than John in terms of Standard of life."

Why do you keep adding to God's Word? Where does it say that John that NT saints are greater than John in terms of standard of life? Are you greater than John the Baptist in your standard of life? Please enlighten me as to how you are better.

You wrote: "Yes even under NT, there are few but very few external commands. Even here Paul does not write exactly what dress women should wear! There is a liberty in Christ because of the indwelling of Holy Spirit. Another example is head covering. That is why it is important to obey the external commands in NT because there are very few of them."

Paul was expecting to Timothy to determine what is modest and what is not based on the principles already laid down in the Old Testament. This is hitting at where it is deadly to believe Jesus preached a higher law and to not be guided by the moral principles already laid down in the Old Testament. Biblical Jewish modesty is upheld in Christianity- to a first century Jew looking to the Scriptures there were already principles in place to determine what is modest and the need for a woman to cover her head would have been included in that. By your answer you concede that externals do matter in the New Covenant. There were external object lessons in the OT ceremonies which ceased with the Temple's destruction in AD 70. Yet that's not a matter of morality that is eternally binding but a matter of God's appointment making something binding and later loosing.

You wrote: "I agree that we can be nearer to the Lord than OT. Naturally the one to whom more is given, much more is expected. Hence our standard should also be higher than that of OT. We cannot keep hatred in our heart like David (forget about adultery), be discouraged like Elija, tell lies like Abraham, or doubt Jesus like John the Baptist! All these are OT saints whom God accepted and was not ashamed to be called their God. But in NT these things are not acceptable because we have God living inside us.

Heb 11:39 - 39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

Abraham, David and John the Baptist all got approval irrespective of their imperfections. But now we have something better, which is Jesus who is our example and forerunner and also the Holy Spirit living inside us."

Having the example of Jesus is greater light but it is not a new a higher standard of morality- it is having the example of a perfect expression of the morality that was from the beginning. Greater light means greater accountability, but like I've implied before, we need to be guided by the moral principles seen in the Old Testament or we are opposing Christ and following another Jesus because Jesus' perfection was a perfect living out of those very principles. David repented of and overcame the sins that led to his fall- and he never had to fall like that to begin with. Abraham never had to lie and in a way he really didn't- Sarah really was his sister. But Abraham surely repented of whatever dishonesty he showed and continued faithful from thence. People in the New Covenant can still fall in moments of weakness (look at Peter in Galatians). That doesn't justify their failure nor mean they don't need to repent and get back up and be faithful again. They absolutely need to. Perhaps we have a greater accountability not to fall- but not due to a higher standard of morality- the definition of what a "fall" is has never changed. Yet the way you're speaking implies New Covenant believers aren't also in danger of falling. 1 Corinthians 10:12 warns us otherwise. Your quoting of Hebrews 11 here shows that we NEED TO look to men of the Old Testament as our examples in running a faithful race and that looking unto Jesus in this is not looking in another direction. Your doctrine puts the faithful men of the OT out of line with Jesus; and that is a potentially deadly error.

**Re: Sree' - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 16:49**

Sree, You wrote "I see that the greatest danger is in believing that OT and NT standard of requirements are the same. How many times we hear of Pastors falling in adultery with their assistants and then claim that David fell so it is fine? A man after God's own heart can also fall so there is nothing wrong in them falling!"

By writing this you are falling right into their error. Where did the OT promote or permit David's fall? It didn't! The people who make this claim are lying Scripture twisters. Please don't heed them.

"God loves a cheerful giver" has always been true and it was spoken in light of what was already commanded in the OT.

Serving in the military and law enforcement are not inherently wrong and that was my point before. MANY fields that are not inherently wrong are still filled with temptations that it might be wise to avoid altogether if you can do something else that is less likely to put you in an awkward position or less likely to leave your soul vexed from day to day.

**Re: JFW - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 16:54**

I'm not denying what Hebrews chapters 8 to 10 say. There is nothing in there though about a higher morality in the New Covenant. Please show me if there is. We have the perfect atonement for sin now and the heavenly high priesthood that at the ceremonial arrangement in the Old Covenant pictured but did not itself accomplish. We do not have a higher moral law to follow nor a different definition of sin. If we did, the Law of Moses would not even be a reliable schoolmaster for us to lead us to Christ.

**Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2019/6/25 16:58**

Quote:  
----- .There is a major difference between a better covenant and a higher law standard of law. The New Covenant allows the faithful to be nearer to the Lord and indwelt by His Spirit to a depth and degree which enables an even better quality, more pure fulfillment of the same moral law which existed from the beginning.  
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2 Cor. 3:12-14; Ephesians 2:15; Hebrews 10:1-10

Another thing we might look at is found stated very explicitly in these passages. The old testament law has been abolished and taken away. The entire covenant is done away with. Remember that in Rom. 10:4 we find that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness for them that believe.

Jesus does not make us better law keepers with more power to keep the OT law through the Holy Spirit. He makes us like him. Look at the end of 2 Cor. 3 and you find this statement...<sup>18</sup> But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The word changed here is found in only four places in the NT. Once in Romans 12:2 where we are transformed by the renewing of the mind and twice on the mount of transfiguration when Jesus was transfigured before them and shone with light. We, through intimacy with Jesus, are transformed into His image from glory to glory. Our own human effort is not augmented with the Holy Spirit so we can do a better job of pleasing Him. Our human effort has died entirely and we now become like Him through intimacy with Him. No more trying to live for Him. Now I am transformed into His image and become like Him so that He lives through me. No more self effort. Instead total transformation by His power. It is awesome. I don't have to look at the shadow anymore because the real is now living through me.

**Re: twayneb - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 17:07**

Thank you for bringing those Scriptures out. I addressed Hebrews 10:1 in my previous post to JFW.

With Romans 8:2-4 note that walking after the Spirit causes one to fulfill the very same law that in itself, without grace in the equation, left one condemned to death. Remember that sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4) so the law would not be a reliable schoolmaster for us if Jesus had changed the definition of sin or if victory over sin now meant something different than what the law had defined it as.

Galatians 2:21 and 3:21 are dealing with the fact that the law was never something that in itself man could be justified by so as to set aside what God had promised Abraham- which was ultimately that the Messiah would be of his seed and that all nations would be blessed in Him. There was never any competition between the Abrahamic covenant, the old covenant, and the new covenant. As you go on in Galatians there it's clear that the definition of sin itself has never changed and that grace is only offered to those who yield to God's Spirit that they might walk in the everlasting righteousness of the law which was from the beginning (Galatians 5:14-26, Galatians 6:7-10, etc).

**Re: twayneb (second post in thread) - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 17:14**

The fleshly man's problem wasn't that he tried to keep God's law; it was that he had a commitment to the flesh which kept him in bondage to sin, left him ineligible for God's grace, and caused him to be defeated.

God writing His law on my heart doesn't mean I don't need to cooperate with Him and aim to do His law (i.e. do what pleases Him). If I don't have the right standard that I'm looking to for pleasing God then my definition of victory over sin could be anything and I will end up calling something intimacy with Jesus that is not that- at least not the Jesus of the Bible (2 Cor 11:2-4).

**Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2019/6/25 17:25**

Quote:

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By writing this you are falling right into their error. Where did the OT promote or permit David's fall? It didn't! The people who make this claim are lying Scripture twisters. Please don't heed them.  
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Those people who use David as excuse are actually holding the Biblical view that you have. They believe OT and NT standard are same. God did accept David and still kept him king. In fact the promise of having an inheritance for ever in the throne was always fulfilled irrespective of his fall. Hence God accepted David irrespective of his fall.

But David was an old testament person. He is not our example even though he was accepted by God. Our example is Jesus whom Heb 11 says is a better example given to NT people than people of Old. There is no excuse for a Christian to fall into adultery.

In either case your understanding of scripture is really dangerous.

**Re: twayneb(3rd post) - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 17:31**

Romans 10:4 doesn't teach the Old Testament law is taken away- it teaches that Christ is the end (i.e. goal) of that law. Christ Himself fulfills that law (Matthew 5:17-20) and leads His people to fulfill the morality of that law (Romans 8:2-4). Being more like Jesus does indeed mean being a better law-keeper- not in the outward Judaizing sense, rather in the sense of walking in spirit and truth.

"Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth." (Psalm 119:142)

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

You are not correct on effort there and what you are actually preaching is Calvinistic irresistible grace. We need to put forth effort, not self-effort that opposes God's grace, rather effort that cooperates with God's grace. We have to deny sin,

we have to choose to seek the Lord, choose right, etc CONSTANTLY. Otherwise our failures would be His fault rather than our own.

God's work on man and in man necessitates man's surrender and active cooperation. Acceptable Christian living otherwise is a delusion and a fantasy.

Titus 2:11-14 "11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

It doesn't say He denies ungodliness and worldly lusts for us and that He lives soberly, righteously, and godly for us.

Colossians 1:27-29 "27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."

Hence Paul could say in truth shortly before his death: 2 Timothy 4:7-8 "7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

**Re: Sree - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 17:38**

Sree, God never accepted David's adultery! Have you not read how God rebuked David so harshly, how David repented so deeply, and how David suffered so miserably as God chastened him for it and his many other related sins? And David's seed never had the throne unconditionally. Have you never read how God chastened David's disobedient seed and carried them away to Babylon as they lost the throne after that and have not to this day ever received it back? God never set David up as an example in the time of his life when he was in adultery.

There was never an excuse for David to fall into adultery and your understanding of Scripture is justifying him in it. That is a great slander upon God and I hope you'll consider and repent from this slander.

**Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2019/6/25 18:06**

Quote:

Sree, First of all, I never said that the Law in the OT was corrupt.

I too never said you that you mentioned it anywhere! I think I understand exactly where you come from. I only do not find you logically consistent.

I meant that Jesus did not respond to corrupt interpretation of the law, he quoted the exact words of the law and gave a higher standard than what was written. The phrase 'But I tell you' is clear, that he is telling something new.

Quote:

Your child analogy is not comparable to our discussion, as the standard of morality for the child never changed, only the trust of the parent for the child as he grew.

Am not sure how you say the standard never changed. I never use the term morality in any of my post. Moral standards are way below Biblical standards.

If you see a pig tied by chains to prevent it from falling into gutter and another pig that has no chains but chooses not to even get near the gutter; you know which is higher standard. It is foolish to say both the pigs are same since they both do not fall into gutter!

My 15 year old chooses by his own will not to watch anything unclean. He understands how it hurts his father's heart. This is NT standard, we are not chained by laws, yet we live a pure life inside out.

My analogy of Child using a laptop is the closest I can get to explain my point here. It is inline with what Paul spoke about Law being a school master.

Also I never said Jesus preached a law. Jesus did not give us a law but a standard. He lived a highest standard of life ever possible and preached the same. This standard was higher than that of OT.

Quote:  
-----  
They knew he wanted truth in the inward parts because that is what the law required, not because they searched God beyond His laws. You are implicitly accusing them of practicing Gnosticism- the concept that there is a secret knowledge of God that man can find beyond the written Word of God.  
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Going by your understanding Paul was also preaching Gnosticism here!

Romans 1 :19- that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being UNDERSTOOD THROUGH WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, so that they are without excuse.

Paul writes that the nature of God and his attributes can be understood by seeing his work of creation. This is written to unbelievers who do not know OT or NT. I myself can testify to this word. I did not hear the Gospel until I was 25 as I was raised as a Hindu. But I know God hated my actions even though they were perfectly acceptable according to Hinduism. I do not believe I had any excuse if I died without hearing the Gospel.

The Book of Job has no reference to Abraham or Moses or laws. Still Job lived an upright and blameless life. How did he come to know this? God can be found by those who search for him with all their heart. Not just those who search in Bible!

**Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2019/6/25 18:15**

Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, 6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. 7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward,

This is the condition that Paul says to be an elder or a spiritual leader in a Church. Now Abraham and Jacob were people accepted by God under OT. God was not ashamed to be called their God. Now if Abraham with his multiple Concubines lived in the time of Paul, do you think Paul would have made him an elder? Will he not fail the condition of having only one wife? Same way Jacob will also not fail? Even Noah who got drunk and laid naked will be rejected by Paul because of his addiction to alcohol!

What does this prove here. Even people who were great men under OT were ineligible to be a spiritual leader in a Church under NT. This proves that NT standard is way higher.

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Did Jesus teach a higher Law?**

**Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2019/6/25 18:35**

Quote:

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Sree, God never accepted David's adultery! Have you not read how God rebuked David so harshly, how David repented so deeply, and how David suffered so miserably as God chastened him for it and his many other related sins? And David's seed never had the throne unconditionally. Have you never read how God chastened David's disobedient seed and carried them away to Babylon as they lost the throne after that and have not to this day ever received it back? God never set David up as an example in the time of his life when he was in adultery.

There was never an excuse for David to fall into adultery and your understanding of Scripture is justifying him in it. That is a great slander upon God and I hope you'll consider and repent from this slander.

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Wow, when did you hear me even justifying David? Irrespective of David repenting or not, it is a fact that God accepted him. So if our standard of requirement from God is same as that of David, then it should be perfectly right for a new covenant person to also commit Adultery and then repent or even accept chastisement and take David as his example.

But thankfully, our standard of requirement is higher than that of David. David did not have the fullness of Holy Spirit that only believers in NT received after the day of Pentecost. He did not have that relationship with God that NT believers have.

Quote:

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2 Sam 12:8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.

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When David sinned, the above was God's word to him. Here God is clearly telling David that he would have given him more wives and property if he had asked! Can a person living a new covenant life, marry another woman and then tell that God gave him like he gave to David, then will you accept him?

If God's Standard for David is same as that of you and I then we should also hear God saying he will give us multiple wives if we are not happy with one!

**Re: Did Jesus teach a higher Law? - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2019/6/25 19:57**

Here is a quote from Poul Madsen, here is a higher standard;

The gospel is God's own righteousness. In it is revealed the righteousness of God or righteousness from God. It is not a means which we can use to become righteous in ourselves, but it gives us righteousness from God by faith and unto faith. In this way the law is fulfilled. The gospel, therefore, does not confront us with the law, but with Christ. He who believes the gospel is righteous before God for time and eternity. He has not first to win righteousness, for he is fully righteous. He does not have to prove that he is fulfilling the law, for God's righteousness needs no proofs. The law has no demands to make on such a man; he is not living within its sphere and is not occupied with its "Thou shalt" and its "Thou shalt not", but is filled with the love of God in Christ Jesus.

In Christ,

**Re: The Law summarized; - posted by savannah, on: 2019/6/25 21:56**

The Law summarized;

Teacher, which commandment is the greatest in the Law?

Jesus declared, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Matthew 22:36-40

There is no higher Law!

It was Love "In the beginning..."

Because "God is Love."

Learn this simple lesson!

**Re: Savannah - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/25 23:48**

Agreed! Nothing God has ever commanded has been short of perfect love. To command otherwise would be against His nature and a concession to man's sin. He expects us to do as He has said and it is evil to do otherwise. His wrath is just against those who refuse to walk in the light of His Law. Loving God, walking by faith in Christ, and keeping His commandments are inseparable

2 John 6- "6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."

3 John 11- "11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God"

**Re: Sree (1st of 3 responses) - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/26 0:53**

You wrote "I meant that Jesus did not respond to corrupt interpretation of the law, he quoted the exact words of the law and gave a higher standard than what was written. The phrase 'But I tell you' is clear, that he is telling something new."

Okay, you surely see the point of conflict correctly. But I say unto you that Jesus was indeed rebuking corrupt interpretations of God's Law and not teaching a higher law.

I'll prove it:

Matthew 5:21-22 "21 Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you..."

Matthew 5:21 is not a quote from the Old Testament after the "thou shalt not kill" You can't show it to us because it is not there. Jesus is rebuking the narrow interpretation of murder by the corrupt Jewish rabbis that limited murder to the action and not the thoughts and intents of the heart. I quoted Leviticus 19:17-18 before to prove that the Law of Moses did indeed teach against malicious anger, hatred, grudges, etc. 1 John 3:14-15 shows how from the beginning "14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." That's a lesson from the beginning of the Bible and no one who is honest would think Cain would have been a righteous man if he had hated his brother and expressed his malice in a less obvious way than the act of murder (though obviously he greatly increased his sin and guilt by that).

Matthew 5:27-28 "27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you..." It's obvious even here that He was rebuking the corrupt rabbinical teaching which limited

adultery to the physical act. How do I know? Because the Old Testament taught against lust and any spiritual Jew who knew the Scriptures would have already known that. To say that was teaching something new by saying that lust is adultery you'd have to cut Proverbs 6:23-25 out of the Bible. "23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: 24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. 25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids." Proverbs is a meditation on the practical applications of the Law of Moses and even Job knew without a Bible that lusting after women is evil and refrained from doing so (Job 31:1)

Matthew 5:31-32 "31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32 But I say unto you..." Like with 5:21, Jesus is quoting the corrupt rabbinical teachers' misquoting of the Bible. They were misquoting Deuteronomy chapter 24 to imply that a man could lawfully just divorce his wife for any cause. Read Deuteronomy 24:1 and see that there was a narrow provision for divorce that the corrupt rabbis were expanding and thus abusing by their misquoting of Moses' Law.

Matthew 5:33-34 "33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:34 But I say unto you..." This was again a misquoting of the Law of Moses by the corrupt rabbis. The Law commanded to swear by God's name (Deuteronomy 6:13). The misquoting of the Law was a clever way for the rabbis to teach that you could swear by heaven, Jerusalem, your head, etc and the oath wasn't binding because (they claimed) God's name wasn't involved and so not keeping the oath was not taking his name in vain. Jesus rebuked this misconception. In Malachi chapter 3 it said that the Messiah would rebuke false sweraers. Malachi 3:5-6 "5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts. 6 For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

Matthew 5:38-39 "38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39 But I say unto you..." The corrupt rabbis were justifying personal vengeance by twisting the laws which in their context were to be carried out by impartial judges. They were saying in their twisting of Scripture that this justified a man independently taking vengeance on his enemies. Jesus was not speaking against impartial law and order, punishment of criminals nor saying that victims of crimes cannot go to the Judges to deal with their enemies when they were really victims of crimes. Romans chapter 13 shows how all of this is upheld in Christianity.

Matthew 5:43-44 "43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you..." This was a blatant misquotation of the OT on the part of the corrupt rabbis. The Law of Moses never said "hate thine enemy." Rather it commanded love of one's enemies exactly as Jesus taught (since He came not to destroy the Law!) Exodus 23:4-5 "4 If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. 5 If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him."

I'll also note that people can (and do) limit and abuse Jesus' words in the Gospels just like they have with Jesus' words through Moses (Jesus obviously inspired ALL of Scripture). Did Jesus say not to lust after a picture of a woman? Not exactly, there wasn't photos or videos then- but Matthew 5:28 and many other Scriptures rebuke doing in principle as adultery. What about lusting after a 17 year old who is not legally a woman yet? Is that okay? Of course not. But am I teaching a higher law than Jesus by saying it's wrong to lust after a minor as well as a woman? Of course not. I'm only looking at His words honestly in principle and not limiting them to the letter as an attempt to justify sin. And that is all Jesus was doing in the Sermon on the Mount to rebuke error and vindicate God's Law from the corrupt interpretations and abuses of it that were prevalent in His day.

To the rest of your post: You wrote "Am not sure how you say the standard never changed. I never use the term morality in any of my post. Moral standards are way bellow Biblical standards."

Biblical standards that deal with morality are moral standards. There is however a difference between being moral before the world versus moral before God.

You wrote "If you see a pig tied by chains to prevent it from falling into gutter and another pig that has no chains but chooses not to even get near the gutter; you know which is higher standard. It is foolish to say both the pigs are same since they both do not fall into gutter!"

This is not comparable to what we have been talking about. God doesn't bind men in chains (in this life) to prevent them from sinning, except that it's His will for criminals against society to be punished by the State (Romans 13). He gives men freedom to choose to serve Him and follow His Law or to serve the devil and do evil- in this life. All are held to the same standard without respect of persons though some understood more than others- and that will be factored into His judgments on Judgment Day. Do you not believe in an everlasting burning hell where those who have chosen evil will go forever?

You wrote "My analogy of Child using a laptop is the closest I can get to explain my point here. It is inline with what Paul spoke about Law being a school master. Also I never said Jesus preached a law. Jesus did not give us a law but a standard. He lived a highest standard of life ever possible and preached the same. This standard was higher than that of OT."

There is no significant difference between a law and a standard. The OT Law was a reflection of His own character which cannot be improved upon. Psalm 119:142 again. Jesus even kept the OT ceremonies, dietary laws, etc as a faithful Old Covenant Jew.

You wrote: " Going by your understanding Paul was also preaching Gnosticism here! Romans 1 :19- that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being UNDERSTOOD THROUGH WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, so that they are without excuse. Paul writes that the nature of God and his attributes can be understood by seeing his work of creation. This is written to unbelievers who do not know OT or NT. I myself can testify to this word. I did not hear the Gospel until I was 25 as I was raised as a Hindu. But I know God hated my actions even though they were perfectly acceptable according to Hinduism. I do not believe I had any excuse if I died without hearing the Gospel. The Book of Job has no reference to Abraham or Moses or laws. Still Job lived an upright and blameless life. How did he come to know this? God can be found by those who search for him with all their heart. Not just those who search in Bible!"

Romans was written to believers but the particular verses you quoted are written of unbelievers. You are right for the most part in what you say then, yet there's a key distinction you're not acknowledging- and if you did acknowledge it you'd have to acknowledge how crazy it is to believe Jesus taught a higher standard than Moses' law. In my previous post I was rebuking those who have a Bible seeking knowledge of God beyond their Bible. That would indeed be gnosticism. But how do people who have not a Bible know about God and His laws? Because Creation testifies there is a God and God's law is written in their hearts. And that is THE VERY SAME Law that is contained in the moral commandments of the Law of Moses and throughout the whole Bible. It is a reflection of God's perfect nature and contains His eternal requirements. For this reason it can never be improved upon and is consistent from Genesis to Revelation. Note in the very next chapter from what you quoted from, how the things the gentiles know by nature are the very same requirements contained in the Law of Moses.

" 14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)"

**Re: Sree (2nd post) - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/26 1:04**

The Bible never says that Noah had an addiction to alcohol. It is quite possible that the fermentation process of the vineyards was different after the flood and that he got drunk just one time by accident. That aside, the differences from OT to NT on polygamy do not prove a higher standard. The Lord never commanded polygamy in the OT. It was an aberration of marriage which he permitted for many reasons known to Him. Now polygamy is illegal in the USA and many countries; and since it's not required it shouldn't be allowed at all in the church in these countries. However note that polygamists were permitted to be grandfathered into the Apostolic churches though they couldn't be leaders. That proves that polygamy is not inherently sin. Even today there are countries where polygamy is legal and men who are polygamists come to Christ. They can't be leaders but they can still be grandfathered into the churches without putting away their wives. This isn't a matter of the standard changing; it is a matter that we have more light on God's unchanging goals and intents for marriage and of the bad consequences of the aberration that is polygamy. It's right to contain where it already exists and to stamp it out otherwise- but that was always the case though some otherwise spiritual men didn't perceive this and perhaps God hid it from them for reasons known to Him.

Question for you: Would you claim to be a more spiritual man than Abraham was?

**Re: Sree (3rd post) - posted by gt768, on: 2019/6/26 1:35**

You wrote "Wow, when did you hear me even justifying David? Irrespective of David repenting or not, it is a fact that God accepted him. So if our standard of requirement from God is same as that of David, then it should be perfectly right for a new covenant person to also commit Adultery and then repent or even accept chastisement and take David as his example."

You said earlier words that implied that there is danger into falling into adultery through believing the OT and NT standards are the same. That's implying the Law of Moses is to blame for David's adultery and not David himself. Why would believing Jesus taught a higher standard keep a man from committing adultery when the standard he was under didn't keep him from committing adultery (even if they were different standards, though they are not)? Even you say that the Old Covenant forbid the physical act of adultery. Why don't we raise the standard more and say that anyone who ever is even tempted to do anything bad is in sin worse than adultery? Will that help anything? And are you now implying that a man who has committed adultery should not repent and take his chastisement with David as his example?

You wrote " But thankfully, our standard of requirement is higher than that of David. David did not have the fullness of Holy Spirit that only believers in NT received after the day of Pentecost. He did not have that relationship with God that NT believers have."

Being indwelt by the Holy Spirit in a fuller way does not make the standard higher, though it should make one's obedience to the same standard even better, deeper, and more complete. But have you considered that David may have been tempted literally one million times more than you ever were?

Have you ever had the power he had? I don't think most New Covenant believers would do as well as David did since we have to take up our cross daily and choose to follow the dictates of God's Spirit and not of our own flesh- and that is a mighty hard thing as it is, let alone when one is in great prosperity or poverty. Many New Covenant believers fall away from the faith and aren't even honest with the rebukes, instructions, corrections, etc that they are confronted with despite not having the great temptations that great power and/or poverty bring. And speaking of men under the Old Covenant, what New covenant believer can say they know God like Jeremiah or Daniel did? One could take their examples and claim that they had a higher standard than us, even though they really didn't.

You wrote "

Quote:  
----- 2 Sam 12:8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.

-----  
When David sinned, the above was God's word to him. Here God is clearly telling David that he would have given him more wives and property if he had asked! Can a person living a new covenant life, marry another women and then tell that God gave him like he gave to David, then will you accept him? If God's Standard for David is same as that of you and I then we should also hear God saying he will give us multiple wives if we are not happy with one!"

This makes no sense. David lived as a Jew under the Law of Moses and God did not even say this to other Jews under the Law of Moses. These words aren't even dealing with standards and I think you're grasping at straws to try to prove a point that you know you cannot prove.