

"Your wickedness makes you as it were heavy as lead, and to tend downwards with great weight and pressure towards hell; and if God should let you go, you would immediately sink and swiftly descend and plunge into the bottomless gulf, and your healthy constitution, and your own care and prudence, and best contrivance, and all your righteousness, would have no more influence to uphold you and keep you out of hell, than a spider's web would have to stop a falling rock. Were it not for the sovereign pleasure of God, the earth would not bear you one moment; for you are a burden to it; the creation groans with you; the creature is made subject to the bondage of your corruption, not willingly; the sun does not willingly shine upon you to give you light to serve sin and Satan; the earth does not willingly yield her increase to satisfy your lusts; nor is it willingly a stage for your wickedness to be acted upon; the air does not willingly serve you for breath to maintain the flame of life in your vitals, while you spend your life in the service of God's enemies. God's creatures are good, and were made for men to serve God with, and do not willingly subserve to any other purpose, and groan when they are abused to purposes so directly contrary to their nature and end. And the world would spew you out, were it not for the sovereign hand of him who hath subjected it in hope. There are the black clouds of God's wrath now hanging directly over your heads, full of the dreadful storm, and big with thunder; and were it not for the restraining hand of God, it would immediately burst forth upon you. The sovereign pleasure of God, for the present, stays his rough wind; otherwise it would come with fury, and your destruction would come like a whirlwind, and you would be like the chaff on the summer threshing floor."

Jonathan Edwards, *"Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God"*

Ignorance Of The Righteousness Of God
As Illustrated By Jesus' Teaching On Adultery & Divorce
Matthew 5:27-32

Matthew 16:6 Jesus said to them, **“Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”**

Matthew 16:7 And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, **“We brought no bread.”**

Matthew 5:3 **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, **unless your righteousness exceeds** that of the scribes and Pharisees, **you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:48 You therefore must **be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

Jesus is taking on the worldview of the scribes and the Pharisees and showing it to be incorrect and worthless. In doing so, he is speaking to us. Instead of resting in the finished work of the cross and enjoying communion with God, we often busy ourselves with “activity for God” thinking He will love us more. Our acceptance is not related to our “obedience” but is the result of His obedience. Jesus fulfilled the law and thus becomes the end of the law for righteousness.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

The proper use of the Law is to bring conviction of sin and thus lead us to Christ. An improper use of God’s law is to try to be saved by keeping it. A symptom of using the law improperly is contempt for “sinners”, indicating a self perception of moral superiority only made possible by redefining what it means to sin.

Matthew 15:1 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,

Matthew 15:2 **“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.”**

Matthew 15:3 He answered them, **“And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”**

Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.'

Matthew 15:5 But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God,"

Matthew 15:6 he need not honor his father.' **So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.**

Matthew 15:7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

Matthew 15:8 "This people honors me with their lips, **but their heart is far from me;**

Romans 10:2 For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.**

Romans 10:3 For, **being *ignorant* of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.**

Romans 10:4 For **Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**

Matthew 19:16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, **what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"**

Matthew 19:17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? **There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.**"

Matthew 19:18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,

Matthew 19:19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 19:20 The young man said to him, "**All these I have kept.** What do I still lack?"

Q: How is it possible for him to claim "**All these I have kept**"

Matthew 5:27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘**You shall not commit adultery.**’

Matthew 5:28 But I say to you that everyone who **looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

Matthew 5:31 “**It was also said,** ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a **certificate of divorce.**’

Matthew 5:32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, **makes her commit adultery,** and **whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.**

Matthew 19:3 And **Pharisees** came up to him and tested him by asking, “**Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?**”

Shammai vs Hillel

Matthew 19:4 He answered, “**Have you not read** that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,

Matthew 19:5 and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?

Matthew 19:6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. **What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.**”

Matthew 19:7 They said to him, “Why then did Moses **command** one to give a **certificate of divorce** and to **send her away?**”

Matthew 19:8 He said to them, “**Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives,** but from the beginning it was not so.

Matthew 19:9 And I say to you: whoever **divorces his wife,** except for sexual immorality, and **marries another, commits adultery.**”

Luke 16:18 “Everyone who **divorces his wife** and **marries another commits adultery,** and he who **marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.**

Slept with another while married- **guilty**

Gave a certificate of divorce and married another - **guilty**

Looked at a woman with lustful intent - **guilty**

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law but **fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.**

James 2:11 For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Luke 18:9 He also told this parable to some who **trusted in themselves that they were righteous**, and **treated others with contempt**:

Luke 18:10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**.

Luke 18:11 The **Pharisee, standing by himself**, prayed thus: ‘**God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.**

Luke 18:12 **I fast** twice a week; **I give tithes** of all that I get.’

Luke 18:13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘**God, be merciful to me, a sinner!**’

Luke 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house **justified**, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 18:13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘**God, be merciful to me, a sinner!**’

If anger is equivalent to murder and lustful intent is equivalent to adultery and yet we find ourselves thinking we are more righteous for not actually murdering someone or not sleeping with another's partner then we have a low view of sin. Self righteous people have a low view of sin and a low view of holiness. As a result they feel morally superior to others. The bad news is poverty of spirit and self righteousness are incompatible. The Kingdom of heaven is for those who have a high view of sin and God's holiness, but and an even higher view of His grace. This perspective causes us to mourn our sin and worship our King.

Isaiah 64:6 **We have all** become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.** We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Romans 3:23 for **all have sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God,

Romans 3:24 and are **justified by his grace as a gift**, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 8:3 For **God has done** what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By **sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh and **for sin**, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Romans 8:4 in order that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.”
“All these I have kept.” - Jesus