



The Law



Grace

The Wheel of Faith
Bible Study Guides
Lesson #11
“Bare Naked”

We have spent a lot of time looking at the **Wheel of Faith** which is called the Plan of Salvation. We would also call this the Relationship with Christ. Often the relationship with Jesus is relegated to just our “good ole buddy”; but as we have seen, the Gospel with all its components is what the relationship looks like. As we have seen in this relationship there are some things that He will not do for us; namely, He will not seek the relationship for us with Him.

1. What does Scripture say about our relationship with God?

- Read **Jeremiah 29:13**
“And ye shall _____ me, and _____ me, when ye shall search for me with _____ your heart.”
- **Meade MacGuire**: “We should not overlook the fact that the friendship of Jesus must be cultivated the same as that of any friend.”

a. How does **John 15:1-5** depict the relationship with Jesus?

- The word for abide is a Greek word, μῆνω, which means to remain, to stay, to live, dwell, last, endure, continue. (Its verb tense is in the Imperative, and the action is dependent upon us. The translation idea is

you must engage me in relationship, and I will oblige you and engage back.)

2. Seeking the relationship or abiding in Christ are the various steps on the **Wheel of Faith**; however, there is something else that directly relates to the **Wheel of Faith**, and it will keep the **Wheel of Faith** spinning in your life unlike anything else.
 - a. The rich young ruler needed to also learn this powerful lesson.
 - Read **Mark 10:17** what is he seeking?
 - b. What is Jesus' response? **Read verse 19**
 - c. What is the rich young ruler's reply? **verse 20**
 - The rich young ruler felt a confidence in his understanding of the Law; however, Jesus is about to shatter his confidence in that understanding.
3. What is Jesus' reply to the rich young ruler in **verse 21**? What do you think was his lack?
 - a. Jesus has already had a similar conversation in **Matthew 5:20**. He is trying to teach an entire assembly of people the true meaning of the Law.
 - b. **The four parts of God's law**
 - **#1 Read Matthew 5:17-19** what is Jesus referring to?

Jesus is referring to what is called the **letter** of the law. This is the Law written by God's own finger on stone. This is what we commonly think of when we say the Ten Commandments.
 - **#2 Read Matthew 5:27-28** What Is Jesus saying?

Paul in **Romans 7:6** calls this the **spirit** of the Law
Jesus is teaching that **Sin** begins in the **mind**. Hatred and lust are both violations of the **letter** of the Law.

- #3 Jesus takes them a little deeper than even the Law written in the mind. Where does Jesus say all Law should ultimately be written?
Read: **Matthew 5:43-44**
Read: **Matthew 22:36-40** How does Jesus compare the law and love?

The letter and the spirit are better expressed through the two central ideas of **Love**.

Read Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 to see how **Love** and the **Law** were actually Old Testament ideas.

- #4 Before we can finish looking at how deep the Law actually goes, we must compare the Law to one more thing. **Read: 1 John 4:7-8, Romans 13:10**

This tells us that the Law and God are one in the same. The **Law of love** therefore is an expression of who God is; a God of love.

- **Ellen White:** *“As speech is to thought, so is Christ to the invisible God. He is the manifestation of the Father and is called the Word of God. God sent His Son into the world, His divinity clothed with humanity, to make known in His life and character the attributes of the Father, that men might bear the image of the invisible God. He was the embodiment of the law of God, which is the transcript of His character.”* **ST, November 15, 1899 par. 2**
- **Zwingli** *“The law was, in its essence, the character, will and nature of God.”* **Pelican 213**

Thus, If I have God’s **character** I would **not** steal from a friend. If I have **love** in my heart, I would not **want** to steal from a friend. If I am keeping the **spirit** of the law, I wouldn’t even **think** about it. And, of course, the **written Law** would **never** be violated!

The law is not just a simple letter written in stone, but at its depths it reveals the very **character** of God.

- **Spirit Of Prophecy:** *“To this day there are still aspects of truth which are dimly seen, connections that are not understood, and far-reaching depths in the Law of God that grace uncomprehended. There is immeasurable*

breadth, dignity, and glory in the law of God;” FE, 239

“We have only glimmering light in regard to the exceeding breadth of the Law of God” SD PG 46

- 4. Thought question:** As we have seen, the Law of God is much deeper than we may have initially thought. Do you see how shallow the understanding of the rich young ruler was to the Law of God?
Was he really keeping the Law of God?
As you ponder the four levels of the Law of God, might you as well be guilty of a shallow understanding of the Law of God?

- a. What was Jesus trying to do in **Mark 10:21**? What was he trying to help the young man to see?
- It is evident that Jesus is trying to help him see that he has not been keeping “**all** of these from my youth”.
- b. In **verse 21** what does Jesus invite him to do?

“Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; and _____, take up the cross, and _____ Me.”

- Rather than condemnation for not truly keeping the Law as he claimed to be doing, rather, Jesus is inviting him to be His follower, and to learn how to truly fulfill the law.
- c. In the above text Jesus tells him to sell whatever he has and become His follower.
- Why do you think Jesus does this?
 - What is actually going on in this verse?
Hint: If Jesus is the living embodiment of the Law, then what is the young man actually standing before?
 - And more importantly, what is happening to him?
Hint: What does the Law always do when sinners stand before it?

d. Read Romans 7:9-13

- It is clear that the rich young ruler is standing before the embodiment of the Law itself, and he is being exposed by the Law, or condemned. The Law is pointing out his sin. The Law is saying to him that while he has not broken the **letter** of the law (level #1), he is a breaker of its **spirit**, the **heart**, and the very **Character** of God! The Law of God **always** exposes our sin.

Thought question: Can you see the importance of knowing the Law of God in a deeper way?

In what deeper ways might the law of God be exposing your sin?

5. In our story of the rich young ruler, why do you think it would have been okay for him to be exposed by Christ, or the Law of God as a lawbreaker?

What important statement does Jesus make that assures him of his acceptance by God even as a lawbreaker?

a. Read: Mark 10:21

“Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

b. What is his treasure in Heaven?

- **Read Romans 3:20-24**
- Too often we think of our treasure in Heaven only in the terms of material things, and for sure there is a reality in that promise. But our treasure in Heaven that allows us to stand before the Law of God as violators of it, while being condemned to death, is much more than streets of gold. Our treasure in Heaven is Christ, and His offer of Imputed Righteousness.
- When the Law exposes us on any one of its four levels, we are to find our covering in Christ and His Righteousness. His perfect law-keeping is accredited to us, and He takes upon Himself our condemnation. The **Wheel**

of Faith is the mechanism or the process whereby we can receive a constant supply of Imputed Righteousness every time the Law exposes our sin.

6. What strange paradox happens as we are being exposed by the Law of God?

“The more light we have, the more we can impart to others around us. The more closely we live to Jesus, the clearer views shall we have of His loveliness. As we behold Him in His purity, we discern more clearly our own faults of character. We yearn after Him, and for that fullness that is in Him, and that shines out in the perfection of His heavenly character; and by beholding we become changed into His image.” . . . LHU 266.4

• **Read: 2 Corinthians 3:18, Psalm 19:7**

- The Law is the great mirror. On the one hand as we look into all four levels of the Law it begins to expose the depths of our sin; and on the other hand as we look, we are being transformed into its very own image! What fantastic news! Being exposed by the law is the very mechanism whereby I am transformed into the image of the Law, which is Jesus himself.
- Therefore, we can see the centrality of the Law to both the process of Justification and Sanctification. It points out our need of His justifying grace, and at the same time becomes the great measuring line of sanctification that we are to live up to.

7. Now that we have a deeper understanding of God’s Ten Commandments, where in Scripture might we find the Law of God expounded at its deeper meaning?

a. **Read: Matthew chapters 5-7** for contemplation.

- In the sermon on the mount, Matthew 5-7, Jesus is expounding the Law to its deep foundation; but, in fact, we could say the entire New Testament narrative is the Law of God lived out in the life of Jesus. What are the implications for the church, and for your life with this new insight?

b. What new meaning might **Revelation 14:12** have for you?

- In **Revelation 14:12** there are a group of people who keep the Commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus. In light of the past eleven studies do you have a deeper understanding into the description of these people?
 - How would you explain the meaning of **Revelation 14:12** in view of the **Wheel of Faith**?
- c. In **Daniel 7:25** there is an attack by the little horn power against the Law of God. In **Revelation 12:17** the dragon is enraged with those that keep the Law of God. And in **Revelation 22:11-14** those that keep it have the right to eternal life. Can you see the bigger picture at stake with the law of God as it relates to the gospel?

At the end of time there is a particular attack against God's Law by Satan through the Beast Power. The issue is over **faith** and the **Law** of God. By attacking the **Law** of God, Satan is undermining the very mechanism that points the world to Justification and Sanctification. The **Law** and the **Gospel** work hand in hand as they always have to bring mankind into a restored relationship with God.

The Law of God will keep us spinning in the **Wheel of Faith** continually. Can you see a need to expound upon the Law of God as it relates to the Gospel?

Let our prayer be to God that His great Law on all four levels exposes us, then transform us. May you be exposed, then covered by your Treasure in Heaven, then transformed into His likeness. This is how we can seek the relationship with God through **Law** and **Faith**.