

Let us pray,

Lord, help us to live into the fulfillment of the Law, rather than trying to fulfill it ourselves.

Amen.

How do we learn to live into Jesus, instead of living into the Law?

If Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law, what does it mean to follow him.

Does that mean we follow every Law?

There were multiple occasions where we see Jesus breaking the Law.

Stopping the stoning of the adulterous woman.

Flipping tables at the Temple.

Working on the Sabbath.

Forgiving sins, when he is not in the correct human hierarchy to do so.

Touching unclean people.

Jesus broke many Jewish laws.

So what did Jesus mean when he said that he came not to abolish the Law or the Prophets; but to fulfill them?

He means that he came to come in the place of the purpose of the Law itself.

He is the fulfillment of the reason for the Law.

Jesus wasn't concerned about each of the individual 660 some sins in the bible.

He wasn't concerned about being perfect with the obedience of the individual Laws.

What he was most concerned about is how those Laws were used.

The Law was originally designed to make us right with God.

It was God's way of helping God's people get back into right relationship.

It was a way for us to learn how to live a godly life.

But what it ended up turning into, was a source of judgement, condemnation, power, and death.

The Law was meant to bring us closer together with God and each other.

But unfortunately, humans got involved and took the Law and used it for their own purposes.

We forgot that the Law itself was a form of Grace and Mercy from our God.

That it was a direction in a directionless world.

It was an opportunity to seek the wisdom of something greater than the wisdom of humans.

It was a calling to live differently, and was never meant to be a reason or source of persecution and judgement.

So when God broke God's own laws, we forgot what the reason of the Law was.

And decided to persecute and execute the very God that gave us the Law to begin with.

It makes us question, what do we love more?

Being right?

Or being loving?

Following the Law or following God?

Jesus said that all Laws should be judged based on this one greatest commandment.

The commandment that our Lord Jesus Christ gave us from his own mouth.

To love our God with all our heart, mind and soul, and our neighbor likewise.

We are called to judge not one another on our perfection of following the rules, but to judge the rules and laws, based on this one greatest commandment.

It is meant to give us the freedom to decide whether or not to follow a Law, based on how it promotes loving God and loving neighbor.

We are not called to follow every law.

At least in the way that us humans have historically followed them.

We are only called to follow the laws that promote loving our God with all our heart, mind and soul and our neighbors likewise.

Jesus wants us to think critically about the things that are asked of us.

He also wants us to think compassionately above all else.

The Law is important.

I don't want you to miss hear me.

But it is not more important than loving God and neighbor.

Sometimes us humans get so wrapped up in following right and wrong, and forget that the world isn't divided by right and wrong.

It is filled with broken people, who do good and bad things.

And we are not called to just be compassionate to the people that we like or the people that we think are “good” people.

We are called by God, by Jesus, to be compassionate and loving to all people.

Jesus isn't asking us to determine whether or not other people are doing what is just and right.

Jesus asks us, whether or not we ourselves are doing what is just and right.

Jesus is encouraging us to look inward, and see how we are expressing Christian love to others, rather than focusing on how others are expressing love to us.

In a perfect world, everyone would care for everyone.

Everyone would love and support everyone.

But we don't live in a perfect world.

And the only way that we can change this world, is by starting with how we ourselves interact with this world.

If we are not holding ourselves to a higher standard, then there is no chance for the world to live into a higher standard.

And when I say higher standard, I don't mean like the pharisees and the sadducees, where we gloat about how perfectly we follow the law.

Or about how good of person we may think we are.

When I say higher standard, I mean focusing our efforts on our own pursuit of loving friend and foe.

We cannot expect the world to be loving and kind, if we ourselves are not first willing to be loving and kind.

Remember Jesus fulfills the law because he made the ultimate sacrifice, to cover our sins, once and for all.

Its important to remember that it wasn't the brutal murder on the cross that made us right with God.

It was the unconditional love that Jesus had for humanity, that even though we put him on the cross, his love for us never wavered

Jesus showed us what true love is forgiving us, even in one of our moments of great cruelty.

This is the love that we are called to portray and live into.

This is the higher standard, that Jesus calls us to.

It is love that makes us right with God, it is love that fulfills the law.

Amen.