

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

Law and Religion

Law and Religion

Loss of Confidence in Both

Law and Religion

Loss of Confidence in Both
Separation Between the Two

Law and Religion

Loss of Confidence in Both
Separation Between the Two
Lack of Absolutes

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Lack of Absolutes

A judge now issues opinions, not stated fact.

Law and Religion

Loss of Confidence in Both
Separation Between the Two
Lack of Absolutes

A judge now issues opinions, not stated fact.
They view their decisions as an experiment in
resolving the issue, and not as a determination
of right or wrong.

Law and Religion

“If law is merely an experiment, and if judicial decisions are only hunches, why should individuals or groups of people observe those legal rules or commands that do not conform to their own interests.”

Law and Religion

“If law is merely an experiment, and if judicial decisions are only hunches, why should individuals or groups of people observe those legal rules or commands that do not conform to their own interests.”

Harold J. Berman

Professor of Law at Harvard University

Law and Religion

Law and Religion

Is there such a thing as absolute truth?

Law and Religion

Is there such a thing as absolute truth?

What is that truth?

Law and Religion

Is there such a thing as absolute truth?

What is that truth?

How do we know that absolute truth is absolute?

Law and Religion

Is there such a thing as absolute truth?

What is that truth?

How do we know that absolute truth is absolute?

What about the changing times in which we live?

Law and Religion

Is there such a thing as absolute truth?

What is that truth?

How do we know that absolute truth is absolute?

What about the changing times in which we live?

Does truth change to meet the culture?

Law and Religion

Is there such a thing as absolute truth?

What is that truth?

How do we know that absolute truth is absolute?

What about the changing times in which we live?

Does truth change to meet the culture?

Is truth living and active? Does it evolve?

Law and Religion

Is there such a thing as absolute truth?

What is that truth?

How do we know that absolute truth is absolute?

What about the changing times in which we live?

Does truth change to meet the culture?

Is truth living and active? Does it evolve?

Why is truth for yesterday truth for today?

Law and Religion

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What is that truth?

How do we know that absolute truth is absolute?

What about the changing times in which we live?

Does truth change to meet the culture?

Is truth living and active? Does it evolve?

Why is truth for yesterday truth for today?

Doesn't each generation need their own truth?

Law and Religion

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

Divorce

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

Divorce

Abortion

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Homosexuality

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Divorce

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Sexual Promiscuity

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Role of Men and Women in the Home

Law and Religion

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Role of Men and Women in the Church

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

How has our addiction to self undermined
absolute truth?

Law and Religion

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How has our addiction to self undermined
absolute truth?

What we do for a living and the eternal importance
of that choice.

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

How has our addiction to self undermined
absolute truth?

What we do for a living and the eternal importance
of that choice.

Our political affiliation and the eternal importance
of that choice.

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

How has our addiction to self undermined absolute truth?

Our feelings about entertainment, school choices, dress, Bible versions, modes or styles of worship, baptism, the Lord's Supper, tithing, keeping the Sabbath, calling Jesus Yeshua, styles of music, etc.

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

How has our addiction to self undermined
absolute truth?

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

How has our addiction to self undermined
absolute truth?

Can one be OK for you and another be OK for me?

Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

How has our addiction to self undermined absolute truth?

Can one be OK for you and another be OK for me?

Can you have your truth or opinion or sincerely held conviction and can I have mine, and can we both follow Christ wholeheartedly yet disagree?

Law and Religion

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Law and Religion

How has moral relativism impacted the church?

How has our addiction to self undermined
absolute truth?

Divorce

Abortion

Homosexuality

Sexual Promiscuity

Law and Religion

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In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 17:6

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

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Law and Religion

In those days there was no king in Israel; **everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

Judges 17:6

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 21:25

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king in Israel; **everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

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Judges 21:25

Law and Religion

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Judges 21:25

Law and Religion

In these days there was no king Jesus in the church or in the home; therefore everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

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Liberal Theology

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king Jesus in the church or in the home; therefore everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

One

The Bible is not “God-breathed” and has errors. Man must therefore determine which teachings are correct and which are not. Belief that the Bible is “inspired” by God is only held by simpletons.

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king Jesus in the church or in the home; therefore everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Two

The virgin birth of Christ is a mythological false teaching.

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king Jesus in the church or in the home; therefore everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Three

Jesus did not rise again from the grave in bodily form.

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king Jesus in the church or in the home; therefore everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Four

Jesus was a good moral teacher, but His followers and their followers have taken liberties with the history of His life (there were no “supernatural” miracles).

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king Jesus in the church or in the home; therefore everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Five

Hell is not real. Man is not lost in sin and is not doomed to some future judgment without a relationship with Christ through faith. Man can help himself; no sacrificial death by Christ is necessary.

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king Jesus in the church or in the home; therefore everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Six

Most of the human authors of the Bible are not who they are traditionally believed to be.

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king Jesus in the church or in the home; therefore everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Seven

The most important thing for man to do is to “love” his neighbor.

Law and Religion

In those days there was no king Jesus in the church or in the home; therefore everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Eight

The Bible is not the Word of God. It only contains the words of God. Therefore it is up to each of us to determine for ourselves what is God's Word and what is not.

Law and Religion

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Context

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Context

Historical

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Law and Religion

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Matthew 5:17

Major question:

Law and Religion

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

Major question:

“What does Jesus think of the law; what does He think of Moses and the prophets?”

Law and Religion

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel (Northern Kingdom) and with the house of Judah (Southern Kingdom).”

Jeremiah 31:31

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Messianic Expectations

Law and Religion

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Messianic Expectations

Common Opinion

Law and Religion

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Matthew 5:17

Messianic Expectations

Common Opinion

The people interpreted Jesus' rejection of the traditions of the Elders as a rejection of the Law.

Law and Religion

“**Do not think** that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

“Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.”

Matthew 15:6b

Law and Religion

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Matthew 15:6b

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Matthew 5:17

“Making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down.

And many such things you do.”

Mark 7:13

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Matthew 5:17

destroy (*katalúō*)

Law and Religion

“Do not think **that I came to destroy** the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

destroy (*katalúō*)

To utterly overthrow and destroy, to abolish forever, to dissolve, to render vain, to bring to nothing.

Law and Religion

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Matthew 5:17

And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things (the temple)? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down (*katalúō*).”

Matthew 24:2

Law and Religion

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“Do not think **that I came to destroy** the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed (*katalúō*), we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

2 Corinthians 5:1

Law and Religion

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Law and Religion

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Matthew 5:17

“And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing (*katalúō*);”

Acts 5:38

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Matthew 5:17

“but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow (*katalúō*) it— lest you even be found to fight against God.”

Acts 5:39

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“Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

The Ten Commandments

Law and Religion

“Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

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The Ten Commandments

The Pentateuch

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The Ten Commandments

The Pentateuch

All of the Old Testament

Law and Religion

“Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

The Ten Commandments

The Pentateuch

All of the Old Testament

The Rabbinical Traditions and Requirements

Law and Religion

“Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

Therefore the Lord said:

“Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me,”

Law and Religion

“Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

“and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men.”

Isaiah 29:13

Law and Religion

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“Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

What is a burden that can be legally carried
on the Sabbath?

Law and Religion

“Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:17

What is a burden that can be legally carried
on the Sabbath?

What actions violate the law of the Sabbath?

Law and Religion

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Matthew 5:17

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Matthew 5:17

Law and the Prophets (or Law or the Prophets) were understood in Jesus' time to mean all of Scripture, all of the Old Testament.

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fulfill (*pleróō*)

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“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**”

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fulfill (*pleróō*)

To complete what is already present, to accomplish,
to richly supply in an abundant fashion.

Law and Religion

Law and Religion

Jesus said He was the fulfillment of the Law.

Law and Religion

Jesus said He was the fulfillment of the Law.
He was the perfect example of its fulfillment.

Law and Religion

Jesus said He was the fulfillment of the Law.
He was the perfect example of its fulfillment.

But what aspect of the Law was Jesus talking about?

Law and Religion

Law and Religion

Moral Law

Law and Religion

Moral Law

The Judicial Law

Law and Religion

Moral Law

The Judicial Law

The Ceremonial Law

Law and Religion

Moral Law

The Judicial Law

The Ceremonial Law

Note:

All Scripture (including the Law) speaks of Jesus.

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Law and Religion

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Luke 24:27

Law and Religion

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things **concerning Himself.**

Luke 24:27

Law and Religion

Then He said to them,

“These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

Luke 24:44

Law and Religion

Then He said to them,

“These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms **concerning Me.**”

Luke 24:44

Law and Religion

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

John 5:39

Law and Religion

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which **testify of Me.**”

John 5:39

Law and Religion

*“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
But a body You have prepared for Me.
In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin
You had no pleasure.*

*Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—
In the volume of the book it is written of Me—
To do Your will, O God.’ ”*

Hebrews 10:5-7

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The Moral Law

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The Moral Law

Jesus fulfilled the Moral Law by His righteousness.

Law and Religion

The Moral Law

Jesus fulfilled the Moral Law by His righteousness.
He obeyed every command, every requirement, and
He met every standard.

Law and Religion

The Moral Law

Jesus fulfilled the Moral Law by His righteousness.
He obeyed every command, every requirement, and
He met every standard.

Example:

Keeping the Sabbath

Law and Religion

Law and Religion

The Judicial Law

Law and Religion

The Judicial Law

Jesus fulfilled the Judicial Law on the cross.

Law and Religion

The Judicial Law

Jesus fulfilled the Judicial Law on the cross.

His crucifixion marked Israel's ultimate apostasy in the final rejection of the Messiah and the interruption of God's dealing with that people as a nation.

Law and Religion

The Judicial Law

Jesus fulfilled the Judicial Law on the cross.

His crucifixion marked Israel's ultimate apostasy in the final rejection of the Messiah and the interruption of God's dealing with that people as a nation.

With that the judicial law passed away, because Israel no longer served as His chosen nation.

Law and Religion

Law and Religion

The Ceremonial Law

Law and Religion

The Ceremonial Law

Sacrifice was the heart of all Old Testament worship, and as the perfect Sacrifice, Jesus brought all the other sacrifices to an end. While He was on the cross “the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” (Matt. 27:51). Christ Himself is the new and perfect way into the Holy of Holies, into which any man could come by faith.

Law and Religion

Law and Religion

What Can Compare?

Law and Religion

What Can Compare?

Aaron

Law and Religion

What Can Compare?

Aaron

Tabernacle or Temple

Law and Religion

What Can Compare?

Aaron

Tabernacle or Temple

Offerings

Law and Religion

What Can Compare?

Aaron

Tabernacle or Temple

Offerings

Feasts

