

Lawful Freedom

Matthew 5:17-20

Freedom is not lawless.

To experience freedom, the law must be fulfilled.

Reasons:

1. Jesus' instruction is framed by God's Law.

📖 **The Law has not been abolished by Jesus.**

17 *not...abolished* 18 *not a jot or tittle...shall pass away*

📖 **The authority of the Law is established by Jesus.**

17 *fulfill* 18 *accomplish* 19 *these commandments*

2. Jesus' standards are rooted in God's Law.

Because it reveals the standards of God:

📖 **The Law is good not bad.**

📖 **The Law is diagnostic not prescriptive.**

* *I would not have known...had the Law not said...* Rom. 7:7-8

Law defines and discloses sin.

* *Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.* Judges 21:25

Moral relativity is not freedom but anarchy. Gal. 5:13-15

3. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's Law.

📖 **Jesus Christ fleshes out the Law of God.**

I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. Matt. 5:17 & Gal. 3:24

📖 **Jesus Christ is the end of the Law of God.**

...until all (the Law) is accomplished... Matt. 5:18 cf. Rom. 10:4

📖 **Jesus Christ internalizes the Law of God.**

I will put my law in their minds & write it on their hearts. Jer. 31:33

...a new heart & a new spirit in you...to keep my laws. Ezk. 36:26

...that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Rm 8:4

CHALLENGE: Living in freedom without regret!

* Jesus secures freedom; we can't refuse Him. 2 Cor. 5:21

* God's Word guards freedom; we can't repeal it! Jn. 8:32

We can not break God's laws. We merely break ourselves...

* Obedience results in freedom; do not abuse it! Gal. 5:13

* Sonship is the privilege of freedom; do not neglect it! Gal. 5:1