



The Appeal of the Scriptures

1.

Luke 10

²⁵ On one occasion an **expert in the law** stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “**what must I do to inherit eternal life?**”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

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2.

Matthew 22

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, **an expert in the law**, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

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LOVE GOD & LOVE OTHERS

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LUKE 11:37...a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. ³⁸ But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

³⁹ Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰ You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ But now as for what is inside you—**be generous to the poor**, and everything will be clean for you.

⁴² “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you **neglect justice and the love of God [or “weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith- Mt 23:23 NKJV]**. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

⁴⁴ “Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it.”

⁴⁵ One of the **experts in the law** answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also.”

⁴⁶ **Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.**

LOVE GOD & LOVE OTHERS



Commandments

(decrees, laws on specific subjects or “statutes”)



Talmud

(Mishna, Gemara...

rules,

decisions, applications)

Exs. Luke 6:1-2-- “harvesting” on the Sabbath
John 5:8-11-- healed man carrying his mat
Luke 14: 1-6 – “is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath”?

How did this happen?

- They forgot, or never knew, the true meaning of the two essential, basic, principles of a relationship with God:

LOVE GOD & LOVE OTHERS

3.

John 14

15 **“If you love me, keep my commands.** 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 **Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.** The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

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Two truths in that statement:

1. *We cannot love Jesus without following his commands.*
2. *We need to know what those commands are.*

LOVE GOD

Don't be conformed (molded) to this world (Rm. 12:1-2)
Discern what is the will of God (Rm. 12:2)
Be subject to/pray for/honor government (Rm. 13:1; I Tim 2:1, Titus 3:2; II Pet. 2)
Don't speak evil of anyone (Titus 3:2, Jas 4:11)
Make our bodies a living sacrifice/flee sexual immorality (I Cor. 6:13-18; Eph. 5:3)
Don't celebrate wrong doing (I Cor. 5:2)
Don't keep corrupt friends (I Cor. 15:31)
Have faith (deep trust) in Him (II Cor. 5:7)
Aim to please Him (II Cor. 5:9)
Walk by Spirit, not to satisfy carnal desires (Gal. 5:16, 25)
Live with joy, patience, goodness, faithfulness, self-control (Gal. 5:22)
Walk worthy of our calling (Eph. 4:1-2; 5:8)
Avoid filthiness/crude talk (Eph. 5:4)
Expose works of darkness (by walking as children of light) (Eph. 5:11)
Rejoice in the Lord (Eph. 4:1)
Don't be anxious about anything (Phil. 4:6)
Dwell on honorable/just/pure/lovely/excellent/praise-worthy things (Phil. 4:8)
Continue in faith, "healthy words"; pay closer attention (Heb. 2:1; II Tim. 1:13)
Be immovable, even when persecuted (Col. 1:23; II Thess. 1:4; Jas. 1:2-4)
Abound in thanksgiving (Col. 2:7)
Put to death what is earthly (immoral, anger, malice, obscenity) (Col. 3:5-8)
Live a quiet, godly, reverent and dignified life in every way (I Tim. 2:2)
Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, steadfastness (I Tim. 6:11)
Be careful to devote ourselves to good works (Titus 3:2)
Be holy as God is holy (I Pet. 1:16)
Grow in faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self control, patience (II Pet. 1:5-6 II Thess. 1:3)
Build up your faith and praying (Jude 21)
Walk to please God more and more... (I Thess. 4:1)

LOVE OTHERS

Love one another (Rm. 12:9; Col. 3:14; I Thess. 4:9; I Jn. 3:10-14)
Outdo each other in showing honor (Rm. 12:9)
Contribute to saints' needs (Rm. 12:13)
Be hospitable (Rm. 12:13)
Bless your persecutor (Rm. 12:14)
Rejoice/weep with others (Rm. 12:15)
Seek Harmony/peace, be "eager" for unity (Rm. 12:15; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:3)
Don't repay evil with evil (Rm. 12:17)
Don't commit adultery/steal/kill/covet (Rm. 13:9-10)
Teach the Truth (I Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1; Col. 3:15)
Be patient and kind, bear with each other (I Cor. 13:4; Eph. 4:2)
Forgive and comfort (II Cor. 2:6; Col. 3:12-13)
Be generous (II Cor. 8:2-4; Jas. 2:15-16)
Be perfectly humble and gentle (Gal. 5:23-25; Eph. 4:2; I Tim 6:11)
Do good to everyone, esp. brethren (Gal. 6:9-10)
Don't hang onto anger or let it cause sin (Eph. 4:26)
Count others more significant than ourselves (Phil. 2:3)
Look also to the interests of others (Phil. 2:4)
Give thanks for our brethren (Phil. 1:3-4; II Thess. 1:3)
Love and respect our spouses (Eph. 5:22-33)
Assemble, encourage, promote to good works (Heb. 10:24-25)
Show perfect courtesy to all (Titus 3:2)
Learn to love our brethren more and more... (I Thess. 4:10)



*The scriptures
appeal to us to
change and
grow to love
others and to
love God by
following His
commands.*

Legal Appeals

- A formal plea to an audience to change existing conclusions and actions.
- The basis of an appeal is that someone has failed to follow the commands of the law.
- The advocate on the other side will argue that the law was followed correctly, and the actions/conclusions should continue.
- The advocates on both sides of the appeal will each write an Appellate Brief.

I - identify the issue.

R - identify the rule of law that applies to the situation.

A - analyze the facts in light of this law

C - state your conclusion- what exactly you want to change

Example: Galatians letter

Issue-

1:6-7 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Rule of Law-

3:26-28++-- ...you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Analyze the facts and law

1:11-4:31 Certain Jews were teaching Gentile Christians they had to adopt Jewish customs such as circumcision to be saved. They did this by attacking Paul's apostleship and his teaching on the law of liberty in Christ. But the facts show his apostleship and teaching were from God, not from man. The Galatians should not have been persuaded by this false gospel given how they had been converted- by faith and by baptism into Christ. The Mosaic law was not only inferior to Christ's law but effectively a curse. It would make them slaves to fleshly things.

Conclusion

5:1- 6:10 Live by the Spirit as freemen, avoiding destructive works of the flesh and living a spiritual life of personal purity and love toward each other. [*i.e., Live as God's children, Loving God by following his moral commands & Loving Others*]

A common approach:

I- Are we violating God's law by doing _____?

R- What rule of law applies?

A- What are the facts/proofs that we have been violating that rule?

C- We need to stop _____ and do a better job following the rule.

The better approach:

Positive Motivation

(the Lord cares about you- what He has done/will do for you)

I- Are we violating God's law by doing _____?

R- What rule of law applies?

A- What are the facts/proofs that we have been violating that rule? (The positive motivation of God's love repeated here)

C- We need to stop _____ and do a better job following the rule.

Positive Motivation

(the Lord cares about you- what He has done/will do for you)

Gal 1: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who **gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us** from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom *be the glory forevermore. Amen.*

Issue- 1:6-7 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Rule of Law- 3:26-28+++ ...you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Analyze the facts and law 1:11-4:31
Certain Jews were teaching Gentile Christians they had to adopt Jewish customs such as circumcision to be saved. They did this by attacking Paul's apostleship and his teaching on the law of liberty in Christ. But the facts show his apostleship and teaching were from God, not from man. The Galatians should not have been persuaded by this false gospel given how they had been converted- by faith and by baptism into Christ. The Mosaic law was not only inferior to Christ's law but effectively a curse. It would make them slaves to fleshly things.

Conclusion 5:1- 6:10 Live by the Spirit as freemen, avoiding destructive works of the flesh and living a spiritual life of personal purity and love toward each other. [*i.e., Live as God's children, Loving God by following his moral commands & Loving Others*]

Gal. 6: ¹⁵ For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but **a new creation**. ¹⁶ And those who will walk by this rule, **peace and mercy be upon them**, and upon the Israel of God.... ¹⁸ **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren.** Amen.

Letter	Rom.	I Cor.	II Cor.	Gal.	Eph.	Phil.	Col.	I Thess.	II Thess.	Heb.	Jas.	I Pet.	II Pet.	I Jn.	II Jn.	Jude
Beginning Motivation	Chs. 1-7	1:4-10	1:2-7	1:3-5	Chs. 1-3	1:6-11	1: 5, 13-14	1:4-5	1:3-6	1:2-3	1:2-4, 17-18	1:3-6	1:1-4	1:2-4; 2:1-2	v. 3-4	v. 1-2
Ending Motivation	16:19-20	15:50-58	13:11-14	6: 15-16, 18	6:23	4:19-20, 23	3:23	5:9-10, 23-24	3:3, 16	13:10-12, 20-21	5:11	5:6-10	3:13-15	5:13-15	v. 9b	v. 21, 24

Advantages of the “persuasive sandwich” approach to these appeals to follow Christ’s commands:

- *It emphasizes the hearer’s value to God.*
- *It de-emphasizes the speaker and exalts God instead.*
- *It follows the command to teach in gentleness, humility, and love (Gal. 5:23 & 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:25; 1 Pet. 3:15-16...)*
- *In short, it makes the appeal appealing to hearts and minds.*



A Special Appeal

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matt. 11:28-29