



# Defending Your Faith

*Expository Apologetics*

“Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.”

PROVIDENCE REFORMED

BAPTIST CHURCH



# Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- For the course of this study, we will be referencing “Expository Apologetics: Answering Objections with the Power of the Word” by Voddie Baucham.
- Chapters 6 & 7: The Ten Commandments



## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- In these next lessons we will be looking the Law of God and how it is used in an expository apologetic encounter.
- We must keep in mind that “whatever we do must be rooted in the power, simplicity, and authority of Scripture” (pg. 105). We are using an outside authority while those who question the Bible rely on their own reasoning.



## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount
- “The Sermon on the Mount is the fountainhead of Christian ethics. It is also the hermeneutical key that unlocks the law for the believer.” (pg. 107).
- Jesus makes it clear that the law is good and permanent and that we are incapable of keeping it on our own.
- Jesus contrasts the law (and its true use and meaning) to the traditions of men that had been built up by the Jewish religious leaders. He says often, “You have heard that it was said...but I say to you...” (Matt. 5:21, 27, 33, 38, 43).



## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- Matthew 5:21 “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not murder’ and ‘Whoever murders shall be guilty before the court.’  
22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ shall be guilty before the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.”
- Robert Mounce notes in his commentary on the Gospel of Matthew that “Jesus does not contradict what was said but brings it into sharper ethical focus.”



## Lesson 9 – God's Law

- Jesus is not downplaying the law given through Moses. He is teaching that the law means more than we think it does!
- Jesus reveals to us just how holy God is and what His holiness requires of us. He is not giving a new law in the new covenant, He is keeping the law to ratify the covenant!
- The way Jesus uses the law exposes the heart of every sinner. He shows us that the law is not merely a tool used to control or conform outward behavior. He exposes motives and hypocrisy.



## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- Jesus ties murder to the motive of unjustified anger and condescension toward others.
- A world that wants love and tolerance cannot tolerate a message that ties their motives to their ethics.
- The next command Jesus addresses is in Matthew 5:27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- Jesus shows us that the motive behind adultery affects every aspect of human sexuality. He addresses this to men and women and does not allow for any other gender or any kind of “fluidity” when it comes to gender. He also shows here that love and lust are different things!



## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- At the true heart of the matter here, Jesus proves that motives and desires can be as evil as actions. It is not okay to have evil thoughts “as long as you don’t act on them.”
- The law teaches us that it is not about what we do or who we do it with, it is about what we are, and that is seen most clearly in what we want (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life).





## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- Jesus here gives us two things to consider: He addresses 1) those who do not make any attempt to keep the law, and 2) those who think they keep the law by mere outward conformity. Both fall short of keeping the law.
- Calvin notes, “Our Lord explains more fully by what tortuous methods the Pharisees debase the law, so that their righteousness is mere filth. It is a mistake, however, to suppose that this is a correction of the law, and that Christ raises his disciples to a higher degree of perfection.”



## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- It is a powerful tool to tell someone, “I am not a murderer, but I am guilty of the hatred at the very root of murder, and am therefore, guilty before a holy God, and I need a Savior who is as pure inside as he is outside.” (pg. 110).
- This destroys the myth of Christian self-righteousness and exposes the hypocritical righteousness of those who think they are righteous – that they are ok and have no need of a Savior from sin.
- This gets us to the gospel in a matter of seconds!



## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- Remember the threefold division of the law? The moral law, ceremonial law, and civil or judicial law. And remember the value of catechisms? Our historic catechisms teach us about the law of God.
- From the Westminster Shorter Catechism - Q. 40. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience? A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.
- Q. 41. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended? A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments.



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- From the Heidelberg Catechism - QUESTION 92. What is the law of God? Answer. (Ex. 20; Deut. 5), God spake all these words saying...
- From Bunyan’s Catechism – Q 36. What is sin? A. It is a transgression of the law (1 John 3:4).
- Q 37. A transgression of what law? A. Of the law of our nature, and of the law of the Ten Commandments as written in Holy Scripture (Rom. 2:12-15; Exodus 20).



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- From Keach's Catechism – Q. 46 What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience? A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law. (Rom. 2:14,15; 5:13,14).
- Q 47. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended? A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments. (Deut. 10:4; Matt. 19:17)



## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- The ceremonial and civil law, unlike the moral law, are not universal. They were for a specific nation of people for a specific time and they pointed to and foreshadowed the rule of Christ.
- Leviticus 18 introduces us to the codes of law by saying, “Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘I am Yahweh your God. 3 You shall not do according to what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do according to what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes. 4 You are to do My judgments and keep My statutes, to walk in them; I am Yahweh your God. 5 So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does them, he shall live by them; I am Yahweh.”
- “Notice the emphasis on Israel’s separation from the pagans around them.” (pg. 140).



## Lesson 9 – God’s Law

- Israel was to be distinct, because God is distinct!
- The foundation of their righteousness is found in WHO God is.
- Understanding the purpose of the ceremonial and civil laws helps us argue against the accusation that we pick and choose what laws we want to obey and which don’t matter to us. When we use this in an apologetic conversation we are steering the discussion toward hermeneutic, and once we can explain why we believe what we believe suddenly there is no argument that can prove that we are just “picking and choosing.” Methodology matters as much as the message.
- We must rightly divide (handle) the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15).



## Lesson 9 – God's Law

- In preparation for the next segments of lessons in this series, I'd encourage you to get a copy of a catechism, or use one online, and start to look at the Ten Commandments. We will work our way through all 10 in the next 10 to 12 weeks.