

HC 114-115 – Jehovah Demands more than any other god!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Why do gods of false religions demand so little from their followers?

The answer is simple: **These gods are actually evil spirits with a goal to deceive and destroy, so they limit their demands to what their followers *can* do and fool their followers into thinking that doing a few rituals is sufficient for their salvation and their gods would be pleased.**

For example, the **Muslim god does not call “minor sins” sin. *He calls them mistakes.*** So they don't need real repentance.

And if a Muslim commits a big sin, he is not punished with eternal death in hell as Yahweh says. Instead, he requires **a man *must do good deeds to negate the effect of the bad deeds and a man may receive temporary punishment in hell.***

They minimize sins and minimize the consequences for sins. But not Yahweh! He demands perfect obedience or eternal death if you don't! Hear about this today.

Our headings are:

Your obedience to God's law is imperfect and incomplete
How are you then able to obey God's law?

Our goals are: That you will be thankful **Christ obeyed God's law for you**, be thankful **he took God's punishment because you broke God's law**, and be thankful **he renewed you to obey his law.**

Your obedience to God's law is imperfect and incomplete

114 Q. BUT CAN THOSE CONVERTED TO GOD **OBEY THESE COMMANDMENTS PERFECTLY?**

A. No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience. Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God's commandments.

1. As Creator of mankind, God gave 10 laws that all men throughout all ages are bound to obey.

God's laws are immutable; they cannot change because he cannot change.

Matthew 5: 48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, **just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

God's laws are holy because they come from a holy God. These laws reflect God's nature. He said: "Be holy for I am holy."

2. But because of man's fall into sin in the Garden of Eden it is impossible for him to perfectly obey God's law.

All men since Adam are guilty law-breakers before God. **God could not accommodate man by reducing his standard of perfection** – as some religions teach.

If God reduced his standard, he would not be God. He would not be immutable.

3. But is it really true man is unable to keep God's law?

You are not able to keep any of God's law.

More, **if you break 1 law you are guilty of breaking all** 10. God's laws come as a covenant package.

Even **so-called innocent children break God's law.**

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For **there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.**

Romans 3:9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; **There is none who does good, no, not one.**" 13 **Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips";** 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 **There is no fear of God before their eyes."**

This is why Islamic teachings which argue you can meet the demands of God is so dangerous to man's soul. This teaching gives people comfort in their sins... making them think their sins are less offensive to God, so they see no need to repent.

Or if they do break God's law, they teach the **consequences for law breaking are**

minor. Isn't the Devil rightly called the Sneaky Snake?

Remember to obey God's law your need to do so (GFL) for the **glory** of Christ, from **faith** in Christ, and according to the **law** of Christ.

4. Even Christians, born again believers, cannot keep God's law perfectly.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. **15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.**

1John 1:8 **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.** 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar,** and His word is not in us.

The Apostles Paul and John were speaking to Christian churches and they **both bluntly stated Christians were unable to keep the law.** They included themselves in the category of sinners.

Born again Christians are unable to keep the law **because their motives are not perfectly pure.**

There are only glimmers of obedience to God's laws in the life of Christians.

5. Because you are sinful, you must reject perfectionism, the teaching that some Christians become perfect.

Paul, James, and John testified to their less than perfect lives and the impossibility of perfection.

Philippians 3:12 **Not that I have already attained or am already perfected;** but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of Me.

James 3: 2 **For we all stumble in many things.** If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

Charles Finney taught he could be perfect! Who should you listen to, Apostle Paul or Finney? **Apostle James said we stumble in "many" things.**

How then are you able to obey God's law?

115 Q. NO ONE IN THIS LIFE CAN OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PERFECTLY: WHY THEN DOES **GOD WANT THEM PREACHED SO POINTEDLY?**

A. First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to **know our sinfulness and the more eagerly look to Christ for forgiveness** of sins and righteousness. Second, so that, while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, **we may never stop striving to be renewed** more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.

1. In order for you to obey God's law as a Christian and to improve from that glimmer of obedience in your life, God wants his Word to be preached frankly and regularly to you.

God does not promise you "prophetic ecstasies," dreams, visions, visiting angels, or signs in the sky.

God requires faithful preaching! Preaching is better!

This means if you are in a church where there is not faithful preaching, it is time to start searching for another church!

2. When God's Word is preached pointedly-without watering it down-you will better see your sinful nature (law)-the source of your problems - and you will learn about your salvation (faith) and how to live.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the **world may become guilty before God.**

You can say the law is a pedagogue to show you the way back to God and how to live after you come back to God. You will no longer be ignorant.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For **I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."**

When you see your sins, you will not despair for life, but you will flee to the Lord for forgiveness.

Ignorance of God's law was epitomized by former **President Obama** who said Jesus came to teach us the way of social justice. Lies!

Jesus wasn't seeking social justice – a code word for socialism. **He was seeking spiritual reconciliation of man to God through the shedding of his blood on the cross.** So the miracles of healing and providing food were not the focus of Jesus' ministry on earth. **Preaching was!** Jesus had to try stop healing so he could go and preach the Gospel.

3. When God's Word is preached pointedly and you see the hopelessness of your condition and the greatness of your free salvation, it will humble you.

The demands of God's law overwhelm you and make you look to him for help. **Your obedience was like paddling against a hurricane.**

4. When God's Word is preached pointedly and you are humbled, seeing your condition, you will be moved to call on God for help – for sustenance for body and soul.

5. When God's Word is preached pointedly and you are moved to call on God for help, and God hears your prayers, he will enable you to fulfill your duties.

And what are those duties God expects you to fulfill? You must **love God** and **love your neighbor.**

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Romans 13:10 **Love does no harm to a neighbor;** therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

This will be Christ's work – he will restore man's ability to keep his law by changing his heart.

Jeremiah 31:33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, **and write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

And love is fulfillment of the law.

(And *keep the spirit of the law*, not just the letter, once you have faith in Jesus.)

6. When you hear God's law preached pointedly and you seek God's help in fulfilling your duties, you will surely *be thankful and worship him better.*

Yes, sometimes preaching might hurt the heart, but it is a good hurt! You know it will lead to better things if you accept it. You know this will lead to the glory of God!

Conclusion:

No Christian man, woman, boy, or girl, no matter how humble or holy is able to keep the law of God. No one can keep God's law in thought, word, or action, not even a born-again Christian. **And if you break one law, you are guilty of breaking all ten. God says so.**

Even when an act of obeying a law is outwardly good, that work is **never 100% by faith** in Jesus to make it acceptable, and that work is **never 100% for the glory of Jesus.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Think about the godliest men in the Bible how they sinned against God: Adam rebelled, **Noah** was drunk, **Abraham** endangered his wife, **Moses** murdered, **Aaron** led Israel into idolatry, **David** committed adultery, murdered, and failed to train his children, **Solomon** married many wives and worshipped idols, Apostle **Peter** denied Jesus, and Apostle **Paul** had more sins than he wanted to list.

Then think about your sins. Are they many too?

2. Given the fact that Christians sin in heinous ways – savaging God's law: Daily claim the righteousness of Christ – your Covenant Keeper.

Rejoice and be glad that God counts his Son's righteousness as yours.

Listen to sound preaching, not preaching that will tickle your ears, but preaching that will point you to Christ.

Ask for help from God to obey his law better.

Let the world know there is no salvation by their own obedience but only by accepting the righteousness of Jesus' life and the holiness of Jesus' resurrected body and soul as their own.

Finally, if you are honest, you will confess you have sinned in thought, word, and action. You deceive yourself if you think you are not sinning every day. Self-deception will

destroy you. Why not ask Christ to set you free from all your sins. He obeyed all of God's laws for sinners and he took the punishment that belonged to them.