

Sermon on the Mount  
Christian Righteousness  
Matthew 5:17-20; 31-37

Christian apologist and philosopher Ravi Zacharias once said that we live in a generation that hears with its eyes and thinks with its feelings. This tendency has given our culture permission to define right and wrong in terms of our own happiness rather than God's holiness. What that looks like is that both believers and non-believers tend to make the demands of the law less demanding and the permissions of the law more permissive.

1. God's Word is unchanging because God's character is unchanging.
2. The marriage covenant is sacred because God's covenant is sacred.
3. Christian speech is trustworthy because God's promises are trustworthy.

The gospel allows us to recognize just how much we need Jesus and His righteousness. It reminds us that we don't have to do these hard things on our own or by ourselves. "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loves me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20 NKJV). The gospel allows us to rest in Christ when things are going well and to run to Christ when things are not. The gospel allows us to rest in His righteousness even while we strive to reflect that righteousness each and every day.

#### Reflection

What is the significance of the fact that God never changes? How does that impact the way you read the Bible and understand the commands of Christ? What assurances do you get by embracing the fact that God never changes? Take a moment to consider in your own words how the institution of marriage reflects the gospel of Jesus. How do you think people can find forgiveness for failed marriages? Consider your relationships and your own trustworthiness in those relationships. Can people confide in you? Can people trust that you will do what you promise to do? How do the principles of the Sermon on the Mount help us obey the Greta Commandment to love God and to love others? How can you live for the glory of Christ and His kingdom in the week to come?