

1. Some people describe themselves as rule followers, others as rule breakers. Which one are you and why?
2. In Matthew 5:17–20, how does Jesus describe his relationship to the law and the prophets? What evidence from Jesus' life and ministry demonstrates that this is true?
3. In Matthew 5:18, what does Jesus affirm about the Old Testament? Read 2 Tim 3:16. How does Paul's understanding of the Old Testament relate to Jesus'? How do these two statements contribute to our understanding of how to treat Old Testament passages?
4. Given your answer to question 3, how do we distinguish between those passages from the Old Testament that remain specifically binding for our conduct, and those which demonstrate a principle or doctrine, but are no longer specifically binding?
5. Read Matthew 5:20. What does Jesus mean when He says that the righteousness of His disciples must surpass that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law?
6. How does Jesus view the law for our current reality? In what ways does he clarify the nature of the law? What does Jesus provide to help us live according to the law?