

The life of Jesus

- Temptation (Heb 4:15)

Heb 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

- Jesus testifying on his own behalf (Lev 5:1 vs. Mt 26:63-64; 1 Pet 2:13-3:22)

- Parents (Luke 2:41-52)

- Jesus is without sin (Jn 8:29, 46; 15:10; 1 Pet 2:22)

John 8:29, 46 “And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him....But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

John 15:10 “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”

1 Peter 2:22-23 “He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”

Biblical examples of *supposed* conflict between moral absolutes:

1. Obedience to authorities (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Daniel 3, 6; Exodus 1:15-22)

2. Sabbath (Mark 2:23-28)

3. Lying (Joshua 2:1-7)

4. Murder (Judges 16:28-30)

Does God want us to prioritize his commands or obey all of them?

- *Prima facie* duties: prioritize greater/higher over lesser/lower (e.g. Matt 23:23-24; Matt 5:18-19)
- Scripture asserts and expects that we obey ***all*** of God's commands (Ps 1:2; 19:7-11; 103:17-18; 119:1-3, 6, 13, 35, 86, 128, 172; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Deut 5:10, 29; Lk 1:6; Mt 28:20; 1 Jn 5:2; James 2:10)

Psalm 1:2 "but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."

Psalm 19:7-11 "7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

Psalm 119:1-3 "Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!"

Psalm 119:6 "Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments."

Psalm 119:13 "With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth."

Psalm 119:35 "Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it."

Psalm 119:86 "All your commandments are sure; they persecute me with falsehood; help me!"

Psalm 119:128 "Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way."

Psalm 119:172 "My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right."

2 Tim 3:16-17 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Deut 5:10, 29 "but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ... Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!"

Psalm 103:17-18 "But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments."

Luke 1:6 "And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord."

Matt 28:20 "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. ..."

1 John 5:2 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments."

James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it."

- Scripture exhorts us ***to flee*** from temptation and sin

1 Cor 6:18 “Flee from sexual immorality. ...”

1 Cor 10:14 “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”

1 Tim 6:11 “But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.”

2 Tim 2:22 “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

- **Basis and source of ethics?** God’s moral character and revealed standards in the Bible:

- No conflict or contradiction within God himself
- Nor does his Word contradict itself

Conclusion: ***We do not face situations of impossible moral conflict***

Next time: How does a Christian make ethical sense of the Old Testament - esp. the Mosaic Law?