

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP



THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST

- ⌚ It is easy to believe that Christ came to abolish the Law. And in one sense he did. Adherence to the Law as an end unto itself is not just meaningless but harmful. Adherence to the Law-giver is all that matters.
- ⌚ But this adherence to the Law-giver has, as its natural consequence, that we must therefore adhere to the Law.





THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST

- 🕒 Now here's where it gets crazy: adherence to the Law that flows from our adherence to the Law-giver (i.e. Christ) is actually *more* zealous, not less, than what we would do if we simply adhered to the Law for its own sake.
- 🕒 What do you think of this? Why would this be the case?

THOU SHALT NOT MURDER

Willful murder is unlawful, and a murderer has no place in God's kingdom. This is fairly obvious.



But...Jesus takes it way further. Careless insults and deliberate slander, he says, are a form of murder. If we are going to adhere to this commandment with Christ as our intermediary, we can't even afford these verbal forms of murder, let alone the physical ones.

OPPOSITION VS ANGER

Okay, so let's accept the proposition that anger is akin to murder and therefore unlawful for us as Jesus' disciples.

This can seem to mean that in any and all circumstances we must just happily accept everything and everybody. But this can't be right. There are undoubtedly times when opposition, either to an individual or to a whole community/ideology, is our Christian duty. How do we engage in opposition without succumbing to anger?

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

Once again, the literal commandment seems simple and obvious enough: being married to one person but having a sexual relationship with another is unlawful, and such behavior has no place in God's kingdom.



Once again, Jesus takes it way further. Even something as seemingly innocuous as a lustful glance is akin to adultery. Lust, even in its slightest form, is strictly prohibited if we are to adhere to this commandment in relationship with Christ.



DESIRE VS LUST

- ⌚ So let's go with the notion that lust is completely unlawful.
- ⌚ Does this mean that any and all sexual desire is sinful? Clearly not. I would go so far as to suggest that keeping lust in check as Jesus exhorts us to do in the Sermon on the Mount can lead us to a sexuality that is actually *more* robust rather than less.
- ⌚ How can this be? How do we distinguish between unlawful lust and a godly sexual desire that keeps Christ at the center?