

Customs & Manners of Christian-Based Societies Reflect the Royal Law, Matt 22:36-39; The Lord's Application of the Royal Law on the Cross, 2 Cor 5:21; Jn 3:16

48. Children are born unbelievers and therefore must be trained to behave. A major part of that process is to inculcate good manners which are cultural virtues that introduce the child to the royal law.

49. The definitions of "manner" amplify this concept:

Manner. 3. Customary mode of acting or behavior, whether of an individual or of a community; habitual practice; usage, custom, fashion. 4. A person's habitual behavior or conduct, especially in reference to its moral aspect; moral character, morals. c. The modes of life, customary rules of behavior, conditions of society, prevailing in a people. d. Good 'manners', customs, or way of living. 6. External behavior in social intercourse, estimated as good or bad according to its degree of politeness or of conformity to the accepted standards of propriety. 7. Polite behavior or deportment; habits indicative of good breeding. b. Forms of politeness or respect.¹

50. Definition number 6 speaks of "conformity to the accepted standards of propriety" which standards of propriety are defined as that which is "socially acceptable in conduct and speech" according to "the customs and manners of polite society."²

51. The standards, customs, and manners which were adopted by Anglo-Saxon culture were based on guidance and direction from the Word of God. The fundamental principle upon which the majority of these cultural "rules of behavior" are based is the royal law.

52. And the ultimate confirmation of the royal law is its efficacious application by our Lord on the cross.

53. Matthew 22:36-39 documents the two supreme commandments upon which the entire Mosaic Law was based: (1) to love God and (2) to love your fellowman. The first refers to personal love while the latter refers to unconditional love.

54. Both of these commandments were applied by our Lord when He became our substitutionary sacrifice on the cross.

55. Because of His unconditional love for the human race, Jesus Christ was willing to receive the imputation of all history's sins upon himself. Our debt was transferred to His innocent humanity and He was made guilty in our place.

56. Because of His personal love for God, Jesus Christ was willing to receive divine judgment for our sins with the result that we are made righteous.

¹ *Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v.: "manner."

² *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v.: "propriety."

2 Corinthians 5:21 - God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God. (NET)

57. The end result for those who believe in Christ through faith alone is deliverance from the lake of fire and the imputation eternal life.

John 3:16 - "In this way God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son that everyone who believes in Him should not perish [in the lake of fire] but have eternal life [and go to heaven when he dies]." (NET)

58. The Lord's willingness to become our substitute, to receive the imputation of our sins upon himself, and to be judged in our place, is the ultimate expression of the royal law.

59. In doing so, Jesus was the target of undeserved, unjust, and unfair treatment by God the Father whose personal love for us is immeasurable.

60. Therefore, God's love for the human race was in like manner the ultimate expression of the royal law by choosing to sacrifice His own perfect Son on behalf of us all.

61. This means that when a person rejects Christ as Savior he is rejecting the love of God expressed through the royal law and having done so remains condemned.

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (NET)

John 3:36 - The one who believes in the Son has eternal life. The one who rejects the Son will not see life, but God's wrath remains on him. (NET)

62. It is the royal law that was the underpinning of our so great salvation. The Lord in His true humanity used it to make decisions on the cross that resulted in the transfer of our sins upon Himself and their judgment.