

B. The Incarnation

1. Jesus taught the Royal Law during His earthly ministry. On one occasion, the Pharisees approached Him with the usual attempt to catch Him in some violation of the Mosaic Law:

Matthew 22:35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,

v. 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

v. 37 And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all our mind [**Deuteronomy 10:12**].’

v. 38 “This is the great and foremost commandment.

v. 39 “The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself [**Leviticus 19:18**].’

v. 40 “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

2. Jesus Christ fulfilled both of these commandments on the cross. He exhibited personal love for God the Father by fulfilling the duty of receiving the imputation of all the sins of the human race upon himself.
3. He exhibited unconditional love for members of the human race by being judged for all their sins.
4. While on the cross, the integrity of Jesus Christ was greater than the imputation of all the sins of mankind.
5. The sinless Messiah received the ultimate insult in the field of undeserved suffering by willingly receiving the punishment for all mankind’s sins.
6. God the Father exhibited personal love for Jesus Christ by imputing our sins to Him and judging Him in our place. God’s integrity followed through on the plan of salvation that was carried out perfectly by Jesus.
7. Jesus possessed perfect integrity in His soul in order to follow through on the divine plan. He was destined to be our Substitute. He, along with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, agreed upon this plan in eternity past.
8. When the human integrity of Jesus fulfilled that plan, God imputed our sins to Him out of perfect love.



9. Our Lord responded to the imputation of our sins upon Him with the ultimate expression of the Royal Law. He did not counter that imputation with personal sin. He did not bear a grudge. He did not seek revenge. He did not claim that the imputation was unfair.
10. The imputation came from God the Father. That imputation was agreed upon by all three Members of the Trinity in eternity past. It would have been a violation of that agreement had the Lord argued against the imputation or the suffering require by it.
11. God the Holy Spirit sustained Jesus Christ on the cross while He was being judged for our sins by God the Father. In fact, beginning with the virgin birth all the way to the ascension and session, Jesus Christ enjoyed the sustaining ministry of the Holy Spirit.
12. A man, often referred to as “the rich young ruler,” asked the Lord, “Teacher, what good things shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” Part of the Lord’s response included the statement, “If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” To this the man responded, “Which ones?”
13. The Lord responded by citing half of them plus the Royal Law:

Matthew 19:18 “You shall not commit murder [#6]; You shall not commit adultery [#7], You shall not steal [#8]; You shall not commit false witness [#9];

v. 19 Honor you father and mother [#5]; and You shall love your neighbor as yourself [#10].”

14. Note that the spiritual commandments are not mentioned, but the six establishment commandments are. Jesus does not actually quote the Tenth Commandment verbatim, but does quote the Royal Law from Leviticus 19:18 and James 2:8.
15. How does a believer apply the Royal Law? Among the things that one would do is contained in the Tenth Commandment:

Exodus 20:17 “You shall not covet [חָמַד (chamath)²] your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

² “A verb meaning to take pleasure in, to desire, to lust, to desire passionately; excessive desire or craving” (Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter, “חָמַד,” in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* [Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 2003], 348).



16. The Lord read this ole boy like a book. Rich guy. Wants eternal life by something he can do. Jesus traps him by citing four establishment commandments from the Decalogue, specifically 6 through 9 in order, murder, adultery, theft, or perjury.³
17. These are four that self-righteous people often do not do. They may think these things, but they do not do them, at least not in the clear light of day. So Mr. Rich Ruler is roped in. He sees the Pearly Gates in his mind's eye because he has never overtly done any of those things,
18. Then, Lord springs His trap. He cites commandments 5 and 10. Number 5 is the mandate to "Honor your father and your mother." Marriage is the basis of order in society. It establishes the home as the environment in which witnesses for the Prosecution may be produced. These are the core principles of an organized society and the foundation for a Client Nation.
19. But Mr. Rich Ruler has violated the Fifth Commandment because of his violation of Corban which requires a little detour to explain.
20. In Leviticus and Numbers the word for "gifts or offerings" is the noun קָרְבָּן (*qorban*): "Offerings and gifts of all kinds, e.g., animals, grain, gold or silver vessels, and jewelry."⁴
21. Its use in the New Testament is a hapax legomenon found in the Gospel of Mark. In chapter 7, the Lord is again confronted by the Pharisees and some scribes. Their complaint on this occasion was that His disciples ate their food without first washing their hands. In his response we note the word "Corban" in this context:

Mark 7:10 "Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER' [Exodus 20:12] and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH' [Leviticus 20:9];

v. 11 but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban [Κορβάν (*Korbán*)] (that is to say, given to God),'

v. 12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother;

³ "In criminal law: The willful assertion as to a matter of fact, opinion, belief, or knowledge, made by a witness in a judicial proceeding as part of his evidence, ... whether such evidence is given in open court, or in an affidavit, or otherwise, such assertion being material to the issue or point of inquiry and known to such witness to be false" (Henry Campbell Black, *Black's Law Dictionary*, rev. 4th ed. (St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1968), 1297.

⁴ Baker and Carpenter, קָרְבָּן, in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary* (2003), 1012.



Mark 7:13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.” (NASB)

22. We get an analysis of this passage from a “study note” in the *NET Bible*:

Corban is a Hebrew loanword (transliterated in the Greek text and in most modern English translations) referring to something that has been set aside as a gift to be given to God at some later date, but which is still in the possession of the owner. According to contemporary Jewish tradition the person who made this claim was absolved from responsibility to support or assist his parents, a clear violation of the Mosaic law to *honor* one’s parents (Mark 7:10).⁵

23. Mr. Rich Ruler’s head nodding stopped at this point because he was guilty as Moses charged by the deal he cut with the boys over at the temple. His parents were in need and he claimed Corban of all his possession to keep from assisting them. This violated the Fifth Commandment.
24. Returning to Matthew 19, we note the last comment by Jesus, “... and You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Well, what are some of the things that we value for ourselves that we should also value for others?
25. As just noted above, the word *covet* means to have a lust for things belonging to others. This mental-attitude sin is often advanced by overt act that violate the rights, privacy, property, and individual freedom of others.
26. This leads us to the next concept in our study of next principle in the Royal Law.

C. The Church Age

1. Paul cites the Royal Law in:

Galatians 5:13 You were called for the purpose of freedom to believe, fellow believers. Only, not liberty for an occasion of the flesh, but quite the contrary, by means of love to serve one another.

v. 14 For the whole Law receives fulfillment forever in this one statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” (EXT)

⁵ *The NET Bible* (Dallas: Biblical Studies Press, 1996 – 2005), 1885sn21.

