

Have you ever asked, "How do the OT laws fit within NT Christianity? Perhaps you have asked, "Which laws are applicable today?" In these few verses, Jesus answers all of these questions and more. Jesus says that if you belong to God's family, you have been set free from the bondage of self-righteousness and you can live expressing His righteousness daily.

I. Only Jesus provides true righteousness. (Matthew 5:20,48)

Jesus taught that true righteousness is not that which men regard as righteous based upon external appearances, but that so judged by God based upon His assessment of the heart.

II. Self-righteousness keeps you in bondage. (Matthew 23)

A. Self righteousness is the religion of human achievement and it's all external.

(self-effort | self-help | self-centered | self-absorbed | self-satisfied)

III. True righteousness frees you to live an abundant Christian life. (Romans 10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 1:30)

A. Positional righteousness leads to practical righteousness.

1. The motive

2. The means

a. The work of Christ for you

b. The work of Christ in you

c. The work of Christ through you