

Question 3. *Are the Ten Commandments a binding law upon Christians? Are Christians subject to any law?*

God's commandments are not arbitrary; they are "for man." The Ten Commandments were given first to the Jews, but they are so fundamental in their relation to life and character that for any man of any age or race to know them is to become bound by them. Christians are subject to all the moral law. They are free from it only by being filled with that love which freely chooses to fulfill all righteousness. Mercy and love may do more than the demands of justice, but nevertheless, and in so far as the least of his commandments is consciously broken, we are wanting in the love of Christ.

Question 4. *Is it unchristlike (that is, wrong) to be rich?*

If it were not unchristlike to be rich, why should he demand every man who came to him to strip himself of riches? If this young man on whom he looked with "love" could have been saved and have been useful to him as a disciple with his riches, why should the Master put a needless stumbling-block in his way? Would not one rich disciple have broken his line of approach to humanity? Can a man who is Christlike be engaged in "heaping up riches"—hoarding vast wealth—while humanity perishes for want of what he has to give? Our age has fallen on its knees to Mammon. No Christlike man will cling to surplus wealth while Christ has so many needy ones in the world.

Analytical and Biblical Outline.

Young Manhood.

I. ITS TRAITS.

- 1. Impulsiveness.** *One running.* v. 17. Forthwith they sprang up. Matt. 13. 5.
- 2. Aspiration.** *Have eternal life.* v. 17. Affection on things above. Col. 3. 2.
- 3. Restlessness.** *What lack?* Matt. 19. 20.

II. ITS NEEDS.

- 1. A Guide.** *Good Master.* v. 17. The guide of my youth. Jer. 3. 4.
- 2. A Law.** *Commandments.* v. 19. What doth the Lord require? Micah 6. 8.
- 3. A Purpose.** *One thing.* v. 21. Wilt be perfect. Matt. 19. 21.

III. ITS DUTIES.

- 1. To Self.** *Go...sell.* v. 21. Let him deny himself. Matt. 16. 24.
- 2. To Others.** *Give to the poor.* v. 21. Ready to distribute. 1 Tim. 6. 17, 18.
- 3. To Christ.** *Follow me.* v. 21. Serve me...follow me. John 12. 26.

Thoughts for Young People.

What Our Lord Jesus Requires.

1. Jesus requires that all who come to him should recognize his divine authority. (Verse 18.) One can hardly read at all in the gospels without observing the emphasis with which our Master makes this demand. He is not like other philosophers—a seeker of truth; not even a "philosopher," that is, a lover of wisdom. He is truth; he is wisdom. "He who hath seen [and heard] me hath seen [and heard] the Father."

2. Jesus requires absolute righteousness. He has done away with the requirements of the old law, but the deep moral principles on which that law was based endure forever. Nobody need pretend to be a Christian who disregards these principles, which are embodied in the Ten Commandments.

3. Jesus goes far beyond the old moral law, and demands love. We must love our neighbors as ourselves.

4. Jesus demands an entire consecration to his service. "Sell whatsoever thou hast,...take up the cross, and follow me."

5. Jesus requires that the kingdom of God shall be the sole aim of life. Riches and beauty and learning and everything else must slip to the background and the kingdom of Christ be all in all.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

The Saviour is out in the highway, and the multitude eagerly follows. Suddenly, who is this that makes his appearance? It is somebody that runs out into the thick of the crowd, presses his way directly up to Jesus, and kneels before him. He has something to say, something probably to ask for.

Look at him.

You like him at the very first glance. He is young. Youth always interests us. Not a streak of gray shades his hair, falling in heavy brown locks upon his shoulders. There is a frankness, an openness of expression that appeals to you at once.

He is in earnest. He came running. He has the enthusiasm of youth. If it had been an old man desiring a favor, he might have hesitated about getting down on his knees in this open, public way. With a youthful impulsiveness he has thrown himself before the Saviour.

And then see how richly he is dressed! Houses and lands, gold and silver, are behind that rich apparel. What charm there is to a little money!

Then, in another place, he is said to have been a ruler! Indeed! Those in high places are getting into a low place before the Saviour. It makes the case all the more interesting.

He must be in great need to come so readily, so publicly, and so humbly to cast himself down before