

Carl Thomas

Numbers 6:24–26; Matthew 5; Matthew 7:12; Matthew 23:23; 1 Peter 1:14–16

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Matthew 5:27–32 (NASB95)

**27**“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’;

**28**but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

**29**“If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

**30**“If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

**31**“It was said, ‘Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce’;

**32**but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 5:38–39 (NASB95)

**38**“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’

**39**“But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Matthew 5:43–44 (NASB95)

**43**“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

**44**“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 5:47–48 (NASB95)

47“If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

48“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The conclusion of the sermon on the mount:

Matthew 7:12 (NASB95)

**12**“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The premise he is making here:

48“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

What does God call perfect?

Not a checklist.

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Matthew 23:23 (NASB95)

**23**“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the **weightier** provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

1 Peter 1:14–16 (NASB95)

14As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance,

15but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;

16because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

We need God to do a work in our hearts to love God and love our neighbor.