



A weekly reflection by members  
of the Precious Blood Community

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*“Whoever keeps and teaches the law  
will be called great” Matthew 3:17-19*



The Gospel today is only three verses long but it is a very powerful passage. Jesus begins by telling his disciples that his purpose is not to abolish the law or to criticize what the prophets proclaimed and taught. Jesus' intent is to fulfill the law and emphasizes that keeping the commandments is essential.

We can speak of fulfilling the law in two ways: by doing everything that is asked or by completing that which is missing. Jesus completes the law of the Old Testament with the new Law of Love, to love one another as he has loved us. Jesus fulfills the law not by simply fulfilling each of the many precepts, (613 laws) but by showing where all of the precepts have their end is to love God above all things. By obeying the law of love, we fulfill all other laws, bringing them to their natural conclusion.

However, in the eyes of the Pharisees, Jesus frequently disobeyed Jewish law. Take for example Matthew 12: 1-14 where Jesus and his companions were confronted by the Pharisees about plucking wheat and eating on the Sabbath, or curing a man with a withered hand, both of these occurring on the Sabbath.

Jesus has come not to terminate the Law but to bring it to a higher level. The Law will continue to be observed, perhaps not all to be literally observed. But rather than the spirit behind those injunctions. ***The New Law does not mean simply the addition of new elements. Instead, it's a 'paradigm shift' to a way of life that goes beyond the laws to The Law of Love.***

Jesus also emphasizes that keeping the commandments is essential. Our caution is not to become legalistic as the Pharisees were. We may observe another person doing something that we may judge as not correct. It is not our place to judge. God is the one to judge! We don't like or appreciate when others judge us.

Through our Baptism, all of us are called to live the law of love. As people of the Precious Blood, we are particularly called to give witness to the Law of Love. We must live our lives so that everyone whom we encounter knows we follow the God of unconditional love. Today, I invite you to be aware of your thoughts and judgments. In that moment of encounter, can you make a 'paradigm shift' to a way of response that reflects the Law of Love.

Sr. Diana has been a vowed member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ for over fifty years. She has served the community in many capacities including vocations and communications. She is the Chair of the Precious Blood Spirituality Institute Board of Directors. To learn more about the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, [click here](#).

This weekly reflection is made available to everyone in our Precious Blood family.  
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If so, please contact Vicky Otto at [votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org](mailto:votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org)