

**Further Answers to Questions**  
**From May 17 Sermon**  
By Ryan Jorgenson

- **Was the time of Noah in the ark likely the first time that people had ever seen rain fall?**

I used to believe it was the first time people had seen rain because people had taught it to me that way but recently I restudied it and found this article by Answers in Genesis that has changed my mind.

<https://answersingenesis.org/creationism/arguments-to-avoid/was-there-no-rain-before-the-flood/>

- **So I've seen some lgbtq people questioning why we should believe the old testament and why we believe some of it but not other parts. How would you respond to that?**

This question and subject are more important than most people understand and is commonly brought up by both Christians and non. Bible-believing Christians can differ on the nuances but the overall simple answer is this. The Law of God in the Old Testament could be divided into 3 categories: moral, civil and ceremonial. The moral laws reflect the heart of God and direct us how to love God and others. The civil laws were directed to Israelites when God had them live under His theocracy. And the ceremonial laws were given for those who were under the temporary sacrificial system to appease the wrath of God for their sins.

When Jesus came, He fulfilled the theocracy by now moving His Kingdom within the hearts of all believers, making the Kingdom borderless. The final and complete theocracy is coming when Jesus returns.

When Jesus came, He also fulfilled the ceremonial laws by offering Himself as the sacrificial Lamb of God once for the sins of all who believe in Him.

*Hebrews 10:4, 9-10 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ... 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

That leaves us with the moral laws of God. Jesus has fulfilled them by bringing them to the fullest meaning and depth they are to be followed. He said,

*Matthew 5:17-20 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

A couple points to mention from this text. First, Jesus rhetorically tells us that if we try to follow the law perfectly to obtain our own salvation, we need to be better than the scribes and Pharisees, and that is impossible. Instead, He later said He would be our perfection/righteousness for us if we believe and repent in Him.

The other point of His statement and the sermon in which these verses are within is that the moral laws are still to be followed to the deeper meaning of them, not for salvation, but because we are saved.

So, back to the question, which ones do we keep following and which ones are fulfilled in Jesus to where we no longer need to follow them? Specifically, LGBTQ individuals will try to say passages like Leviticus 18:22, which says, *“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.”*, no longer applies because Jesus fulfilled it, therefore homosexuality is now permitted.

But what they have done is moved this law into the civil law category when really the context of this law and the others around it are moral laws, which still apply for all people today. For instance, if you take their logic, the next verse Leviticus 18:23 says bestiality is wrong, which means they are saying bestiality is now permitted because of Jesus. That is clearly not correct.

So, which other laws do we keep following in their fulfilled deeper meaning and which ones are fulfilled in the sense we no longer follow them? That is a deep study to keep on diving into. But it’s well worth it.

- **There are a lot of historical and contextual information that you do an excellent job of breaking out and explaining during your sermons. Sometimes, getting this information out of the Bible is challenging without having a sermon focused on a specific topic. Do you have any recommendations for books that can act as a side by side supplement to the Bible to help explain the context of significant portions of it?**

I love it when people are desiring to study and know God’s Word more! Doug shared a great resource that I will “second” and of which I use as well: [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org) It’s very solid, simple and splendid (had to get another “s” word in there.) 😊

Another great tool is a study bible. Specifically, a John MacArthur or general study bible using the NASB or ESV translations are great. These have study notes within.

[https://www.amazon.com/MacArthur-Study-Bible-Bonded-Leather/dp/0529122510/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=nasb+study+bible&qid=1589826584&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/MacArthur-Study-Bible-Bonded-Leather/dp/0529122510/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=nasb+study+bible&qid=1589826584&sr=8-1)

You can also invest in some commentaries, separate books written by scholars and pastors elaborating on the Biblical texts. My main commentaries are John MacArthur’s and the Life Application (Both New Testament only). These are multi-volumes so you can buy one at a time as you grow your library.

[https://www.amazon.com/Acts-13-28-MacArthur-Testament-Commentary-ebook/dp/B0036RCUZC/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?crid=1888S1ML6G9LP&dchild=1&keywords=john+macarthur+commentary&qid=1589820694&s=digital-text&sprefix=john+maca%2Cdigital-text%2C173&sr=1-3](https://www.amazon.com/Acts-13-28-MacArthur-Testament-Commentary-ebook/dp/B0036RCUZC/ref=sr_1_3?crid=1888S1ML6G9LP&dchild=1&keywords=john+macarthur+commentary&qid=1589820694&s=digital-text&sprefix=john+maca%2Cdigital-text%2C173&sr=1-3)

[https://www.amazon.com/Life-Application-Testament-Commentary-Bible-ebook/dp/B007V6999E/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?dchild=1&keywords=commentary+life+application&qid=1589820547&s=digital-text&sr=1-3](https://www.amazon.com/Life-Application-Testament-Commentary-Bible-ebook/dp/B007V6999E/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=commentary+life+application&qid=1589820547&s=digital-text&sr=1-3)

For the Book of Genesis, grab a copy of this one.

[https://www.amazon.com/Genesis-Beginning-Blessing-Preaching-Word-ebook/dp/B0028WQ1HY/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?dchild=1&keywords=genesis+commentary&qid=1589820788&s=digital-text&sr=1-7](https://www.amazon.com/Genesis-Beginning-Blessing-Preaching-Word-ebook/dp/B0028WQ1HY/ref=sr_1_7?dchild=1&keywords=genesis+commentary&qid=1589820788&s=digital-text&sr=1-7)

Or go to Answers in Genesis for more resources than you'll have time for. [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)

If you want to skip spending money, just read or listen to John MacArthur based on the biblical text you are interested in by going to: [www.gty.org/resources/sermons](http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons)

- **Were there no other God-fearing believers other than Noah worth saving on earth?**

Genesis 6:5 tells us, *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

And then Genesis 6:8-9 says, *But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.*

In 2 Peter 2:5 God calls Noah a "preacher of righteousness". When you put all of this together, he and his family were the only God-fearers both of his day and even after their 120 years of preaching repentance until the flood came.

- **We were reminded of the command to forgive. What about when another believer doesn't acknowledge or believe they've wronged you. And you forgive. And they continue to engage in the same sinful and hurtful behavior towards you. How then do we respond. Consider Matthew 18 has been followed but years of hurt returns when they engage in that behavior again.**

First, we read Matthew 18:21-22 *Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

And then while Jesus was dying on the cross He said, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments."* Luke 23:34

We must always forgive, no matter how often we are sinned against, and no matter whether they know or admit their sin.

Second, we need to realize forgiveness is not the end goal, but rather reconciliation. Forgiveness is a door we must go through to obtain possible reconciliation. Romans 12:18 says to live at peace with everyone as far as it depends on you, because it takes two to have reconciliation. True reconciliation can only exist if all people own and repent of their sins and forgiveness is granted by all.

As you forgive this person who continues to sin against you, it's hard to be reconciled with them if they do not own their sin and stop it. That is the blessing of the process of conflict resolution that Jesus gave us in Matthew 18:15-20, and as you eluded to.

For your situation, I am assuming you are saying you have attempted step 1 of this process to no avail, which is to approach the repeat-offender one-on-one. The question then is, have you gone with two or more other Christians to have such a conversation with this person? If you have not, I encourage you to find a godly person of the same gender of the repeat-offender who they may trust and listen to the most. This person could be someone in your Family Group, DX Group, Fellowship Class, etc.

If you have done this 2<sup>nd</sup> step one or more times to no avail, then you need to bring an Elder of your church into the conversations. I am assuming that since this hasn't been resolved you have not done this step. Elders are also a gift from the Lord to step in and help try to bring reconciliation and at the least, to stop repeat-offenses within a church. Make sure to do so if you are at this 3<sup>rd</sup> step.

Finally, through it all, keep yourself humble by looking for any logs in your own eye (Matthew 7:3). And keep asking God to give you and your friend the humility to see whatever sins are present and to repent if need be (Ephesians 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:25-26). The Lord can change anyone's heart!

- **Why can we trust the Bible in our hands is the Word of God and not man's words alone?**

We have had this type of question asked almost every week since holding our online services and believe these are sincere and common questions on many people's minds. There are so many evidences and arguments I could give to answer this but in the hopes of not losing people in it all, I will direct you to a great website that has compiled some of the evidences for you. After scouring this site, if you still have further questions regarding specific biblical texts, please email me at [ryanj@cfcjax.com](mailto:ryanj@cfcjax.com) and I would love to dive into those questions specifically in that way.

The website is: <https://defendinginerrancy.com///>