

Eternal Life; Matthew 19:16

- I. What Must I do?
 - a. What must I do to have eternal life?
 - i. The question of the ages
 - ii. What is the meaning of life?
 - iii. What do we do with our lives?
 - b. The man asks, “what good deed must I do”
 - i. Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
 - ii. But this question is asked of those who already have eternal life
 - iii. God has given Christians purpose and direction, to share His love through our words and our actions
 - iv. Our words and actions answer the question for others, “what must I do to have eternal life?”
- II. Keep the Commandments
 - a. “If you would enter life, keep the commandments” (verse 17)
 - b. Jesus is speaking to an Israelite under the Law of Moses
 - i. Jesus cites the 10 commandments (or some of them) from Exodus 20
 - ii. He also mentions Leviticus 19:18
 - iii. Leviticus 19:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.
 - iv. It is interesting that Jesus answers the question about “good deeds” with keeping the Law
 - c. We must keep the law as well, the perfect law of liberty
 - i. James 1:22–25 (ESV) ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.
 - ii. We are commanded to keep the law as well
 - iii. 1 John 2:3–5 (ESV) ³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:
 - iv. 1 John 5:3 (ESV) ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
 - v. John 13:34–35 (ESV) ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have a love for one another.”
 - d. Our commandment is to love one another as Christ loved us

III. Follow Me

- a. Matthew 19:20–21 (ESV) ²⁰ The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” ²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”
- b. Doing good deeds for goodness’ sake is not good enough
- c. Philanthropy
 - i. Goodwill to fellowmen *especially*: active effort to promote human welfare ¹
 - ii. Society has a misunderstanding of ‘welfare’
 - iii. This definition only speaks of physical welfare
 - iv. While it is good to take care of people’s physical needs, we are negligent if we forget their spiritual needs
 - v. Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV) ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
 - vi. The whole idea of these good deeds is to glorify God
 - vii. We work for Jesus, for God, not for ourselves
 - viii. Colossians 3:23–24 (ESV) ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
 1. Our Job, our marriage, our hobbies, our chores... EVERYTHING!
 2. We are in service to Christ, the King
 3. In following Christ, we have responded to His task of taking care of the whole person, not just their physical needs
- d. This is what it means to follow Christ
 - i. It may seem like a lot, and it is
 - ii. We should not make the decision lightly
 - iii. We also should remember that the value of the kingdom exceeds anything we can imagine
 - iv. Jesus tells us that the Kingdom is like a pearl of great value
 - v. Matthew 13:45–46 (ESV) ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.
 - vi. When we make the decision to follow Christ we are submitting to Him
 - vii. Luke 14:26–27 (ESV) ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
 1. Jesus sounds harsh

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary](#). (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

2. Matthew 10:37 (ESV) ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
 3. “A person who commits himself or herself to Christ will develop a greater love for both neighbor and family, although at times loving and following Christ may be seen as renunciation, rejection, or hate if the family does not share the same commitment to Christ.” ²
 4. This is truly the reason that we do these good deeds because we love Christ!
- e. The life of a Christian is that of a servant, giving all the glory to God
 - f. The rich man could not do this
 - i. He went away sorrowful
 - ii. To cause severe mental or emotional distress, *vex, irritate, offend, insult* ³
- IV. What Must I Do?
- a. Give up what you want
 - b. Submit to Jesus
 - c. Become a servant

² Robert H. Stein, [Luke](#), vol. 24, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 397.

³ William Arndt et al., [A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 604.