

Monumental Faith- Week 3

October Memory Verse: Psalm 103:1-2 (ESV) ¹ *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!* ² *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits...*

1. Morality.

- **Law hands appear to convey two things:**
 - Law's left hand is cradling the "Rule of Law."
 - Law's right hand is extended, which appears to be extending mercy.
 - **Pastor John Robinson wrote,** *"We are knit together as a body in a most strict and sacred bond and covenant of the Lord, of the violation whereof we make a great conscience, and by virtue, we hold ourselves straitly tied to all care of each other's good."*
 - **Matt. 22:37-40 (ESV)** ³⁷ *And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*
 - **Marshall Foster comments,** "The word covenant is not in common usage today as it was at the time of our founding. A covenant is a solemn agreement, or a sacred promise, signed or not, between God and an individual, or individuals, a church, or a nation. Our Founders understood the power of covenants because they were Biblicists."
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- **Romans 13:1-5 (ESV)** *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.*
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- **Gallagher writes,** *“By signing their names to the Mayflower Compact, the Pilgrims understood they were submitting to a civil order that had been established by God for their own good. At the Plymouth colony, the Pilgrims affirmed God’s design for government by vowing to create “just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and office” to serve the greater good of all.”*
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- **James 2:8-13 (ESV)** ⁸ *If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

2. Law and mercy.

- **Micah 6:8 (ESV)** *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*
 - **Isaiah 1:16-18 (ESV)** ¹⁶ *Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷ learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause. ¹⁸ “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*
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- **James 3:17 (ESV)** *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.*
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- **Matthew 5:7 (ESV)** *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*
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3. Law and justice.

- **Gallagher writes**, “*In all legal deliberations, the Pilgrims enforced due process and applied a biblical standard of using at least two or three witnesses to ascertain what was true.*”
 - **Lamentations 3:34-35 (ESV)** ³⁴ *To crush underfoot all the prisoners of the earth,* ³⁵ *to deny a man justice in the presence of the Most High,* ³⁶ *to subvert a man in his lawsuit, the Lord does not approve.*
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- **Deut. 16:19-20 (ESV)** ¹⁹ *You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous.* ²⁰ *Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*
 - **Proverbs 31:8-9 (ESV)** ⁸ *Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.* ⁹ *Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.*
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Close:

1. Where there is no enforced objective law, society breaks down:

- **Judges 21:25 (ESV)** *In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*
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2. Law must include mercy:

- **Psalms 51:1-2 (ESV)** ¹ *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.* ² *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!*
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3. Law must include justice:

- **Psalm 106:3 (ESV)** *Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!*
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4. When mercy and justice balance law, society benefits, and God is glorified:

- **Matt. 23:23-24 (ESV)** ²³ *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.* ²⁴ *You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!*
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Interpretation:

- Put yourself in the Pilgrim’s shoes. What source would you look to for guidance if you had no ruling law? How could you make sure it was objective and equally righteous for humanity?
- How would you define the rule of law? How might we understand it as the canon for life?
- How do Pastor John Robinson’s words affirm that the Pilgrims upheld Matt. 22:37-40?
- How can we compare Romans 13:1-5 with the convictions behind the Mayflower Compact?
- James 2:8-13. How does the law, the moral right of the individual and all society, foster the true north for behavior?
- How does mercy temper law (Micah 6:8; Isaiah 1:16-18)?
- How does justice balance mercy, so the law is upheld (Lamentations 3:34-35; Deut. 16:19-20; Proverbs 31:8-9)?
- How must mercy and justice act as pillars of the law (Judges 21:25; Psalm 106:3)?

Application: Take time this week to consider the law. How do we see the law upheld today? Is it consistent with the biblical teaching of the law? How can we use mercy and justice to understand better and execute the law? What does this practically look like in our lives as citizens of this country?