

# Salt and Light for the King

## 8: Ethics and the Mosaic Law

May 15, 2022

### Ethics and the Mosaic Law

*How should Christians use the Old Testament for ethical guidance?*

*Are Christians still under the Mosaic Law?*

Deut 6:5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Lev 19:18 “...you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”

Matt 22:34-39 “But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 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. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.””

Matt 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. 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. 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. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

### Perspectives on the Mosaic Law

	Marcion/ Naive	Dispensational	Grudem / Evangelical	Covenant Theology	Theonomy
<b>Mosaic Law in effect?</b>					
<b>Moral</b>					
<b>Ceremonial</b>					
<b>Civil</b>					

### Covenants

Wayne Grudem, “An unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the conditions of their relationship.”

- The Mosaic Law/Covenant (Exodus 19-20)

(1) A sovereign King & Subordinate subjects/vassals

(2) Historical prologue

(3) A binding legal agreement with stipulations and sanctions

(4) “Continuity” provisions

## The Mosaic Covenant

### - Mosaic Covenant during Jesus' life:

- Jesus was born under the law (Gal 4:4)
- Jesus perfectly obeyed and taught the Mosaic law:
  - Acted in obedience (Matt 21:12-13; 26:17-29)
  - Without sin (Jn 8:29, 46; 15:10)
  - Instructed obedience (Mt 8:4; 24:24-27)
  - Called out *human traditions* that added to the Law (Matt 15:3-9)

### - The Mosaic Law has ended

- OT prophetic prediction (Jer 31:31)
- Jesus death ended the Old Covenant period, began the New Covenant (Lk 20:14-20; Heb 9:17)
- The argument of Hebrews 7-10
  - Jesus is the eternal high priest of a new order (Heb 7)
  - Contrast of religious regulations between Old and New (9:1-10)
  - Jesus offers the single, once-for-all-time sacrifice (10:1-18)
  - Jesus mediates a new, second covenant (Heb 7:22; 8:7; 9:15)
  - Mosaic Law is no longer in effect (Heb 8:13)
- Paul contrasts Old with New Covenant (2 Cor 3)
- Paul asserts the end of the Mosaic Law (Gal 3:19, 24-26; Rom 7:4, 6; 1 Cor 9:20; Eph 2:14-16; Acts 13:39)

**- The NT explicitly frees Christians from specific Mosaic laws**

1. OT sacrificial law

- Old (Heb 7-10)
- New (Heb 13:15-16; Rom 12:1; Php 4:18; 1 Cor 3:16; 1 Pet 2:5, 9)

2. Circumcision:

- Old (Gal 5:2-4, 11-12; Acts 15:1-29)
- New (Acts 15:1-29; Col 2:11; Rom 2:29)

3. Food laws (Mk 7:14-23; Rom 14:14; 1 Cor 10:23-31; Gal 2:11-14; Col 2:16-17; 1 Tim 4:1-5)

- What do you do with Acts 15 (see also 1 Cor 10:31-33)?

4. Sabbath & Festivals (Rom 14:5; Gal 4:10-11; Col 2:16-17; Heb 4:1-11)

5. Civil government (Exod 20; Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

- Old (Exod 20)
  - Israel was a geographical-political theocratic nation, among the world nations
- New: Kingdom citizens living as dispersed "ambassadors" among the world nations
  - Be subject to governing authorities (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Titus 3:1-2)
  - Draw leaders from within church, but not from political leaders (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
  - Pay taxes to "Caesar" (Matt 22:15-22)
  - Commissioned to disciple the nations (Mt 28:18-20)

**- Reasons the Mosaic Law ended**

- Original intent: To be in effect for a temporary period (Gal 3:17, 19)
- Final intent: To be fulfilled in Christ (Rom 10:3-4; Matt 5:17-18)
- The Mosaic Law could never give spiritual life (Gal 3:21-22; Rom 8:2-4)

*SUMMARY*

**We are not bound by the Mosaic Law.**

**We live under the New Covenant. The Spirit has put a new law upon our hearts!**

*NEXT TIME*

*If we are not bound to the Law, how then do Christians use the Mosaic Law?*