

Salt and Light for the King

8-II: Ethics and the Mosaic Law

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Ethics and the Mosaic Law: Part II

How should Christians use the Old Testament for ethical guidance?

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.”

God’s “Law” Throughout History

Creation (Gen 1-2)

From Adam/Eve to Noah to Terah (Gen 3-11)

Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Gen 12 to Exod 19)

Mosaic Covenant with Israel (Exod 20 to Malachi...and 4 Gospels)

New Covenant with the Church (Acts to Revelation)

Ethical Use of the OT & Mosaic Law

- Errors to avoid:

- (1) Carry over everything in a _____ fashion
- (2) Carry over _____
- (3) If the NT does not cancel it, then it's still in effect
- (4) Only require what the NT _____

- Principles:

- Affirm _____ ordinances (e.g. marriage in Gen 2:24; Mt 19:4-6; 1 Cor 6:16; Eph 5:31-32)
- *All* Scripture is _____ for teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16)
- OT was *for our* _____ (Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11)
- Wisdom literature for all time (e.g. Prov 3:11-2 and Heb 12:5-6)
- Mosaic Covenant:
 - **What** laws were given, **when and where** and **to whom**, for **what purpose**?

When Jesus Christ came, what changed?

Under the New Covenant:

1. **Where** is the standard recorded?
 - Law is written on our _____ (Jer 31:33-34), not _____ (2 Cor 3:3)
 - _____ emphasis (Gal 5:22-23; Eph 4:31-32; Php 4:8-9; Col 3:12-17; 1 Th 5:14-18)

2. **What** is the standard?

- “the law of _____” (1 Cor 9:20-21; Gal 6:2)
- “the law of _____” (1 Cor 9:21; Rom 7:22, 25)
- “the commandments of _____” (1 Cor 7:19; 1 Jn 3:22, 24; 5:2-3; 2 Jn 6; Rev 12:17; 14:12)
- “commandments” of _____ (John 14:15, 21; 1 John 2:3-4)
- “the _____ law, the law of _____” (James 1:25)
- “the _____ law” (James 2:8)
- _____
 - Jesus summarizes the law in this way (Mt 22:40):
 - Love _____
 - Love _____
 - The 10 Commandments summarize love (Exod 20:1-17 Deut 5:6-21; Rom 13:8-10)

3. **How** is the standard *transformed* in Christ?

1. New “**ceremonial**” system

- Jesus fulfilled the “ceremonial” portion of the Mosaic Law. Therefore, Priestly system (temple, priests, sacrifices, Festivals, etc.) ended (Hebrews 7-10).

(1) New **temple**:

- Heavenly tabernacle (Heb 9:11-12)
- Christ (John 1:14)
- Individual Christians and corporate Church (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16)

(2) New **priesthood**:

- High Priest Christ, after the order of Melchizedek (Heb 4:4; 7:1-28)
- The priesthood of all believers (1 Pet 2:9)

(3) New **sacrifices**:

- Jesus once-for-all sacrifice (Heb 10:10; 8:1-10:18)
- We offer daily “sacrifices” in worship (Rom 12:1; Heb 13:15-16; 1 Pet 2:4, 9)
- Paul: “drink offerings” and “sacrifices” (Php 2:17; 2 Tim 4:6; Rom 15:16)

2. New “**nation**” or “**household**”

- The Mosaic Law is no longer for a single nation (Israel)
- The Church is a new “nation” of Jews + Gentiles (Mt 21:41-43; Eph 2; 1 Peter)

3. New “**land**” = the whole earth

- Psalms prophetically look ahead to this
 - Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20)
 - Heavenly vision (Rev 7:9)
 - Gen 12:3 - to all the families of the earth - is being fulfilled
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- “Civil laws” for Israel now become “general equity” principles for the “church”
 - Witnesses (Deut 19:15 ~ Mt 18:16; 2 Cor 13:1; 1 Tim 5:#)
 - Purging evil from community (Deut 17:7; 19:19; 22:20-24 ~ 1 Cor 5:13)
 - Remuneration/reward for labor (Deut 25:4 ~ 1 Cor 9:8-11; 1 Tim 5:17-18)

SUMMARY

The New Covenant ethic is love, “the law of Christ”

Creation ordinances have always been in effect

Love, as expounded in the 10 Commandments

Love by learning the *profitable lesson* or applying the *principles* of OT or NT revelation, either history, wisdom, or laws (e.g. Mosaic Laws), to new situational norms.