

What is the law?

# The Law & The Ten Commandments

## Lesson 1

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## Overview of the Law

# What is the Law?

From the Old Testament, we see that God gave numerous laws to his people, Israel.

In fact, what we call the “Old Testament” was commonly referred to as “the Law and the Prophets”

(Mt 7:12, 11:13, 22:40, Lk 16:16, 24:44, etc.)

There were a lot of laws given. But what was their purpose and do they still apply?

If they do apply, in what sense do they apply? Must we follow them strictly? Is our salvation at stake? Does God grade on a curve?

# Three Types of the Law

- 1) Ceremonial - *Israel's Worship of God*
- 2) Civil - *Government*
- 3) Moral - *Direct commands (Ten Comndmnts)*

# Examples of Law

## Leviticus 1: 1-17

### **Laws for Burnt Offerings**

1 The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying,

<sup>2</sup> “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock.

<sup>3</sup> “If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. <sup>4</sup> He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

# Examples of Law

## Leviticus 1: 1-17

### **Laws for Burnt Offerings (continued)**

<sup>5</sup> Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. <sup>6</sup> Then he shall flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces, <sup>7</sup> and the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. <sup>8</sup> And Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar; <sup>9</sup> but its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

# Examples of Law

## Leviticus 1: 1-17

### **Laws for Burnt Offerings (continued)**

<sup>10</sup> “If his gift for a burnt offering is from the flock, from the sheep or goats, he shall bring a male without blemish, <sup>11</sup> and he shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar. <sup>12</sup> And he shall cut it into pieces, with its head and its fat, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood that is on the fire on the altar, <sup>13</sup> but the entrails and the legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall offer all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

# Examples of Law

## Leviticus 1: 1-17

### **Laws for Burnt Offerings (continued)**

<sup>14</sup> “If his offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of birds, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or pigeons. <sup>15</sup> And the priest shall bring it to the altar and wring off its head and burn it on the altar. Its blood shall be drained out on the side of the altar. <sup>16</sup> He shall remove its crop with its contents and cast it beside the altar on the east side, in the place for ashes. <sup>17</sup> He shall tear it open by its wings, but shall not sever it completely. And the priest shall burn it on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

# Ceremonial Law

Leviticus 1 presents the laws for burnt offerings.

Similarly, Leviticus presents:

- Lev 2 – Laws for Grain Offerings
- Lev 3 – Laws for Peace Offerings
- Lev 4, 5 – Laws for Sin Offerings
- Lev 5, 6 – Laws for Guilt Offerings

Leviticus further defines the ceremonial laws and establishes the priesthood (through Aaron) to make these offerings on behalf of the people of Israel.

# Ceremonial Law

## Leviticus 9: 22-24

<sup>22</sup> Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. <sup>23</sup> And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. <sup>24</sup> And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

The offering was accepted!

# Ceremonial Law

## Leviticus 10: 1-3

10 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized<sup>[a]</sup> fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. <sup>2</sup> And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’” And Aaron held his peace.

a. Or *strange*

This offering was not accepted.

# Examples of Law

Deuteronomy 1: 9-18

Moses speaking to Israel just before they are to enter the promised land (references Ex 18)

## **Leaders Appointed**

<sup>9</sup> “At that time I said to you, ‘I am not able to bear you by myself. <sup>10</sup> The LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are today as numerous as the stars of heaven. <sup>11</sup> May the LORD, the God of your fathers, make you a thousand times as many as you are and bless you, as he has promised you! <sup>12</sup> How can I bear by myself the weight and burden of you and your strife? <sup>13</sup> Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads.’ <sup>14</sup> And you answered me, ‘The thing that you have spoken is good for us to do.’

# Examples of Law

## Deuteronomy 1: 9-18

### **Leaders Appointed (continued)**

<sup>15</sup> So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and set them as heads over you, commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, commanders of tens, and officers, throughout your tribes.

<sup>16</sup> And I charged your judges at that time, 'Hear the cases between your brothers, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the alien who is with him. <sup>17</sup> You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God's. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.' <sup>18</sup> And I commanded you at that time all the things that you should do.

# Civil Law

Through Moses, God not only provided laws and statutes regarding conduct toward one another, but he also organized a judicial system.

What laws does the judicial system enforce?

# Civil Law

## Deuteronomy 24: 10-21

### **Miscellaneous Laws**

<sup>10</sup> “When you make your neighbor a loan of any sort, you shall not go into his house to collect his pledge. <sup>11</sup> You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you make the loan shall bring the pledge out to you. <sup>12</sup> And if he is a poor man, you shall not sleep in his pledge. <sup>13</sup> You shall restore to him the pledge as the sun sets, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you. And it shall be righteousness for you before the LORD your God.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. <sup>15</sup> You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.

# Civil Law

## **Miscellaneous Laws (continued)**

<sup>16</sup> “Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in pledge, <sup>18</sup> but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

<sup>19</sup> “When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

# Civil Law

## **Miscellaneous Laws (continued)**

<sup>20</sup> When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. <sup>21</sup> When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. <sup>22</sup> You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this.

# Examples of Law

Deuteronomy 4: 12-14

Moses speaking to Israel just before they are to enter the promised land.

<sup>12</sup> Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. <sup>13</sup> And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. <sup>14</sup> And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.<sup>14</sup>

# Moral Law

## Exodus 20: 1-17

### **The Ten Commandments**

20 And God spoke all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

# Moral Law

## Exodus 20: 1-17

### **The Ten Commandments (continued)**

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

# Moral Law

## Exodus 20: 1-17

### **The Ten Commandments (continued)**

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

# Moral Law

## Exodus 20: 1-17

### **The Ten Commandments (continued)**

<sup>18</sup> Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off <sup>19</sup> and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” <sup>20</sup> Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” <sup>21</sup> The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

## What did Israel do while Moses drew near to God?

# Three Types of the Law

So in summary, we have three types of the law

- 1) Ceremonial
- 2) Civil
- 3) Moral

But what part does the law play in the life of a Christian?

# Law & the Christian

## Galatians 3: 1-25

### **By Faith, or by Works of the Law?**

3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup> Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? <sup>5</sup> Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— <sup>6</sup> just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

# Law & the Christian

## Galations 3: 1-25

### **By Faith, or by Works of the Law? (continued)**

<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

<sup>9</sup> So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

### **The Righteous Shall Live by Faith**

<sup>10</sup> For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” <sup>11</sup> Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” <sup>12</sup> But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”

# Law & the Christian

## Galatians 3: 1-25

### **The Righteous Shall Live by Faith (continued)**

<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—<sup>14</sup> so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

### **The Law and the Promise**

<sup>15</sup> To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. <sup>16</sup> Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. <sup>17</sup> This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void.

# Law & the Christian

## Galations 3: 1-25

### **The Law and the Promise (continued)**

<sup>18</sup> For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

<sup>19</sup> Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. <sup>20</sup> Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

<sup>21</sup> Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. <sup>22</sup> But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

# Law & the Christian

## Galations 3: 1-25

### **The Law and the Promise (continued)**

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

# Law & the Christian

Salvation does not come through obedience to the law!

Salvation comes through trust in Christ!

So, when it comes to the question of the law in the life of the Christian, we know that we are not saved by keeping the law.

Does that mean that we can disregard the law?

# Law & the Christian

## Romans 6:19

<sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

## Romans 7:6

<sup>6</sup> But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

# Law & the Christian

## Romans 12: 1-2

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

## 2 Timothy 3:16 -17

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

## 2 Corinthians 7:1

7 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

# Law & the Christian

## 1 Peter 1:15

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” <sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

# Law & the Christian

So, even though salvation does not come by keeping the law, we are to:

- *present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification*
- *Be corrected, rebuked, and trained in righteousness*
- *cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God*
- *be holy in all your conduct*

# Law & the Christian

How can we be holy if we sin?

Good question. But before we answer that, let's validate whether or not we can be holy on our own.

## James 2:10

<sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

## 1 John 1: 8-10

<sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

<sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

# Law & the Christian

How can we be holy if we sin?

## Colosians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

# Law & the Christian

How can we be holy if we sin?

## Colosians 1:15-23

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

# Law & the Christian

So we have three types of the law

- 1) Ceremonial
- 2) Civil
- 3) Moral

We do not receive salvation through obedience to the law.....

But, as a child of God, redeemed by Christ's blood, we strive to live holy lives.

So, how do we know which laws lead to holy living?

# Law & the Christian

## Hebrews 10:1-18

### **Christ's Sacrifice Once for All**

10 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. <sup>2</sup> Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? <sup>3</sup> But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

# Law & the Christian

## Hebrews 10:1-18

### **Christ's Sacrifice Once for All (continued)**

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

<sup>11</sup> And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

# Law & the Christian

## Hebrews 10:1-18

### **Christ's Sacrifice Once for All (continued)**

<sup>15</sup> And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

<sup>16</sup> “This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws on their hearts,  
and write them on their minds,”

<sup>17</sup> then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

<sup>18</sup> Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

# Law & the Christian

The ceremonial law and the sacrificial system pointed forward to Christ. It was a shadow of what was to come.

Therefore, to offer a sacrifice at this time is blasphemous because it denies the sufficiency of Christ's once for all sacrifice.

# Law & the Christian

## Acts 10:9-16

### **Peter's Vision**

<sup>9</sup> The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. <sup>10</sup> And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance <sup>11</sup> and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. <sup>12</sup> In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup> And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” <sup>15</sup> And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” <sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

# Law & the Christian

Those things that were ceremonially unclean are no longer unclean.

So if the ceremonial law no longer applies, what about the civil and moral?

Yes! They do apply, but we need to be careful in understanding how they apply, that is to say, their uses.

# Three Uses of the Law

## 1<sup>st</sup> Use – Curb

*The law is used to control sin. See 1 Tim 1:9*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Use – Mirror

*The law is used to reveal our sin. See Rom 3:20*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Use – Rule

*The law is used to guide the Christian in holy living. See Psalm 119:105.*

As we will see in the weeks to come, the Ten Commandments, and a deeper understanding of them, can be employed in all three uses of the law.

Questions?

# Next Week

Your Best Life Later:  
The Christian and Eternal Rewards

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The First Commandment