

Sermon Reflections

The Old Testament Law for Christians?, Part 1 (Selected Scriptures)

Summary: God's Law still directs us *where* life is found and *how* we must then live.

Still Listen to the OT Law

1. The Law Teaches Us About God's Character (Exodus 19; Leviticus 18-19)

- Scattered throughout the many commands in Exodus and Leviticus are constant reminders that God is *the LORD* (i.e. Yahweh). Frequently, it is even expressed in such a way that God being Yahweh is the *reason* for the commands. What is it about God's name and his nature that requires obedience to his law?
- When God gave Israel the law, they were a unique people in a special covenant with God that required them to be set apart from the world. As the church, in what ways is our relationship to God's commandments similar to Israel's? In what ways is it different?

2. The Law Exposes Our Sin and Guilt (Romans 3 and 7)

- We are reminded in Romans 3 that none can be justified by works of the law. And in fact, the law actually brings knowledge of sin. In what ways has God's law revealed your own sin to you? Are there any areas of sin in your life you would have ignored, apart from the law? What parts of the law are you more prone to forget?
- Paul shows us an example in Romans 7 of how we are often tempted to sin in exact opposition to a commandment. Do you have any examples where knowledge of what you were forbidden from doing led you to disobey? How about in your children? Is this the fault of the law? (see 7:11-12)

3. The Law Leads Us to Christ (Galatians 3)

- Paul reminds us in Galatians 3:10 (from the OT) that those who rely on works of the law are under a curse because they are unable to fully obey the law. But Christ became a curse *for us* when he died on a tree (3:14)! Marvel at our sovereign God who was willing and able to satisfy the requirements of the law on our behalf!
- Paul explains to us in Galatians 3:24 that "the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith". How can you ensure that your failure to fully keep the law leads you to Christ's feet rather than a futile quest for self-improvement? What are some ways we can encourage our brothers and sisters to come back to Christ more readily and more wholeheartedly in these instances?