

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

THE THREE LAWS OF THE
OLD TESTAMENT

42

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on the Old Testament laws and how they pertain to the New Testament believer.

Copyright © 2025, Paul J. Baumeister, Ph.D.

The author reserves all rights to this text. No part shall be downloaded or stored in a retrieval system other than as required for browsing. It may not be reproduced, printed or copied without written permission from the author.

Published by Paul Baumeister, P.O. Box 2366, Elk Grove, California 95759.

Printed in the United States of America.



City of ^{the} Living God



“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts.6:1-4).

The apostles from the very beginning of the church had a strong foundation of reading the Word of God and making application in their everyday lives and direction for the church. This scriptural passage is found at the beginning of the book of Acts. It is early on in the founding of the church probably within a couple years from the beginning of the church. Obviously, none of the New Testament Scriptures were yet written. So, what were the apostles reading when it said they dedicated much time to “the ministry of the word”? They read the Old Testament. They all believed in the inspired Word of God and knew that it was those Scriptures that helped them to understand who God is and how to live according to His teachings.

ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED OF GOD

The Word of God contains 66 books of which 39 come from the Old Testament and 27 from the New Testament. All of these books were written by holy men of God that were “moved by the Holy Spirit” to write.

1 Peter 1:21

“For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

The Apostle Paul tells Timothy that all of the Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures are inspired of God. Not only are they inspired, but we are to use all of them for instruction in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Notice that he does not designate a portion of the Scriptures. He is including the whole Old and New Testament and that by recognizing all of the Scriptures as inspired of God, he is complete in his being equipped for the work of God. This idea that the Old Testament was abolished with the beginning of the New Testament is a false one. The Apostles “gave themselves to it continually.”

Matthew 5:17

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”

The Old Testament laws can be broken up into three main divisions: The Ceremonial Laws, the Civil Laws, and the Moral Laws. Understanding the difference is vital for understanding what part of the Old Testament the New Testament believer puts into practice. Do we adhere to all of it? Do we hold onto the teachings on the dietary laws such as not eating

pork? What about the ceremonial laws such as sacrifice and offerings? What did Jesus mean when he said he came to “fulfil” the Law?

THE CEREMONIAL LAWS

Many of the prophecies, ceremonies, and feasts of the Old Testament depicted a future event that Jesus fulfilled. They pointed to the Messiah coming to earth. We call that teaching “Christocentric.” In other words, the Old Testament pointed to Jesus Christ coming as the perfect lamb sacrifice.

John 1:29

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Since Jesus fulfilled the Law of the Old Testament concerning the sacrifices for sins, there is no reason to practice the sacrificial system. The author of Hebrews describes the Old Testament sacrifices as being a “shadow” of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

Hebrews 10:1

“For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.”

He continues and says that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrifices and was offered “once for all.” In other words, there is no need for sacrifices anymore since he already did it.

Hebrews 10:10-14

“By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till

His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.”

That is what Jesus meant when he said that he came to fulfill the Law. This is why we do not practice the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament. This would include laws such as circumcision, sabbath day worship, the 7 Feasts of the OT, and others.

This question about the Christian believer adhering to the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament was addressed throughout the New Testament. The Apostle Paul teaches us that we are not required to practice those Old Testament ceremonial teachings. Some of the Jewish Christians wanted to maintain some of those teachings, so he said it was fine as long as they did not push them on the Gentile (non-jewish) believers.

Colossians 2:16-17

“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

Romans 14:5-6

“One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it.”

Notice that he addresses not only sabbaths and feasts, but also he says that we are not required to adhere to the Old Testament teachings on abstaining from eating certain foods or drinks. He is addressing the dietary restrictions of the Jews. Jesus taught the Apostle Peter that the teaching of the Old Testament teaching on certain foods being unclean are now no longer needed. He says that everything now is designated “clean.” While Peter is in a trance, Jesus tells him to kill and eat some animals that were considered “unclean before.”

Acts 10:13-15

“And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.”

For the New Testament believer there are no restrictions on eating certain foods. So, it has been established that as Christian believers, we do not adhere to the ceremonial teachings of the Old Testament.

THE CIVIL LAWS

All nations must have civil laws to help deal with anarchy, disputes between citizens and the disobedience to moral laws. Not all the Old Testament civil laws dealt with moral matters, but many of them did have to do with how to punish or make restitution for violations of God’s moral laws.

Since we are not part of the nation of Israel, we do not adhere to the civil portions of the law for judgments. All of those laws were for the government of Israel and Judah to enact upon their citizens.

THE MORAL LAWS

The moral laws are all founded upon the attributes of God. Because God is moral, we are to be moral in all that we do. What is considered righteous to God is required for us to adhere to. So, we are to live not opposed to his attributes. He is holy, so we should live holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16

“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

The Old Testament is full of moral teachings that will never change, because God does not change. His moral character is who he is, so there will never be a day in which the New Testament believer does not adhere to the moral teachings of the Old and New Testament. All Christians hold to the teachings of the 10 Commandments that are written in the Law of Moses. That is because they are based on God's attributes. God is one, so we do not worship other gods. God is the giver of life, so we do not kill. God is truthful, so we do not bare false witness against our neighbor. The only commandment that is not based on his attributes is the 4th: Keep the Sabbath day holy. That one is based on an event and is fulfilled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Isa. 28:11-12; 1 Cor. 14:21).

Not only are these commandments moral teachings, but there are many moral teachings found throughout the Old Testament that we as New Testament believers hold onto. Leviticus 18 lists many moral teachings against the sexual sins of incest, pre-marital sex, adultery, bestiality, idolatry, and others. All of these are moral teachings. No sane Christian would deny that these teachings are still required to be adhered to by New Testament believers. There are so many others that are found within the Old Testament that God will never abolish. These teachings are foundational for his people. God does not want his Church to designate them as obsolete. Lies will always be considered sin. Nakedness will always be considered sin.

Leviticus 18:17

"You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness."

Many scriptures speak about the sin of nakedness. This does not change because "times have changed." It is not based on what people perceive as nakedness; it is based on how God sees it. It does not matter how people try to justify it by saying that it is ok to dress in their bathing suit. It's ironic that they would go to the beach in front of others in their underwear, but if they call it a bathing suit it's okay. Not according to God, it is still sin.

ABOMINATION UNTO GOD

There are other moral teachings that are found in Scripture that still pertain to us New Testament believers. Moral teachings never change because they are based upon God who does not change.

Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Man’s ideas of morality change according to time and culture, but God’s principles never change. The Bible uses the term “abomination” to describe something that is abhorred or detested. For example, to the Egyptians, it was abominable to hold the occupation of a shepherd (Gen. 43:42). It was detestable to take care of such “filthy animals.” However, to the Hebrews, it was honorable. To the Philistines, the Hebrew people were an abomination to them. So, when the Bible says something is an abomination to man, it changes with time and culture. With the dietary laws, God said that they were an abomination to them (not to God). It was an abomination to them since it was only for the Mosaic Covenant. Since it was an abomination to man and not God, it is not considered a moral teaching.

Leviticus 11:9-10

*“These you may eat of all that are in the water: whatever in the water has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers—that you may eat. But all in the seas or in the rivers that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which is in the water, they are an **abomination to you.**”*

Any time that the Scriptures state that something is an “abomination unto the LORD,” this would be a moral teaching since it is based upon God and he does not change. If it was detestable to God, it will forever be abominable to God. Here are some examples that show what is detestable to God.

- Perversity is an abomination to the Lord (Prov. 3:32)
- 7 Things Abominable to the Lord: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, and feet that are swift in running to evil, and a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brothers (Prov. 6:17-19).
- Idolatry is an abomination to the Lord (Lev. 7:25).
- Prostitution is an abomination to the Lord (Deut. 23:18)
- Using lying weights for purchasing goods using scales since it is stealing are an abomination unto the Lord. Such as buying 10 pounds of produce with an 8-pound weight (Deut. 25:15-16).

Other examples found in Scripture give us clarity what is an abomination or detestable unto the Lord.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

*“There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an **abomination to the Lord.**”*

Proverbs 11:20

*“Those who are of a perverse heart are an **abomination to the Lord,** But the blameless in their ways are His delight.”*

Proverbs 12:22

*“Lying lips are an **abomination to the Lord,** But those who deal truthfully are His delight.”*

Deuteronomy 12:31

*“You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every **abomination to the Lord** which He hates they have done to their*

gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.”

Lastly, God hates the practice of men wearing women’s clothing and women wearing men’s clothing. The modern movement of women wearing pants has caused so much confusion such since God sees it as an abomination to him. Now there are growing trends with men trying to add skirts as men’s apparel. No wonder government and public institutions are confused on what symbol to place on bathroom doors. Since this is an abomination unto the Lord, it never changes.

Deuteronomy 22:5

“A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.”

It is vital that we know that the moral laws of the Old Testament do not change with time and culture. It does not matter what man thinks is moral or immoral, God has the final say, “*let God be true but every man a liar*” (Romans 3:4).

For more Information
Paul Baumeister
P.O. 2366, Elk Grove, CA 95759

**[Click here to access the
complete series](#)**