

Which Old Testament Laws Still Apply?

Asking for a Friend

Hebrews 8; Colossians 3 Pastor Jonathan Schaeffer

How do we deal with tough passages in the Bible?

Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material. Leviticus 19:19

If the defiling mold reappears...the house is unclean.

It must be torn down... Leviticus 14:43-45

Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard. Leviticus 19:27

Do not...put tattoo marks on yourselves. Leviticus 19:28

Make tassels on the four corners of the cloak you wear. Deut. 22:12

The first 5 books of the Bible, the *Torah*, has **613** commands:

248 dos and **365 don'ts**. Which ones do we need to follow today?

- **Option #1:** You decide that the Bible is an ancient book with little to no relevance or authority today. You're not obligated to follow it, but you might choose for yourself certain parts you'd like to follow.
- **Option #2:** You study the Bible on ***its own terms***, concluding that it's trustworthy and holds authority for your daily life today.
*All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful...* 2 Timothy 3:16

Allow the Bible to guide you

Scripture interprets Scripture! As you read, you discover that the New Testament gives direction on interpreting the laws of the Old Testament.

1. We follow the new way of Christ.

The laws of the Old Testament no longer apply unless they are repeated in the New Testament.

*By calling this covenant "new," [God] has made the first one **obsolete**; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.* Hebrews 8:13
*The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ...Now that faith has come, we are **no longer** under the supervision of the law."* Gal. 3:23

This is affirmed by Jesus. By his death on the cross, he initiated a new covenant in our relationship with God.

*After supper Jesus took the cup and said, 'This cup is the **new covenant** between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.'* Luke 22:20

2. Jesus did not reject the Old Testament; he **fulfilled** it.

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. Matthew 5:17
Everything in the Old Testament either predicts or prepares for Jesus' coming and his new covenant with us. Hebrews 7:18-19; 8:7

- **Continuity:** we **love God** with all our hearts, as well as the people He has created (see Jesus' words, Matthew 22:37-39, & Deut. 6:5). We follow the "law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2), reflecting his life and heart.
- **Discontinuity:** the laws guiding Israel's national life and ceremonial practices have been **set aside** for believers (e.g. food laws—Acts 10, Mark 7:19, the Temple and sacrifices—Heb. 10:1-4; 8:13; John 4:21-24).

3. Old Testament laws were largely intended for a **specific nation**.

God's **covenant**—or agreement—with Israel included a framework for national laws, helping people understand God's holiness and their own lack of holiness. It had a temporary purpose, giving practical guidelines for avoiding sin and expressing love toward neighbors.

The laws were powerless to make people acceptable to God. Only Jesus could accomplish that. Romans 3:21-23

4. The New Testament affirms all of the 10 commandments except for #4 (which therefore does not apply to us today).

- 1st: Mt. 10:37; John 14:6; Rev. 9:20
- 2nd: Ephesians 5:5; Acts 17:29-31
- 3rd: Matthew 5:33-34; James 5:12
- 4th: (Sabbath laws no longer apply)
- 5th: Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20
- 6th: Matthew 5:21-26; James 2:11; 4:2
- 7th: Mt. 5:27-30; Eph. 5:3; James 2:11
- 8th: Ephesians 4:28; James 5:1-6
- 9th: Ephesians 4:25; John 8:44
- 10th: Eph. 5:5; James 4:2; Romans 7:7

Making it personal: The Good news about Jesus

No one was saved by keeping the law. No one ever will be.
You can only be saved by God's grace, through faith in Jesus.

*People are made **right with God** when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood...So we are made right with God **through faith** and not by obeying the law."* Romans 3:25,28 (NLT)

- Have you acknowledged your need for a Savior and put your trust in Christ alone? He welcomes everyone who comes to him in faith!



Summer Classes

Begin the week of Sunday, June 4

Study a pressing topic, go through a book of the Bible, and learn alongside others! All classes are free and no registration is required. See the full schedule of our summer classes by visiting gracecma.org/classes



Forever Young Lunch + Bible Study

Thursday, May 25 | 12 - 2 PM

Adults 50+ are invited to come discover more amazing truths about *the Real Heaven* with us this week at our lunch and Bible study event. Cost: \$7 at the door @Middleburg Heights gracecma.org/events



Aliquippa Family Mission Trip

Last Chance Registration! July 13-16

Live out your faith as a family this summer! This team of families will be serving a community together each morning, and enjoying summer camp activities throughout the afternoon.

gracecma.org/events



Tea on the Titanic Saturday, June 24 | 3 PM

Journey into the past aboard the Titanic! This fun women's event will feature time travel guide Dan Ruminski, *Cleveland's Storyteller*, an appearance from Molly Brown by *Women in History*, and a ritzy high tea catered by *Clementine's Victorian Tea Room*. Space is limited, register today! @Middleburg Heights
Get tickets: bit.ly/titanicjunetea



Cleveland Angels Info Meetings

TODAY, May 21 @Olmsted Falls

Sunday, June 4 @Middleburg Heights

Want to learn more about how to support foster families in your community? Stop by an informational meeting after service May 21 or June 4.

gracecma.org/events



Grace YOUTH: THE MOVE

TONIGHT, May 21 | 6-9:30 PM

Middle school and high school students: invite a friend and choose your best beach/summer-themed outfit for an evening of games, crazy prizes, and sooooo many food trucks! Don't forget to bring \$20-\$25 for dinner. @Middleburg Heights

gracecma.org/events



Refresh Womens Event Tuesday, May 23 | 7 PM

Enjoy an evening of biblical teaching and small group discussion with other women. Dawn Bentley will be speaking about the idea of "What is your WHY?" sharing what she learned about God during her 3 days in a Thailand hospital. @Middleburg Heights

gracecma.org/women



Loose Change for Life

Mothers Day, May 14 - Fathers Day, June 18

The Cleveland Pregnancy Center comes alongside new parents with practical support and counseling for the journey ahead. Support them by taking home some empty baby bottles today, fill them with loose change, and bring them back on **June 18!**

gracecma.org/events