


Why the Law?

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Kids, look for the 
and the underlined word that
describes the Word of God.



Leviticus 11:10-11

But anything in the seas or the rivers that does not have fins and scales, of the swarming creatures in the waters and of the living creatures that are in the waters, is detestable to you. You shall regard them as detestable; you shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall detest their carcasses.



Leviticus 19:28

You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the LORD.



Leviticus 19:19

You shall keep my statutes. You shall not let your cattle breed with a different kind. You shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor shall you wear a garment of cloth made of two kinds of material.



Deuteronomy 30:11-14

“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.”



The New Would Come

Jeremiah 31:31-32 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.”



The New Has Come

Luke 22:20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”



The Porsche 911



1964



2021



The Honda Civic



1977



2022



The VW Beetle and the Rocket



Jonathan Edwards

“There is perhaps no part of divinity attended with so much intricacy, and wherein orthodox divines do so much differ as stating the precise agreement and differences between the two dispensations of Moses and Christ.”



The Relationship Between the Old and New Covenants



CONTINUITY

DISCONTINUITY



The Relationship Between the Old and New Covenants

“Men have no right to alter or spurn Old Testament laws on their own say-so, social traditions, or preconceived ideas about what is morally appropriate or inappropriate in the Mosaic law.”

Greg Bahnsen

CONTINUITY

DISCONTINUITY



The Relationship Between the Old and New Covenants

“Christians ought to work to persuade others of their obligation to the commandments of God, including the civil magistrate of his duty to enforce the penal sanctions of God’s law against criminal activity in society.”

Greg Bahnsen

CONTINUITY

DISCONTINUITY



The Relationship Between the Old and New Covenants

[The problem with today's church is] “our incessant habit of reaching back into the old covenant concepts, teachings, sayings, and narratives.”

Andy Stanley



CONTINUITY

DISCONTINUITY



The Relationship Between the Old and New Covenants

“...when it comes to stumbling blocks to faith, the Old Testament is right up there at the top of the list.”

Andy Stanley



CONTINUITY

DISCONTINUITY



The Relationship Between the Old and New Covenants

“Would you consider unhitching your teaching of what it means to follow Jesus from all things old covenant?”

Andy Stanley



CONTINUITY

DISCONTINUITY



Three-fold Division of the Law

1. Moral
2. Ceremonial
3. Civil



Westminster Confession of Faith (1646): Chapter 19

3. Besides this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, His graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly holding forth divers instructions of moral duties. All which **ceremonial laws are now abrogated under the New Testament.**
4. To them also, as a body politic, **He gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the state of that people, not obliging any other,** now, further than the general equity thereof may require.
5. The **moral law doth forever bind all,** as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it. Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve, but much strengthen, this obligation.



Two-fold division?

“The most fundamental distinction to be drawn between Old Testament laws is between moral laws and ceremonial laws. ... This is not an arbitrary or ad hoc division, for it manifests an underlying rationale or principle.”

Greg Bahnsen



No Longer Under the Old Covenant

Galatians 3:24-26 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.



No Longer Under the Old Covenant

Hebrews 8:13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.



2 Timothy 3:16-17

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



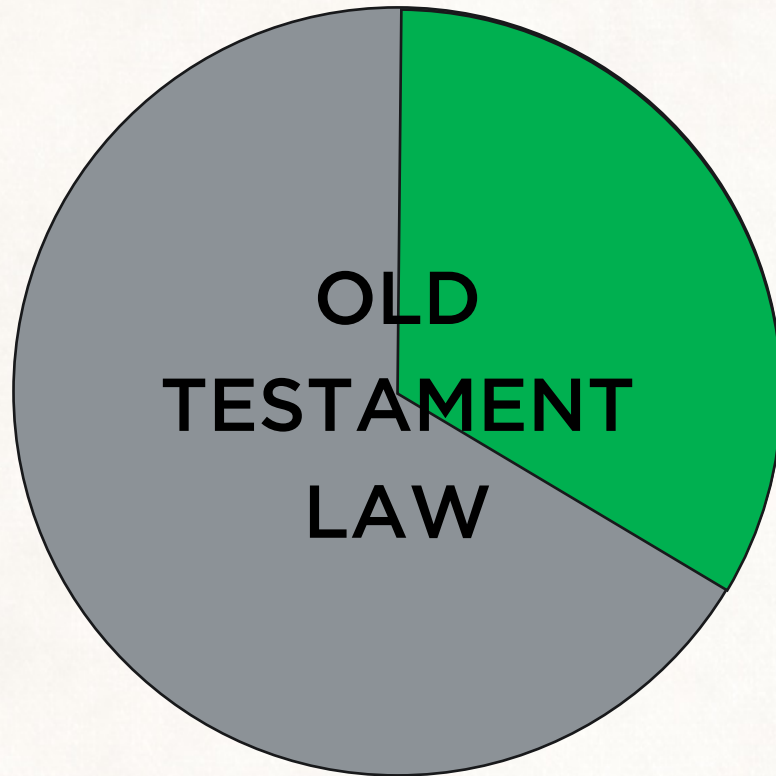
What do we do with these laws?



Deuteronomy 30:11 “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.”



Some laws are explicitly renewed in the New Testament...

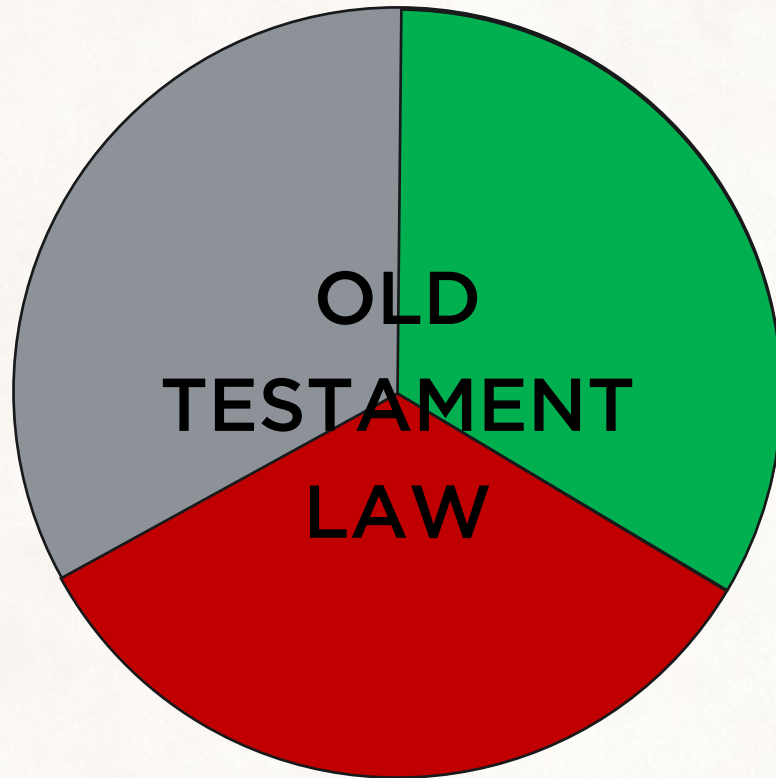


1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

In fact, nine of the Ten Commandments are explicitly renewed in the New Testament.



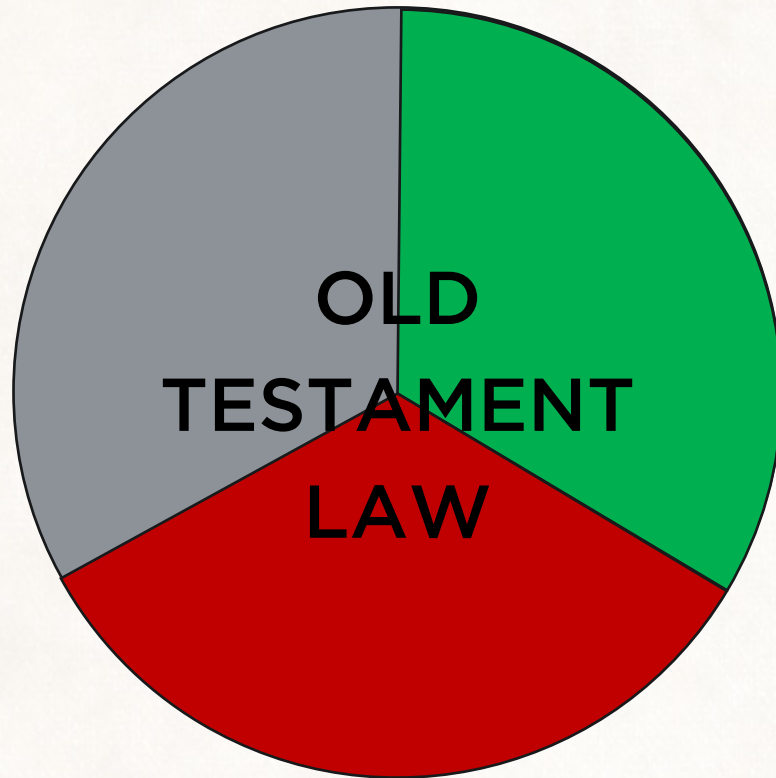
Some laws are explicitly negated in the New Testament...



Mark 7:18-19 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)



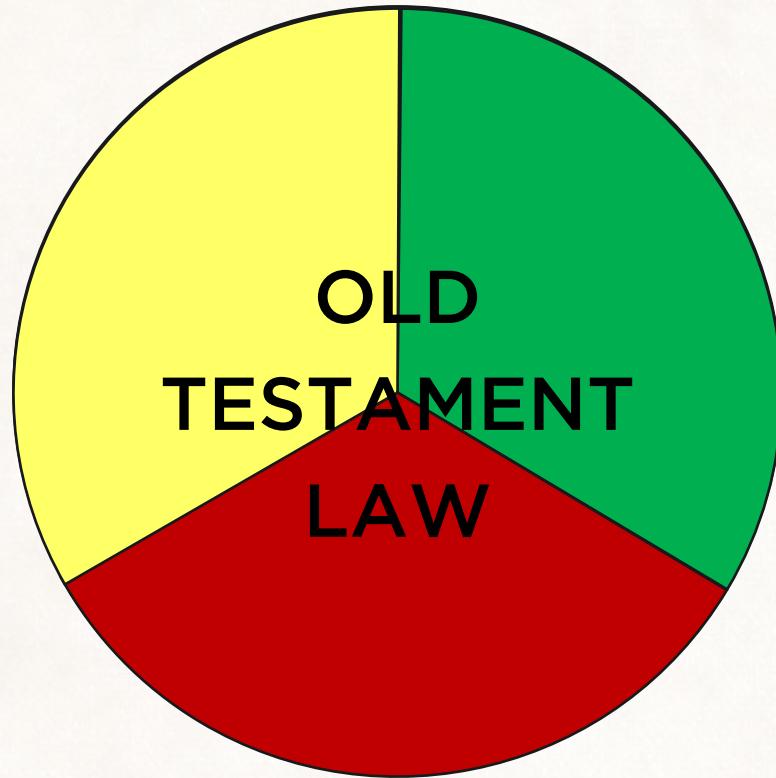
Some laws are explicitly negated in the New Testament...



1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.



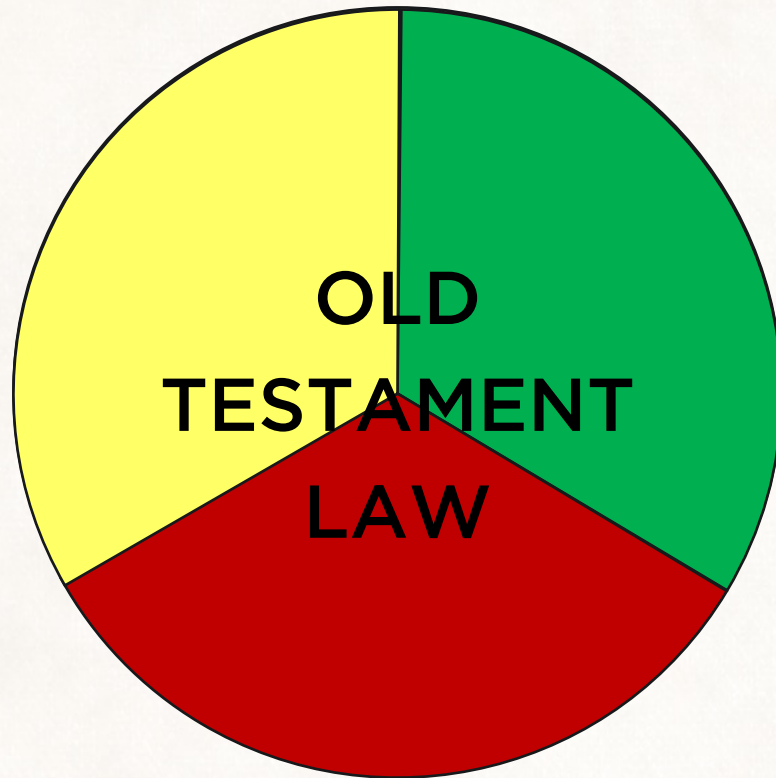
What about the rest?



Leviticus 19:19 You shall keep my statutes. You shall not let your cattle breed with a different kind. You shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor shall you wear a garment of cloth made of two kinds of material.



What about the rest?



1. Understand the specific purpose of the law.
2. Extract the timeless principle or characteristic of God that influenced the specific purpose.
3. Apply that principle to our present situation.



Rental Lease

1. You shall not have pets living in this residence.
2. You shall not paint the interior walls.
3. You shall water and mow the lawn weekly during the summer.



The Example of the Parapet

Deuteronomy 22:8 When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring the guilt of blood upon your house, if anyone should fall from it.



Quick sidenote...

Our discussion doesn't mean that all the New Covenant commands are completely flexible and culturally dependent.



Old Testament Purposes of the Law



Old Testament Purposes of the Law

1. To set apart a distinct people.

Leviticus 20:26 You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.



Old Testament Purposes of the Law

1. To set apart a distinct people.

Genesis 12:2-3 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



Old Testament Purposes of the Law

1. To set apart a distinct people.

Leviticus 19:19 You shall keep my statutes. You shall not let your cattle breed with a different kind. You shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor shall you wear a garment of cloth made of two kinds of material.



Old Testament Purposes of the Law

1. To set apart a distinct people.
2. To distinguish between the holy and common.

Leviticus 10:10-11 “You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that the LORD has spoken to them by Moses.”



Old Testament Purposes of the Law

1. To set apart a distinct people.
2. To distinguish between the holy and common.
3. To preserve physical health.

The Law contains a variety of laws related to washing, quarantining, and general hygiene (e.g. Leviticus 5:1-12, Numbers 19:11-22, Deuteronomy 23:12-14, etc.).



In comparison...

The Ebers Papyrus, dated at approximately 1550 BC, describes Egyptian medical practices, including the following remedies:

1. **Remedy for Hair Growth in a Bald Man:** The head of the bald man should be anointed with a mixture of the following: the fat of a lion, the fat of a hippo, the fat of a crocodile, the fat of a cat, the fat of a snake, and the fat of an ibex.
2. **Remedy for a Headache:** Boil the skull of a catfish and anoint the head with it for four days.
3. **Remedy for the Swelling of One's Limbs:** Boil plants from the field and tadpoles from the water ditch in oil and anoint the limbs with it.



Old Testament Purposes of the Law

1. To set apart a distinct people.
2. To distinguish between the holy and common.
3. To preserve physical health.



Psalm 119:46-48

I will also speak of your testimonies before kings
and shall not be put to shame,

for I find my delight in your commandments,
which I love.

I will lift up my hands toward your commandments,
which I love,

and I will meditate on your statutes.



The Word of God



1. But the word is very _____ you.
(Deuteronomy 30:11-14)
2. All Scripture is breathed out by God and _____.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)
3. For I find my _____ in your commandments.
(Psalm 119:46-48)



The Word of God



1. But the word is very **NEAR** you.
(Deuteronomy 30:11-14)
2. All Scripture is breathed out by God and **PROFITABLE.**
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)
3. For I find my **DELIGHT** in your commandments.
(Psalm 119:46-48)



The Old Covenant was to be a foreshadowing of a more perfect covenant.

