

# Source night

## The Law and us

### Introduction

God has given mankind both principles and laws to live by.

“Religion is the default mode of the human heart.” - Martin Luther

### Relationship to the Law changes over time

#### Ideas from Creation

1. The idea of a day of rest
2. Marriage, one man one woman.

#### From Adam to Moses

Could there be sin, without the Law to define sin? - Romans 5 v13

Right and wrong existed even though it wasn't written down. Cain and Abel - Genesis 4 v 6-10

Concept of 'clean' - Genesis 7 v2

Did Noah give laws?

The Law of Moses (also called Mosaic Law) Given - Acts 7 v38

613 Laws given (Mitzvot) 365 negative 248 positive

According to Jews, there are 248 bones and main organs in the human body and 365 veins and sinews.

When we break the Law similar to affects on body?

Jews have Torah law but also Talmud to explain the law.

After the day of Pentecost up to today Pentecost a feast that celebrated the giving of the law Hebrews 10 v16

Early Church Leaders debated about gentiles believers law keeping Acts 15 v1-2, v5-11, v28-29

### The purpose of the Law

1. To show us we are sinners Romans 7 v7
2. To show that God is holy
3. To show us we incapable of keeping Law Romans 8 v3
4. To whet the appetite for the real thing Hebrews 10 v1-2
5. To reveal more about God and how God wants people to act.

### Ways that Jesus fulfils the Law

True Temple John 2 v19-21

Sacrifices Romans 3 v23-25

Circumcision Romans 2 v25-27

When God looks at us, he sees the righteousness of Christ.

#### Seven 'laws of Noah'

- |                                    |              |                            |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. No idols                        | 2. No Murder | 3. No Theft                |
| 4. No Sexual immorality            |              | 5. No Blasphemy            |
| 6. Don't eat meat from live animal |              | 7. Have fair proper courts |

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them." Matthew 5 v17



What is meant by fulfil?



## What the Church has taught

Most Churches teach, law three types in O.T. 1. Moral e.g. Exodus 20 v1-17

2. Civil How to live in the state of Israel e.g. Exodus 21-22

3. Ceremonial including holy days, sacrifices etc.

Moral still valid to show us right and wrong.

Civil and ceremonial - expired

Romans 6 v14, 7 v4, Galatians 5 v18,

Antinomianism All the law is now expired. The term often given to anyone who feels it doesn't matter how I behave as I am saved by grace alone.

Theonomists ( 'God governs' out of 'Christian Reconstruction' movement ) say the civil laws should also be followed by Christians. So they would support re-introduction of death penalty etc.

Law said stone adulterer to death, however Jesus acted with compassion

Torah Submitting Christians (Recent rise of 'Hebrew Roots' movement ) Say Jesus did not get rid of the Law and apart from ceremonial parts that need a temple etc., it should still be followed e.g. observe festivals.

Matthew 5 v 17-19 may sound as if it supports this, but what about ... Colossians 2 v 13-14, v16-23?

Romans 5-7 Picture of us married to the Law, but we have died so now free to be married to another.

We are not under the Law, but under the Grace of Christ who fulfilled the Law.

## Legalism in our thinking

Legalism is, our getting God to be for us.

Legalism is 'religion', not relationship. Religion is full of rules e.g. don't eat meat on Fridays, don't drink alcohol.

Problems when we allow our thinking to be this way:

1. We have failed to understand Grace
2. We see ourselves as better than others
3. We can become judgemental, and unloving.
4. We make up extra laws.
5. We can be very outspoken about what's wrong.
6. We see ourselves as worse than others.
7. We can become downhearted and defeated.

## Case Study Sabbath

Luke 6 v 1-11 Jesus v Legalists



Is there an element of picking and choosing which bits of the Jewish Law we observe?

Does SVC have it's own unwritten rules?

