

5. The Old Testament Laws are not a ladder up which we climb to God. They are a mirror that shows us how far short we fall from God.

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. How many of the Ten Commandments can you list (without peeking!)?
2. **Read Matthew 22:34-40.** What is the key word Jesus used to summarize the law? How does that change your understanding of their purpose?
3. **Read Psalm 81:8-13.** The Ten Commandments begin with God identifying himself as the one who set them free. Why was it important for Israel to remember their past slavery when it came to living their future life? Why is it important for us to remember our pre-Christian life when it comes to living wisely for Christ in our current life?
4. **Read Exodus 18:16-25, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.** Imagine yourself as one of the Israelites. What would you have felt when the Ten Commandments were given? Why was it important for God to be visually and audibly impressive? What does this teach us about the way we should think about approaching God? How does Exodus 19 help us understand what it will be like when Christ returns in 1 Thessalonians 4?
5. **Read Leviticus 19:28.** When the Bible talks about not making cuts on your body for the dead or tattooing yourself, is that a civil, ceremonial or moral law? Is it still applicable for us today? If it is no longer directly applicable, what can we still learn about what it looks like for a Christian to live a holy life? The big picture of Leviticus 19 is what a holy life looks like in a variety of areas. Leviticus 19:26-31 specifically describes how the holiness as God's people should be seen when they don't allow themselves to be pressured into adopting the pagan practices of the Canaanites world around them to fit in with their culture. How does that change your thinking about the way this verse applies to modern Christians and their desire for tattoos?



Introduction to the Ten Commandments

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1. What is the background of the Ten Commandments?

*Exodus 19:16–25 (ESV)*

*Exodus 20:1–17 (ESV)*

2. What can we learn about God from these commandments?

1. God's grace came before God's law.

2. After God set His people free, His commandments were meant to keep them free.

*"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Exodus 20:2 (ESV)*

3. God's laws reflect God's character.

4. God's laws reflect the way we were designed to live.

5. We don't break God's laws. They break us.

6. God's laws reveal what it means to love.

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37–39 (ESV)

Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Psalm 119:97 (ESV)

### 3. How do Old Testament laws relate to the New Testament Christian?

...You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk." Exodus 34:26 (ESV)

"A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 22:5 (ESV)

...you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:18 (ESV)

But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. Luke 16:17 (ESV)

...you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:14 (ESV)

### 1. The Ceremonial Laws

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Hebrews 10:1–4 (ESV)

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:8–10 (ESV)

### 2. The Civil Laws

### 3. The Moral Laws

- All of the Ten Commandments are restated and reinforced by Jesus and the apostles.
- New Testament sin lists echo the Ten Commandments.

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder (Command 6), adultery, sexual immorality (Command 7), theft (Command 8), false witness, slander (Command 9). Matthew 15:19 (ESV)

### 4. How can we apply the obsolete civil and ceremonial laws?

For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? 1 Corinthians 9:9–11 (ESV)

...For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk. Deuteronomy 14:21 (ESV)

...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. Leviticus 19:19 (ESV)

At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do. Deuteronomy 14:28–29 (ESV)