

**WHICH OLD TESTAMENT LAWS  
STILL APPLY TO CHRISTIANS?**

- “There are lots of laws in the Bible that you Christians don’t follow, like ‘do not wear clothing of two types of material’, but you sure adhere to the idea that homosexuality is a sin. You are so hypocritical”

# Goals of this talk

- Answer the question from the critic
- Answer the bigger question of which laws still apply to us today
- Explain why these questions are important
- Possibly to give you an entirely new and simple framework for thinking about your faith that will change your life with Christ forever!

- Internet source:
- [Jewfaq.org](http://Jewfaq.org)
- Judaism 101>Deeds>List of the 613 Commandments

- Old Testament law can be broken down into 3 categories:
- CIVIL describes behavior, crimes etc.
- CEREMONIAL clean and unclean, sacrifices, temple practices etc.
- MORAL what is right and wrong in God's sight i.e. 10 commandments

# Purpose of O.T. law

- 1. To reveal God's character. Lev.19:2, 20:7-8
- 2. To set apart the nation of Israel. Ex.19:5
- 3. To reveal man's sin. Gal.3:19, Rom.3:20, Acts13:38-39
- 4. To provide a way to worship. Lev.23
- 5. To provide God's direction. Ex.21-23, Deut.6:4-19, Psalms119:96-104
- 6. To provide forgiveness through sacrifices and offerings. Lev. 1-7
- 7. To show the need for Jesus. Gal.3:24, Rom10:2

# Mat. 5

- 17 “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. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

# Romans 6

- 14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

# Luke 16

- 16 “Until John the Baptist, the law of Moses and the messages of the prophets were your guides. But now the Good News of the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is eager to get in.

# Galatians 5

- 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

# Galatians 3

- 24 The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. 25 And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.

# Romans 7

- 4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. 5 When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. 6 But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

# Hebrews 8

7 If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. 8 But when God found fault with the people, he said:

“The day is coming, says the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel and Judah.

9 This covenant will not be like the one  
I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
and led them out of the land of Egypt.

They did not remain faithful to my covenant,  
so I turned my back on them, says the Lord.

# Hebrews 8

10 But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

11 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already.

12 And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

13 When God speaks of a "new" covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.

# Other passages regarding the law

- 1 Cor. 10:23
- Gal. 2:16
- Eph. 2:15-16
- Acts 13:39
- Rom. 2:14-16

## Mat. 5

- 17 “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. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

# Definitions of “fulfill”

- 1. confirm
- 2. implement
- 3. make actual what was previously spoken

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the law

# Galatians 3

- 24 Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. 25 And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.

# Romans 3

- 20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. 21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. 22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

# Romans 10

- 4 For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.

# New covenant

- Jeremiah 31:33

“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the Lord. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

# Ezekiel 36

- 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

# Definition of LOVE

- A conscious active regard for the well being of another person, even at the expense of ones own well being and comfort

# Romans 12

- 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

# Matthew 22

- 35 One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” 37 Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

# Galatians 5

- 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

# 1 Corinthians 10

- 23 You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is beneficial. 24 Don’t be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.

# John 13

- 34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

# Galatians 5

- 13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

# Romans 13

- 8 Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s law. 9 For the commandments say, “You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.” These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law.

# Galatians 6

- 2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

# Matthew 7

- 12 “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets”.

# 1 John

- 7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

# 1 Corinthians 13

- 1 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

# 1 John 4

- 20 If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? 21 And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

# Other amazing, compelling, fabulous passages about love

- 1 Peter 4:8
- Mat.5:43-48
- John 14:15
- Col. 3:14
- Eph. 4:2
- 1 John 4:8-11
- Cor. 16:14

# Definition of LOVE

- A conscious active regard for the well being of another person, even at the expense of ones own well being and comfort.

# Mark 3

- 20 One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat.  
21 When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.

# 1 Corinthians 16

- 13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all you do be done in love.

- The laws and commands of the Old Testament do not and have never applied to Christians. They were replaced with Jesus' radical law of love. Many of the O.T. commands are restated in the N.T. but are now to be seen as indicators of what love in action looks like. Our new freedom in Christ opens the door for us to love God and other people in any way we can imagine, as long as it is still love.

- This opportunity to love is THE MAIN THING, the overriding idea, that should govern all of our thoughts, words and behavior as believers in Jesus Christ.