

## **LIVING IN THE WORD**

**WITH DR. GARY YATES**

### **PART 12 | THE MOSAIC COVENANT V**

This final study on the Mosaic Covenant will focus on the specific question of how the Mosaic Law applies to believers today. We are “no longer under the Law” in the sense that we are no longer under the Mosaic Covenant. The Mosaic Covenant was for the people of Israel, and the Mosaic Law no longer regulates our covenantal relationship with God like it did for Israel. We are no longer required to live out the details of the Law in the way that Israel was when the Mosaic Covenant was in force. However, the fact that we are no longer under the Law does not mean that the Law no longer has application to our lives as New Testament believers. One of the traditional approaches to the question of the Christian and the Law is to divide the commands within the Law into the categories of moral, civil, and ceremonial laws. The moral laws are still directly applicable, but the civil and ceremonial laws no longer are. We discuss some of the problems with these categories in the presentation and argue instead for a “principlism” approach that says we are directly under none of the 613 commandments of the Mosaic Law but that all 613 of the commands have application for believers today. We find that application by determining the timeless principle that is reflected in the individual commands using the New Testament as our grid in determining how the Old Testament laws apply. If the law is restated or reaffirmed in the New Testament, then we can apply the commandment directly to our lives. If the law is not specifically restated or reaffirmed in some way in the New Testament, we can still apply the command as a principle, using New Testament teaching as our authoritative

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guide in determining those principles. The Mosaic Law continues to teach believers as wisdom from God how to live good and godly lives.

**Read the following passages:**

Matthew 5:17-48

Romans 7:1-6

(and see other passages to read in questions below)

**Questions for discussion:**

1. What do we mean by the idea that the Mosaic Covenant was a temporary covenant? When did the covenant begin and end?
2. Give some specific examples of how we can see that the Old Testament Law was not God's final and ethical standard for his people for all time? Why does the Old Testament Law reflect in places ethical standards that are not God's ultimate ideal? What was God attempting to do in giving his commands in this manner?
3. How does Jesus affirm the permanent validity of the Mosaic Law for his followers? How does Jesus' fulfillment of the Law impact our understanding of how the Law relates to us? How do we see a concern for an ongoing validity of the Law in Jesus teaching in Matthew 5:21-48?
4. What does Paul mean when he says that we are "no longer under the Law" of Moses? What pictures and images does he use to show that we do not live under the law as Israel did under the old covenant? What implications does this idea have for how we relate to the Mosaic Law? Are we required to practice the Law in the same way as Israel was?

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How do we align what Paul says about the Law in Romans 7 with what Jesus says in Matthew 5?

5. What are some of the problems involved in dividing the commands in the Mosaic Law into the categories of moral, civil, and ceremonial commands?
6. (True or False) As explained in the presentation, we are directly bound by 0 of the 613 commandments in the Mosaic Law, but 613 of the 613 commands can be applied to our lives as believers.
7. How does Paul's use of Deuteronomy 25:4 in 1 Corinthians 9:9-12 and 1 Timothy 5:18 reflect how we derive principles from the Mosaic Law even when we are not obligated to live under the Law's commands?
8. Let's put this into practice ourselves. Suggest the principles that New Testament believers might derive from the following passages:
  - a. Leviticus 1:2-17
  - b. Leviticus 11:1-23
  - c. Leviticus 19:27-28
  - d. Leviticus 23:22
  - e. Deuteronomy 22:8
  - f. Deuteronomy 22:9-11
9. What is something that you have learned about God in this study that you can share with someone else to be an encouragement to them or to initiate a Gospel conversation with someone who does not know Christ?

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*Some Resources for Further Study on the Mosaic Law:* For those interested in going deeper into studying the Mosaic Law and its application for believers today, here are some recommended resources that you may find helpful:

Averbeck, Richard E., *The Old Testament Law for the Life of the Church: Reading the Torah in Light of Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2022.

Baker, David. L. *The Decalogue: Living as God's People*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2017.

DeYoung, Kevin. *The Ten Commandments: What They Mean, Why They Matter, Why We Should Obey Them?* Wheaton: Crossway, 2018.

Gane, Roy E. *Old Testament Law for Christians: Original Context and Enduring Application*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.

Hays, J. Daniel, "Applying the Old Testament Law Today," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 158 (2001): 21-35. Full text of article available online at:

[BiblicalStudies.org.uk: Applying the Old Testament Law Today by J. Daniel Hays](http://BiblicalStudies.org.uk: Applying the Old Testament Law Today by J. Daniel Hays)