

Lay Down The Law

Intro

- Walter Martin "There are two ways to get to Heaven..."
- Coming up to the law, the 10 suggestions, er, commandments.
- Before we get to them we need to talk about a few things.
 - Why did God give the law? What was its purpose? Why Israel?
 - What does the law mean for us today? How does it apply to Christians? Does it apply to Christians?
 - What is Israel? What is the church?

Then and there. Immediate context.

- Israel was and is God's chosen people. **Exodus 19:5-6**. Chosen to do and be what?
 - To possess the land promised to their ancestors.
 - To represent God's love, light, power, and authority in the world.
 - To be the thing through which God would draw people to Himself.
 - To be the thing through which he would send the messiah.
- The law, civil and ceremonial, would set them apart from the rest of the nations of the world.
 - Not a copy and paste by Moses from the Egyptian system in either way.
 - Different set of morals, different set of values from the nations around them.
 - The law was not given to save them, to provide a means for them to achieve their own righteousness before God. Rather, it was to show them their need for the Lord, to drive them to Him.

Here and now. What does it mean today?

- Israel and the church.
 - The church is not a fulfillment of Israel. It isn't Israel 2.0.
 - The church is comprised of those who have accepted Jesus as the promised messiah, be they Israelites or not. **Jew first, then Gentiles**. Jesus and Paul. **Jesus had to send Peter a vision to even get the gospel to the Gentiles**.
 - The church as an entity was a mystery, a thing hidden until now. **Ephesians 3:1-7**.
 - Like Israel, the church is not something we do, it's something we are.
 - We are all of one blood, one family. Born into it.
 - We are called out of the world. Church, ecclesia, means a called out assembly, in some cases with special rights, like a voting body.
 - We are the body of Jesus and are to function interdependently. We should be living together in community. Acts, living Jesus together, praying, etc.
 - We are all in Christ. The thing that unites us, the thing that identifies us, is Jesus. No class or cliques.
 - They may be similar in purpose, but they are different because God has made promises to Israel that He has not made to the church, promises yet to be fulfilled. Read **Romans 9-11** for more. **The Lord is not done with Israel**.
- The point of the law. **Galatians 3:26 - 4:7**. Jimminy Cricket. Same initials!

- We are free from the law, not because it is invalid or irrelevant, but because it's requirements were met through Jesus.
 - Matthew 5:17-20
 - Romans 3:21-31
 - Romans 7:1-6 Actually all of Romans 2-7
 - Galatians 2:19-21
 - Acts 15:25-29
- The law still gives us a look into the heart and mind of God, a description of God's best for us.
 - The letter of the law vs the Spirit of the law.
 - Accused of picking and choosing parts to obey/enforce while ignoring more odd or obscure parts. They do the same with things like murder and stealing.
 - Shouldn't do these things not because the God's law says so, but because it would make God sad. It would damage relationship. Legalism vs holiness.
 - Homosexuality. John Stewart on CNN. Sin is sin is sin. Mark Driscoll quoting Brian McClaren. "How would it make God feel?" Great question to ask yourself, ask God, when you are going to do something.

What does the Lord want from us?

- Greatest commandment. Matthew 22:35-40
- Worship Him in Spirit and truth. John 4:23-24
- Love one another. John 13:34-35
- Obey out of love, not fear. 1 John 2:1-6
- Reprise opening quote. Another quote, "Give them Jesus..." The world gets them confused.
- Choose Jesus. Choose grace. Live Jesus. Live grace.