

The Object of the Law

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Leviticus 19:2 Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

- I. The work of God concerning man is to produce a certain type of spiritual and moral character.
 - A. This is what defines holiness.
 - B. The word is interpreted here to essentially mean a spiritual and moral likeness to God.

“Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.”

- C. The law basically sets forth the character of those who have made God their refuge.
- D. The law marks the difference between the morals and character of the true children of God and the ungodly world around them.
- E. God choose Him out a people and called them by his name.
- F. He made them a nation and gave them laws to govern their nation and their individual lives.
- G. God obviously intends for his people to be known by their moral and spiritual character, which is patterned after God’s character.
- H. God created man in his own image and likeness, but sin marred that image.
 - 1. The object of the law, and of the Gospel, is to bring man back into God’s likeness.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- II. So if the law was meant to produce a change in character and morals, then the Gospel should do the same and much more.
 - A. The idea that a person can be saved and on their way to heaven while continuing to live a life of sin, low morals, and have no spiritual knowledge or discernment, is absurd and very much untrue.
 - B. The law laid the down the basic order for things concerning holiness, which included instructions, commands, and prohibitions concerning:
 - 1. Public worship
 - 2. Civil laws
 - 3. Private behavior and morals
 - C. True Christianity is a further development and revelation of God’s law and his plan for man to make him holy, because God is holy.

1. It is not a disconnect from all that God had done for the previous 4000 years in his plan to redeem man from his sin.
 2. It is not a new religion that threw away all the old and started from scratch again.
 3. It is the final structure on this earth for the redeemed of mankind to be made holy before God reaps the earth and Jesus comes for his bride.
- D. So it is absolutely wrong to think of salvation as the watered-down, powerless, anemic thing that is presented by the apostate churches in this generation.
- E. If the law set God's people apart, how much more should the Gospel?

Hebrews 9:13-14 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

2 Corinthians 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

2 Corinthians 3:11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

- F. There is just no way that a person can reject the precepts of the law of God and the order God set forth there and at the same time be a new creature in Christ.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

III. Do not be deceived in this evil day where lies and hypocrisy abound.

- A. A person who has truly come to know Christ as their Savior from sin will find their place in a church somewhere with God's people – they will not be nomads and rebels who worship their own way.
- B. A person who has truly been born again by the Spirit of God will treat others with respect and love – not hatred, arrogance, disdain, or apathy.
- C. A person who is truly a child of God will live a morally pure life in private, as well as public – they will not be spiritual at church and perverted at home.
- D. God's people are holy – that is the whole object of God's law, and the Gospel.
- E. God never had in mind simply taking us all to heaven with Him someday.
 1. He has always had as his purpose to make sinful men holy, defiled men clean, and carnal men spiritual.
 2. This is life – the opposite of these things is death.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- F. Any form or flavor of Christianity that does not believe in holiness is not of God.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

- G. Neither is any kind of Christianity that makes excuse for, tolerates, or misrepresents sin.