



Defending Your Faith

Expository Apologetics

“Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.”

PROVIDENCE REFORMED

BAPTIST CHURCH



Lesson 8 – God’s Law

- For the course of this study, we will be referencing “Expository Apologetics: Answering Objections with the Power of the Word” by Voddie Baucham.
- Chapters 6 & 7: The Ten Commandments



Lesson 8 – God’s Law

- In these next lessons we will be looking the Law of God and how it is used in an expository apologetic encounter.
- We must keep in mind that “whatever we do must be rooted in the power, simplicity, and authority of Scripture” (pg. 105). We are using an outside authority while those who question the Bible rely on their own reasoning.
- It also helps if our use of the Law is done in a way that is easy to remember, so that it flows in normal, everyday conversation. We want discussion, not debate!
- See this article on the difference between discipleship and debate - <https://timeintheword.org/2005/09/23/the-difference-between-discipleship-and-debate/>



Lesson 8 – God’s Law

- In these discussions we are not “scolding people who are inferior to us; we are helping people who are standing exactly where we once stood” (pg. 106).
- We will start with the Ten Commandments as a summary of God’s Law, and we will look at how Jesus defined God’s Law even more simply.
- We understand that there are laws that govern our relationship with God and laws that pertain to our relationships with other people. So there is a vertical and a horizontal aspect to the commandments.



Lesson 8 – God's Law

- A simple summary of the Ten Commandments is listed here:
- (Vertical)
 1. Have no other gods.
 2. Have no idols.
 3. Do not profane the Lord's name.
 4. Remember the Sabbath.



Lesson 8 – God's Law

- A simple summary of the Ten Commandments is listed here:
- (Horizontal)
 5. Honor your father and mother.
 6. Do not murder.
 7. Do not commit adultery.
 8. Do not steal.
 9. Do not bear false witness.
 10. Do not covet.



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- Jesus sums the law up this way:
- Matthew 22:35 And one of them, a scholar of the Law, asked Him a question, testing Him, 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 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.’ 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”



Lesson 8 – God’s Law

- The first four commandments apply to loving the Lord with all that we are.
- Obedience to the Law of God is the same thing as loving God!
- 1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
- Remember, Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).



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- The last six commandments relate to loving our neighbor.
- Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For this, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does not work evil against a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law.



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- The Law calls us to righteousness and proves we have none outside of Christ.
- Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse, for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to do them.” 11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” 12 However, the Law is not of faith; rather, “He who does them shall live by them.” 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”— 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.



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- Galatians 3:21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed be by law. 22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were held in custody under the Law, being shut up for the coming faith to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor unto Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.



Lesson 8 – God’s Law

- Some have taken this to a degree that the Law does not apply to us as Christians now that we have been saved by faith. Others ask why we keep some of the commandments but not all of them.
- Is it true that now the New Testament teaches that we are not under the law but under grace? (Romans 6:14).
- Before we get into the basics of the Ten Commandments one by one, we must first understand the “threefold division of the law” and what the uses of the law are for us as disciples of Jesus Christ.



Lesson 8 – God's Law

- “There is not just one type of law in the Old Testament; there are three” (pg. 130).
- We today are at a disadvantage because for decades it has been taught in evangelical churches that the Old Testament does not apply to us in the New Testament church. The perpetuity of God's moral law has been rejected, or avoided.
- The church defines sin in terms of pragmatism – what works and what doesn't work. Instead, we need to understand that without the Law of God, there is no way to define what sin is.



Lesson 8 – God’s Law

- We also need to be reminded that while we are not under the law as a means of salvation, we must use the law lawfully (1 Timothy 1:8).
- The law is useful and even necessary in our daily lives. Part of the Great Commission is to make disciples by “teaching them to keep all that I commanded you.” This does not refer merely to what Jesus says in the New Testament. “All Scripture is God breathed and profitable” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- Jesus is God in the Old and New Testament. That means an Old Testament command does not have to be repeated or stated in the New Testament in order to be “all that I commanded you.”



Lesson 8 – God's Law

- Well if the Old Covenant is gone, does that mean we don't have to keep those Ten Commandments? Are they no longer in force? Have they passed away?
- If the law is based on Who God is, does God ever change? No. And here is what we have to understand about the law – the law has symbols and standards. The Old Covenant was full of symbols and standards.



Lesson 8 – God’s Law

- What did the symbols point to? What did these shadows find as their substance? Christ. They show us how He is the spotless Lamb of God, how He lived a perfect life of obedience, how He is going to redeem His people.
- These symbols were carried out in the Old Covenant in day to day life through things like the cleanliness and dietary laws. Eat this; don’t eat this. This is clean; this is unclean.
- These symbols pointed to our need to be cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ. In the New Covenant we see that Christ fulfills these symbols. But what about the standards?



Lesson 8 – God’s Law

- The Old Covenant is full of laws that give us standards for living that are based on the character of God. They are the same standards that are behind the laws that Jesus gave us.
- Jesus gave us commands. He even said, “If you love Me, keep My commands.” Do this; don’t do this. He gave us laws to obey.
- What are the standards behind the law? What is the reason that the laws are there? For example, why did God say, “Don’t bear false witness?” Because Jesus said, “I am the truth.” The Word of God is true. God is so truthful that it is impossible for Him to lie. To lie then is to act contrary to Who God is.



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- Is that law reinforced in the New Testament? Certainly. We are told not to lie to one another. Jesus said it, Paul wrote it, it is in several of the epistles. “Let your yes be yes and your no, no.” “Speak the truth to one another.”
- So the reason behind the law is what we need to look for. We don’t need to ask if a law is repeated in the New Testament. We need to ask of any law, “What does this law tell us about Who God is?”
- To act contrary to that law is to violate the character of God. The law reveals to us Who God is and what He expects of us.



Lesson 8 – God's Law

- When we say we are under grace and not under the law and when we affirm that the Old Covenant is gone, we understand that in the New Covenant the conditions have been met and fulfilled and we have been given grace. Grace shows us that the law is about more than outward behavior. The law is useful to point us to Christ, to reveal the character of God, and to teach us how to live in a manner that is pleasing to Him. The law teaches us how to love Jesus and each other.



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- That brings us to the three types of law.
- The first and most significant kind of law is referred to as the “moral law.” These type of law are binding on all people for all time. They reflect the character and nature of God most clearly.
- The Second London Confession states, “The moral law ever binds to obedience everyone, justified people as well as others, and not only out of regard for the matter contained in it, but also out of respect for the authority of God the Creator, Who gave the law. Nor does Christ in the Gospel dissolve this law in any way, but He considerably strengthens our obligation to obey it.” (pg. 131).



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- The moral law “reveals the demands of God upon all people, not just those in ancient Israel” (pg. 131).
- These laws have been the basis upon which God judges mankind from the beginning. This applies to Christians and non-Christians alike.
- The one standard of righteousness is the very nature and being of God, revealed to us in the Person of Jesus Christ. And Jesus takes us deeper into the law than just outward observance. He tells us it is a matter of the heart motives.



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- We will look more closely at where we find the moral law in our next lesson.
- The second type of law is the ceremonial law. “These laws were given specifically to Israel for the express purpose of showing them what was holy in terms of worship” (pg. 137).
- Again, from the Second London Confession, “God was pleased do give the people of Israel ceremonial laws containing several typical ordinances. These ordinances were partly about their worship, and in them Christ was prefigured along with His attributes and qualities, His actions, His sufferings and His benefits. These ordinances also gave instructions about different moral duties. All of these ceremonial laws were appointed only until the time of reformation, when Jesus Christ the true Messiah and the only lawgiver, Who was furnished with power from the Father for this end, cancelled them and took them away.



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- These ceremonial laws taught Israel how to worship and how not to worship God. This is especially true in the commandments not to participate in pagan practices.
- These laws are an application of the moral law so while not binding on anyone today, they do demonstrate the importance of holiness and acceptable worship. (See Rom. 12:1; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 12:28; 1 Peter 2:5).



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- The third type of law is the civil or judicial law of Israel. These laws governed everyday life within the nation of Israel.
- The Second London Confession states, “To the people of Israel He also gave sundry judicial laws which expired when they ceased to be a nation. These are not binding on anyone now by virtue of their being part of the laws of that nation, but their general equity continue to be applicable in modern times.”
- Just as there are some laws in England that are different than laws in the United States (like driving for example), it is impossible to follow both laws at the same time. They have application within a specific nation.



Lesson 8 – God's Law

- At times it is not clear which type of law we are talking about. Next week we will look more closely at where we find clear examples of each of these types of law and how they all can be applied to expository apologetics.