

The Good, the Bad, and the Law

1 Timothy 1:8-11 - Adam Bowers

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the strangest law you have ever heard of? Here are a few of my favorites:
 - a. In Milan, Italy, it is illegal for citizens to frown in public unless at a funeral or visiting someone in the hospital.
 - b. In Singapore, it is illegal to sell or even chew gum.
 - c. In Mexico, it is illegal for bicyclists to lift their feet off the pedals while riding.
 - d. In New Zealand, you cannot fly in a hot air balloon with a rooster.

2. How do you feel about following these Old Covenant laws?
 - a. Men must not shave the hair off the sides of their head — Lev. 19:27
 - b. Do not tattoo the skin — Lev. 19:28
 - c. Do not walk outside the city boundary on Shabbat — Ex. 16:29
 - d. Do not eat or drink on Yom Kippur — Lev. 23:29
 - e. Do not wear cloth made with two kinds of fabric — Deut. 22:11
 - f. Do not eat pork — Lev. 11:7
 - g. Do not eat shrimp, lobster, clams, oysters, scallops, crabs, or any seafood that doesn't have fins and scales — Lev. 11:11

3. While we cannot know for certain, why do you think some of these laws that seem strange to us today were given to the nation of Israel?

4. Which of these do you see as a bigger concern and why?
 - a. People who claim that following Old Covenant laws are essential for salvation
 - b. People who claim that following Old Covenant laws are not essential but expected by God for all believers
 - c. People who criticize Christianity for following some biblical commands but not all of them

5. Read 1 Timothy 1:8-11

6. Read Galatians 3:2, 11, 23-25

7. How should followers of Jesus look at the Law of Moses? Is it completely useless to us today? Are believers expected to follow some or any of this law?

8. Paul's point in 1 Timothy 1 and Galatians 1, 3, and 5 was that the law of Christ, God's law written on our hearts, will guide us to obeying God's moral law better than the Law of Moses ever could. How have you experienced God's law written on your heart and guiding you in life?