

“Surely You Can’t Be Serious”

Exodus 21:1-23:19

Rules and More Rules. . .

- The Ten Commandments are **timeless** laws.
- The Book of the Covenant is **time-bound** law.
 - Instruction on worship (20:22-26; 23:10-19)
 - Instruction on slaves (21:1-11)
 - Instruction on behavior (21:12-36; 22:16-20)
 - Instruction on restitution (22:1-15)
 - Instruction on social justice (22:21-23:9)

Wisdom Gained from These Rules. . .

- True religion is a way of life because God’s law **applies** in the ordinariness of life.
- In our ordinary life we must seek to **reflect** the God who redeemed us.
 - We are **compassionate** because He is.
 - We are **just** because He is.
- We can **unearth** timeless principles couched in the time-bound laws.

Viewing These Rules in the Context of Grace. . .

- God’s rules are given to a people he has already **redeemed**.
- God’s rules are a **gift** from God.
 - The law is **good**: It teaches **how** to love God and our neighbor.
 - The law is **weak**: It cannot **empower** us love God and our neighbor.
- God’s rules are **fulfilled** by Jesus.

Relating to These Rules as a Christian. . .

- **Reject** the law as the way to have a relationship with God.
- **Replace** the law with Christ as the way to have a relationship with God.
- **Repurpose** the law in your relationship with God.
 - The law points us to **Jesus**.
 - The law shows me how to **live**.
- Summary: The law does not help me **earn** God’s love it teaches me how to **express** my love to God.