

## **Gospel: The Goal of the Law**

### **God's Law is *Evangelistic* in Nature (Dt.4:5-8)**

#### **I. The Law appeals to the Pursuit of Relationship and Intimacy**

- The Law begins with God's Grace and God's Actions.
- Because Relationship and Love are foundational to the Law, others will be attracted to the God of Israel when they see the  *motive, attitude, and result* of Obedience to God's Law.
- The Law was not an end in itself. It stood out as something unique among the ancient cultures. God was different. His people were different. These differences invited questions and opportunities to introduce others to the God of Israel.

#### **II. The Law appeals to the Pursuit of Justice, Wisdom, and Truth**

- Our culture tends to be very pragmatic. The concept of universal moral standards and absolute truth have been jettisoned. Everything is seen as morally relative to culture and context: if it works use it, if not, get rid of it. This is not consistent with a Biblical view.
- The Law demonstrates what God declares to be a Universal standard of moral truth.
- “Do not Murder” : A society cannot be built around people killing each other. According to God, murder is to be punished, not encouraged or celebrated.
- “Do not Steal”: A society cannot be based upon theft and chaos. Order is to be maintained and people are to work *with* each other, not *against* one another.
- “Do not give False Testimony”: A society must be built upon honesty and truth if it is to be successful. This is the standard and the basis for all human interaction. When a society breaks away from truth, those seeds of mistrust will grow into chaos and bring about destruction. A society cannot survive if there is no principle of honesty, trust, faith in others.
- Isn't God's law rather harsh at times? (Eye for Eye)  
When compared to other ancient law codes, we can see that God's system of correction and punishment was actually a reflection of his foundational principle of Love. God values human life without making distinctions based on Social Status.
- Not only does God restrict unjust punishments, but also he enforces Justice equally for all people. Everyone is equal in God's eyes. They are all made in his image and worthy of equal Justice.

**Conclusion:**

-- The values that God sets forth are the basis for a good, successful society.

-- Reduced to a single expression, the ethical framework is best summed up in Love and non-selfishness. (Lev.19:15; Duet.6-11; Jesus)

-- The Law is an outworking of Love towards God and one another.

\*\*\* Within the outworking of the commandments, the behavioral model for Israel is based in God's actions. God is ethical by his own standards. God asks Israel to live out God's character on earth. The same concept is found in the NT. Eph.4:32-5:2.

\*\*\* When we live according to the moral principles which God has given to us, we are witnesses to God's objective, moral truths. We are often living by standards which are counter-cultural in our society. Our actions will be noticed and will create a curiosity by those who see how we behave in certain situations. Living according to God's Principles will create opportunities for us to share the Gospel with others!

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