

CLASSIFICATION OF THE LAWS OF MOSES

Component And Purpose	Examples	Present Status For Christians
<p>Civil: Pragmatic aspects of civil order, meant to preserve the nation until Messiah came.</p>	<p>National laws including prohibitions against witchcraft & idolatry (considered treason in a theocracy), inheritance laws, penal laws (murder, theft, etc.), health laws (sanitary codes).</p>	<p>The Jewish theocracy has been temporarily replaced by national governments during the Church Age (Matt. 22:21; Rom 13:1-7).</p>
<p>Ceremonial: Israel's prescribed pattern of rituals for approaching God, meant to prepare and educate the nation in preparation for Messiah's saving work. Specifically taught about substitutionary atonement and the seriousness of sin. Also meant to give Israel a distinct culture and national identity.</p>	<p>Sacrificial system (blood sacrifices), religious feasts and the Sabbath, the ritual system regarding ceremonial purity, circumcision, some health and dietary laws.</p>	<p>These laws have been fulfilled by Christ's work on the cross (Heb. 8; Col. 2:16), and the sacrifice for sins expressly forbidden (Heb. 10).</p> <p>Ritualism is now set aside for a personal relationship with God (Heb. 7:18,19; Gal. 4:1-11).</p> <p>Dietary and "calendar" observance are no longer required (Rom 14:1-5).</p> <p>Note: There has been a great shift in the way we relate to the law in this area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) From hundreds of rituals to two; 2) From great detail on how to observe rituals to virtually no details; 3) From a foreshadowing role to commemorative role. <p>Jesus hinted at this change in Jn. 4:23,24.</p>
<p>Moral: A description of God's character and ethical will for humanity, meant to give humanity an absolute morality. Also serves to expose sinfulness and the need for God's grace. These laws provide the basis for much of the Old Testament civil law (sexual laws, murder, theft, etc.).</p>	<p>Most of the Ten Commandments, including both behaviors (murder, theft, adultery) and internal attitudes (do not covet).</p> <p>The New Testament reiterates these laws.</p>	<p>Christ fulfills its requirements for God's acceptance (Gal. 2:16).</p> <p>The Holy Spirit fulfills it in our lives as we walk with him (Rom 8:4).</p> <p>The New Testament moral imperatives thus provide a picture of the transformation that God is willing and able to accomplish in our lives.</p>