

CHOPPING OFF HANDS

TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT FAITH AND THE BIBLE

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KEY QUESTIONS

Why do we obey some of the Bible's commands and not others?

What about all the bizarre commands in the Old Testament?

Who decided which of these we still apply today and is it arbitrary?



3 TYPES OF LAW IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

MORAL LAW

Good things to do all the time; (i.e., 10 Commandments;)

POLITICAL LAW

Israel wasn't just "God's Church." It was also a nation state; which required further applications of the moral law for property disputes, waste management, etc. These laws ONLY applied as long as Israel was a nation state. Many of them were already considered obsolete by the time of Christ.

CEREMONIAL LAW

These were temporary rituals for relating to God (like sacrifices, offerings and festivals). They were the parts of the Law that were fulfilled & thus nullified in the New Testament. (see *J.I.Packer's Concise Theology*)



2 DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD "RIGHTEOUS"

1. THE LEGALISTIC DEFINITION

"I live rightly. Therefore, God calls me 'righteous.'"

Galatians 3:1-3

2. THE GRACE-DRIVEN DEFINITION

"God declares me 'righteous.' Therefore, I live rightly."

Ephesians 2:8-9; Matthew 13:44

**RIGHTEOUSNESS ISN'T THE REWARD OF RIGHT LIVING;
IT'S THE GIFT THAT RESULTS IN RIGHT LIVING!**

**CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A PROCESS IN WHICH WE EARN LOVE;
IT'S A PROCESS IN WHICH WE REFLECT LOVE.**

“We know that the Law is good IF one uses it correctly [in a non-legalistic way].”

1 Timothy 1:8



**“IF GOD CALLS ME RIGHTEOUS, REGARDLESS OF
MY BEHAVIOR, THEN WHY DOES SIN EVEN MATTER?”**

SIN EXPOSES US TO SOWING AND REAPING

God, in his mercy, has created built-in consequences for every sin.

Galatians 6:7-8

SIN CREATES A DESIRE TO PULL AWAY FROM GOD

Sin doesn't affect God's love for you; only **your** love for **Him**.

Genesis 3:10; Hebrews 3:12, 10:26

SIN FORFEITS OUR ETERNAL REWARDS

“...those who lead many to righteousness [will shine] like the stars forever and ever.”

Our beliefs determine where we spend eternity; our behaviors determine how.

Revelations 2:26; Daniel 12:3

SIN UNDERMINES OUR EARTHLY IMPACT & JOY

God's love for you won't change; but, without character and integrity, he can't give you more influence and opportunity without it destroying you.

Ecclesiastes 2:26