

BIBLE 101 — Week 11

From Confusing Rules to Timeless Wisdom

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:17 · Galatians 3:24–25 · Deuteronomy 22:8

KEY VOCABULARY — scan this before you watch

Term	What It Means
Mosaic Covenant	The specific binding legal _____ between God and the nation of Israel — an all-or-nothing deal
Fulfill (plēroō)	More than just "obey" — means to bring something to its intended _____, its completion
Principalism	A method that asks not "does this rule apply?" but "what _____ principle does this rule teach?"
Torah	The first five books of the Bible, containing over _____ individual laws

I. THE PROBLEM: WHICH LAWS STILL APPLY?

One minute the OT talks about loving your _____, and the next it's about not wearing a shirt made of two different fabrics.

The Torah contains over 600 individual laws covering everything from _____ and justice to property and family life.

The real question: Not if they matter, but _____ they matter for us right here, right now.

II. THE COMMON FRAMEWORK (AND ITS LIMITS)

CATEGORY	WHAT IT COVERS	EXAMPLE
Moral Laws	Reflect God's _____ character	"Do not murder"
Civil Laws	The legal _____ for the nation of Israel	Property and justice regulations
Ceremonial Laws	All about worship, the _____, and sacrifices	Sacrificial system and purity rituals

The catch: The Bible itself never gives us these three neat little _____.

- Many laws blend categories together — the _____ law is moral, civil, and ceremonial all at once
- A good starting tool, but definitely not the _____ answer

The crucial point: The law was given as a single _____ package — the Mosaic covenant. You couldn't pick and choose.

III. WHAT DID JESUS DO WITH THE LAW?

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

— Matthew 5:17 (ESV)

The key word: **fulfill** (Greek: plēroō) — means much more than just “_____.”
It means bringing something to its intended _____, its completion.

The analogy:

- To _____ = tearing down a building halfway through construction
- To _____ = finishing the construction perfectly, accomplishing what the blueprints were designed for

Jesus didn’t come to tear down the OT story — He came to be the _____ of that story.

The new covenant:

Paul explains the OT law acted like a _____ for humanity — it showed us our sin and pointed out our desperate need for a savior (Galatians 3:24–25).

Now that Christ has come, we’re no longer under that guardian. The terms of our _____ with God have fundamentally changed.

II PAUSE & REFLECT

In your own words, what’s the difference between Jesus abolishing the law and fulfilling it? Why does that distinction matter for how we read the Old Testament today?

IV. PRINCIPALISM: A BETTER WAY TO READ THE LAW

Instead of asking “Does this rule still _____ to me?” ask a better question:

“What is the timeless principle this ancient rule is trying to _____?”

This shifts our focus from the _____ of the law to the heart and wisdom behind it.

The three-step process:

- **Step 1:** What did this law mean to the _____ people who heard it?
- **Step 2:** How does this specific rule connect to a bigger, broader _____ (like one of the Ten Commandments)?
- **Step 3:** What is the _____ truth we can apply to our own lives in our own context?

V. PUTTING IT TO WORK: THE ROOFTOP PARAPET

“When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring the guilt of blood upon your house, if anyone should fall from it.”

— Deuteronomy 22:8 (ESV)

In ancient Israel, houses had _____ roofs that people used as living space — like a patio.

STEP	THE QUESTION	THE ANSWER
Step 1	What's the specific law?	Build a _____ around your rooftop
Step 2	What broader command does it connect to?	"You shall not _____" — preventing accidental death
Step 3	What's the timeless principle?	We have a responsibility to _____ human life — every person is made in God's image
Step 4	How do we apply it today?	Building codes, workplace _____, car seats for kids

The specific rule may not apply, but the _____ behind it is absolutely timeless.

VI. THE BIG SHIFT

We move away from cherry-picking which rules to follow and start looking for the timeless _____ underneath them all.

The law is no longer a binary choice between obeying or _____ — it's an opportunity to understand and apply wisdom.

It's no longer just a list of rules — it's a revelation of God's _____: His justice, mercy, and love.

The bottom line: The Old Testament becomes an incredibly rich source of wisdom that shows us God's timeless design for how humans can truly _____.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why is the three-category framework (moral, civil, ceremonial) helpful as a starting point but not the final answer? What's an example of a law that doesn't fit neatly into one box?

2. Pick an Old Testament law that seems strange or irrelevant. Walk it through the principalism steps: What did it mean originally? What broader command does it connect to? What timeless principle can you draw out?

3. How does seeing the law as 'a revelation of God's character' rather than 'a list of rules to obey or ignore' change your attitude toward the Old Testament?
