

Immerse Day 76 :: May 17

Do we have to obey the Old Testament laws? We've discussed this before, but I think it is a question that bears repeating. If so, we have to ask if you have 4 tassels on your cloak you wear, or if you have clothes with both wool and linen. These are Old Testament laws and must be obeyed or we are sinning against God.

Ok, so maybe we don't have to obey the Old Testament after all. I mean, I don't plan to bear the children of my deceased brother through my sister-in-law, which is not only an Old Testament law but is also the primary plot of the story of Tamar in Gen. 38. But if I don't have to follow the Old Testament law, then what of the Ten Commandments? Can I kill, or steal, or commit adultery? Or am I bound to keep a sabbath and care for my elderly parents when they cannot care for themselves?

This is one of the harder questions in Christian theology, and has been answered in numerous different ways. Some have said that we don't have to follow the OT because the worthwhile laws are restated in the NT, so following the NT covers all the bases. Others have said that it is the civic laws we can ignore but we still have to follow the religious laws. And still others have said that we are bound by the OT laws, but the guilt we incur for not following them was taken care of by Jesus on the cross. None are satisfactory.

The only answer I've come up with that seems satisfactory is... "I don't know." I simply don't know which if any of the OT laws God expects us to obey. To use "common sense" ignores the reality that sometimes God asks us to do things for His reasons rather than due to our reason. So I don't know. I live my life using the wisdom and knowledge that God has given me, seeking His will in all things, and doing my best. This is the best answer I can come up with.

But I may be wrong.

Thank God for grace.