

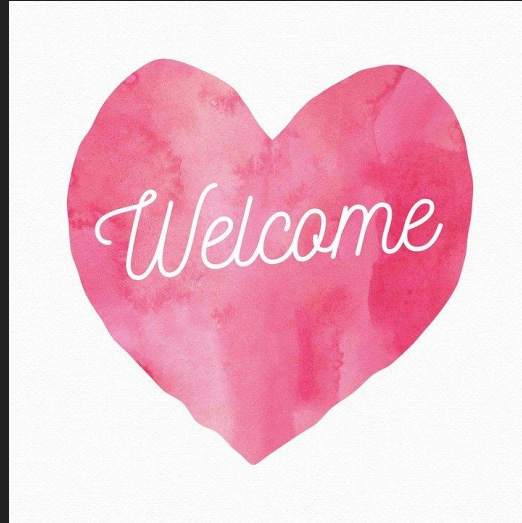
Bible Basics

October 20, 2020

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Zoom Host: Stephanie Broussard

Introduction



We live with laws every day....



We live with laws every day....



We live with laws every day....



OFFICE RULES

IF it buzzes..... IGNORE IT

IF it rings.....PUT IT ON HOLD

IF it's stuck.. CALL THE REPAIRMAN

IF it's a friend.....GO TO LUNCH

IF it's a boss..... ACT BUSY

IF it speaks.....TAKE NOTES

IF it's handwritten.....TYPE IT

IF it's typed.....COPY IT

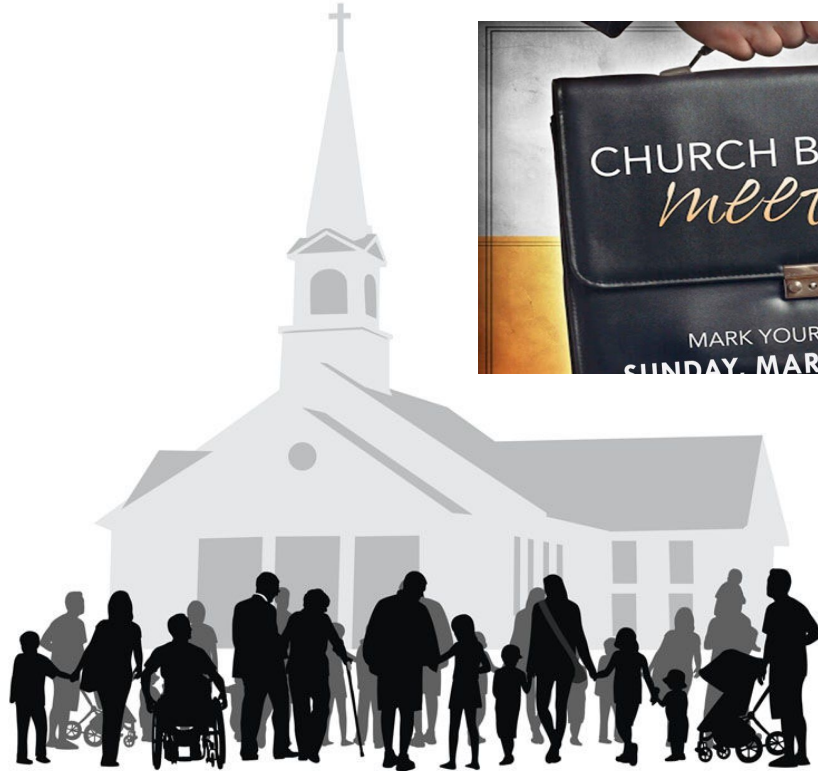
IF it's copy.....FILE IT

IF it's friday....SAVE IT FOR MONDAY

We live with laws every day....



We live with laws every day....



How are all these laws enforced?



Video - Bible Project: Laws



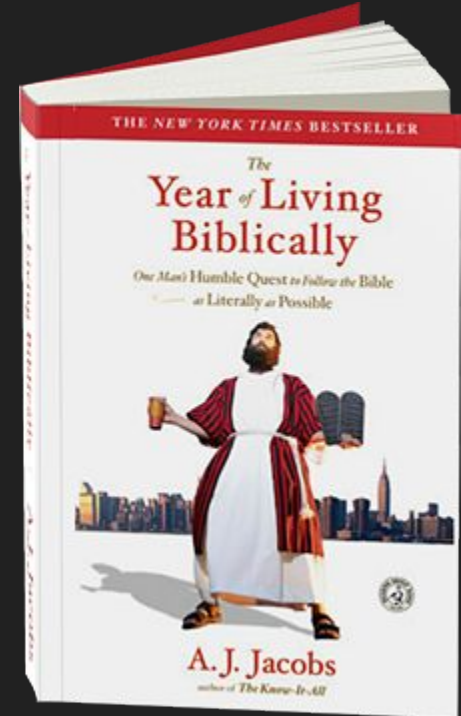
Laws in the Bible are NOT a behavioral manual

The Year of Living Biblically is about my quest to live the ultimate biblical life. To follow every single rule in the Bible as literally as possible. I obey the famous ones:

- The Ten Commandments
- Love thy neighbor
- Be fruitful and multiply

But also, the hundreds of oft-ignored ones.

- Do not wear clothes of mixed fibers.
- Do not shave your beard
- Stone adulterers



Marcus Borg (Biblical scholar):

Monarchical understanding of the Bible

(Bible is like a king ruling over us. It has all the answers for us and commands and directs our lives.)

VS.

Dialogical understanding of the Bible

(Bible is like a conversation partner. It does not “rule” over us like a king but it is something the Christian community has been, and should remain, in conversation with throughout time.)

Genesis 2:15-17 “First Divine Command”

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Invitation to trust God's divine wisdom.

Law reveals God's wisdom
AND
Reveal Israel's inability to be God's faithful partners

*God revealed the law not to reveal what we could do,
but rather to reveal what we should do
but on our own cannot do.*

-credit to Augustine

*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:8-9*

Ceremonial Laws

The book of Leviticus summons God's people of every generation to live lives that honor God, honor the worship of God, honor God's people, and honor the land/earth. Christians are called to honor God but not through the complex system of sacrifices described in leviticus. Why? Because of Jesus' self-sacrifice for the sins of the world (Rom.3:23-26, Heb. 10:8-10). He has replaced the high priest as our representative before God (Heb. 4:14-16).

- *Lutheran Study Bible*

Justice

Leviticus 19:18 *You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against **any of your people**, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.*

Leviticus 19:34 *The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love **the alien** as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.*

Video - Bible Project: Leviticus

Leviticus



Jesus

- came to fulfill the law (the faithful partner)

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. - MT 5:17

- lived by ideals of the law
- Taught how law could be fulfilled
(Great Commandment)
- helps people, by the Holy Spirit, to love God and neighbor

Jesus' Great Commandment

Matthew 22:35–40, Mark 12:28–34, and Luke 10:27a

Matthew 22:34-40 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

John 13:31-35

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Great Commandment cont'd...

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Leviticus 19:9-18

Ten Commandments

Luther's Catechism, explains God's Law as a call to do good as well as to avoid evil, encourage healthy relationships for the sake of others and the welfare of the community

- 1-3 our relationship with god
- 4-10 our relationship with each other
 - Honor parents
 - Don't steal, kill, commit adultery, slander, covet

For Luther, God's law establishes our responsibility toward our neighbor (what we should do) and, along with the gospel, establishes our identity in relation to God (who we are). What we should do is love our neighbor; who we are is sinners for whom Christ died and who, for Christ's sake, God declares righteous.

- David Lose, *Word & World*

Even though we have the indwelling Spirit, we also remain in the sinful world and must deal with the sinner within us. We are sinner and saint, sinful and justified at the same time. Even though we are forgiven sinners who claim the benefits of Christ's death on the cross, we do not necessarily exhibit a notable change in the moral quality of our lives.

- *Living the Faith: A Lutheran Perspective on Ethics* (ELCA, Division of Church & Society, 1999)

Church in Society

“As a society, our task is to accurately mirror God’s law of creation in the laws that we enact. Laws then should be just and fair. When they are not just or are not administered fairly, we have an obligation to change them or even resist them. (Every human is made in God’s image, worthy of dignity.)

- *Living the Faith: A Lutheran Perspective on Ethics* (ELCA, Division of Church & Society, 1999)

John Calvin, Protestant Reformer, thought that the power of the government should be used to create a Christian community and to enforce disciplines: gambling, drinking, singing, and dancing were prohibited....

Luther thought government should restrain evil and be just, but he did not call on government to create a genuine Christian Community.

Christians in the USA leading changes in laws?

Legalism

-making rules to cover every choice a person might have to make

Antinomianism - sees Law as the enemy of freedom, fails to see the necessary role of the Law in the Christian life

“A Christian is perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” - Luther (who fought a great spiritual struggle to be free from a faith that was defined by obedience to rules rather than reliance on the grace of God.)

"We love because he first loved us." – 1 John 4:19

"Society, of course, does not stay fixed. History is a story of change that affects the social order for good or bad.

Industrialization and the development of technology, for example, have profoundly affected the social order and raised many new ethical issues. Many societal problems today have been created by dramatic changes: for example, in the areas of family life, the status of women, the nature of work, weapons of warfare, conditions surrounding terminal illness, and the understanding of human rights.

The orders of creation are constantly evolving, which means the Christian must continue to ask, "what is God up to in the developments of our time?" This question requires great wisdom and discernment as we seek responsible answers to the issues we face."

Next Class: Tues, **November 3rd** (in 2 weeks) @7:00pm

SESSION 3

Prophets & Poetry in the Bible

Micah 6:8 “What does the Lord require of you?”