



READING RESPONSIBLY

Correctly Handling the Word of Truth

LESSON 05: LAW

Can I wear a polyester shirt?

I. Introduction

Read Leviticus 19:19. Dress scripturally before beginning this lesson.

→ [Read Leviticus 19:19](#)

"Keep my decrees.

"Do not mate different kinds of animals.

"Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed.

"Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.

II. Overview of Genre & Context: Law

→ [Read Exodus 32:9-10](#)

⁹"I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

→ [Read Leviticus 1:1-2](#)

¹The Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting. He said, ²"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: "When anyone among you brings an offering to the Lord, bring as your offering an animal from either the herd or the flock.

III. Big Issues

A. Apodictic vs. casuistic

1. Apodictic

→ [Read Leviticus 19:9-14](#)

⁹"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.

11 "Do not steal.

"Do not lie.

"Do not deceive one another.

12 "Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

13 "Do not defraud or rob your neighbor.

"Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.

14 "Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord.

2. Casuistic

→ Read Leviticus 5:2-6

2 "If anyone becomes aware that they are guilty—if they unwittingly touch anything ceremonially unclean (whether the carcass of an unclean animal, wild or domestic, or of any unclean creature that moves along the ground) and they are unaware that they have become unclean, but then they come to realize their guilt;³ or if they touch human uncleanness (anything that would make them unclean) even though they are unaware of it, but then they learn of it and realize their guilt;⁴ or if anyone thoughtlessly takes an oath to do anything, whether good or evil (in any matter one might carelessly swear about) even though they are unaware of it, but then they learn of it and realize their guilt—⁵ when anyone becomes aware that they are guilty in any of these matters, they must confess in what way they have sinned.⁶ As a penalty for the sin they have committed, they must bring to the Lord a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering^[a]; and the priest shall make atonement for them for their sin.

B. Categories

1. Civil Laws

- Penalties for Crimes

2. Ritual Laws

- How to worship
 - Setup/space
 - Priests
 - Sacrifices

3. Ethical Laws

- How to love your neighbor

IV. Specific Examples

→ Read Leviticus 19:28

"Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord.

→ Read Leviticus 19:27

"Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard.

→ Read Leviticus 18:22

"Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.

→ Read Leviticus 11:7-8

⁷ And the pig, though it has a divided hoof, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. ⁸ You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.

V. Reading Law Responsibly: Strategies/Encouragement

A. Remember the Context: Covenant

B. Know What Has Been Renewed

→ Read Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

→ Read Deuteronomy 6:5

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

→ Read Leviticus 19:18

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

C. Look for the Heart of God

→ Read Leviticus 19:9-18, 32-37

⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.

¹¹ "Do not steal.

"Do not lie.

"Do not deceive one another.

¹² "Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

¹³ "Do not defraud or rob your neighbor.

"Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.

¹⁴ "Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord.

¹⁵ "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

¹⁶ "Do not go about spreading slander among your people.

"Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the Lord.

¹⁷ "Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

¹⁸ "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

³² "Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.

33 "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

35 "Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. 36 Use honest scales and honest weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt.

37 "Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the Lord."

- Neighbors
- Hired workers
- Disabled (deaf, blind)
- Poor/rich favoritism
- Don't hate "in your heart."
- Respect elderly
- Treatment of foreigners
- Dishonest economic practices

VI. Next Lesson: History

Question: Read Joshua 10:40 and Judges 1:19-33. Did the Israelites completely defeat the Canaanites?