

The Law Today

There are multiple views on the relationship between Law and Gospel.

Lutheran

Stark distinction between Moses & Law and Christ & Gospel. Must first preach Law which condemns our sins under God's wrath, before preaching Gospel of grace and forgiveness in Christ.

Luther: God has only two public sermons: Law (Ten Commandments to Israel at Sinai; "do this, don't do that"; what we give God), Gospel (Day of Pentecost; what God has done and gives us).

Three uses of the Law: restrain evil, show humanity its evil, guide for Christians.

Reformed

Calvin, the Reformed standards, e.g. *Westminster Confession of Faith*, chap. 19, "Of the Law of God"

God's will is expressed in natural law, revealed in the order of creation and in the moral law. Given in creation ordinances: worship, family, work, social relations.

Covenant theology: two basic covenantal structures:

1. Covenant of works: God gave Adam his law.

2. Covenant of grace: two administrations: Law, Gospel, both affirming moral law as perfect rule of righteousness. The moral law is summarized in the Ten Commandments, on two tablets.

- Ceremonial law applied commandments 1-4
- Civil law applied 5-10

Both abrogated in Christ.

Moral law, i.e. Decalogue, still applies.

Same 3 uses of the law. Third Use of the Law is shorthand for obligation on Christians to keep Ten Commandments.

Dispensational

Theonomy

aka Reconstructionism

God's law = universal, moral demands.

Tutorship of Mosaic law ref. to ceremonial law (circumcision, priesthood, sacrifice, temple), which has been fulfilled.

Civil law still stands, albeit requiring re-contextualization.

Civil government should obey and enforce God's law, both the moral content and the civil law with its penal sanctions.

Christians should use all lawful means to work toward reconstruction of the legal, judicial and political framework of society.

New Covenant