

DEUTERONOMY 25
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES
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I. Introduction: Ephesians 4:1-5 Walk in Unity

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Titus 3:1-7

“Were once” Rom 11:30; Eph 2:3, 2:13, 5:8; Col 1:21; Tit 3:3; Heb 6:4; 1 Pet 2:10, 3:20
Colossians 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God
Ephesians 5:4 ...neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.
Romans 2:24 For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written.

The purpose of the law is clearly revealed in the Bible. Though Christians are not under the law, the law has its purpose.

Six Purposes of the law

1. A mirror reflecting God

The law is a mirror reflecting to us the perfect righteousness, holiness, and goodness of God.

Lev 19:2: Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them, you shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

Law reveals who God is and sheds light on the reality of an infinite gulf that separates God and man.

2. Knowledge of sin

The law is the knowledge of sin and our own shortcomings. It reveals what sin is and that we cannot be righteous by the law.

Rom 3:20: For by the law is the knowledge of sin.

3. Reveals to man who he is

Law reveals to man (both male and female) who and what he is.

Gal 3:19: Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

4. Restrains evil

The law restrains evil. Though it cannot change the heart of a person, the law can to some extent inhibit lawlessness by its threat of judgment.

5. Shadow of good things

It is a shadow of good things to come: a shadow reflecting or revealing the coming of Christ and the grace.

Heb 10:1: For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things...

Gal 3:24-26 Thus the law had become our guardian until Christ, so that we could be declared righteous by faith.

6. Guides us to good works

The law tells us what will please our heavenly father. 1 Tim 1:8.

DEUTERONOMY 25:1-19

II. Laws of Social Responsibility, Sundry Laws Vv. 1-4

A remarkable feature of Old Testament society was the protection of even the criminal. His guilt must first be determined by the evidence and in a court of law and then the appropriate punishment administered. Any infraction of the law punishable by flogging was not serious enough to warrant more than this limit of retribution. Paul, 2 Cor 11:24

III. Our God Cares for All Creatures V. 4

Even the lowest creatures on the "social" scale, the animals themselves, fell under the protection of the Lord and the covenant. Gen 1:28; 1 Cor 9:9-14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Lk 10:7

IV. Marriage Duty of the Surviving Brother Vv. 5-10

Levirate Marriage (a custom of the ancient Hebrews and other peoples by which a man may be obliged to marry his brother's widow): Naomi/Ruth, Book of Ruth; Judah/Tamar, Gen 38:8-11

V. Laws of Improper Intervention Vv. 11-12

Commentators are generally at a loss to account for the placement of the next case in its present juxtaposition. One thing is true in the case above and this procreation could be an issue.

VI. Laws of Weights and Measures Vv. 13-16

As always, dishonest dealings with one's fellow man are detestable to the Lord, so displeasing to Him that they would jeopardize long life in the land of promise. Pro 11:1, 16:11, 20:10, 23; Hos 12:7; Amos 8:5; Mic 6:11.

VII. Destroy the Amalekites, Law of Vv. 17-19

Ex 17:8-16; Num 14:39-45; 1 Sam 15:1-9; 1 Chr. 4:41-43

VIII. Conclusion: God is ready to clean us from all unrighteousness Psa. 51:1-4