

Are there different types of laws in the Old Covenant?

Among Christians, there are various views of the classification of the Laws and their applicability to today.

1. What do we look for to verify the legitimacy of separating out the laws?
 Mark **12:28-33** Deuteronomy **28:9-10**

Jesus specifically identified a basic idea behind two groups of commandments. The first commandment has as its focus the person of the Lord God with its specific identifying mark being commitment and love. The second commandment has as its focus the people around you with its specific identifying mark being “love”.

2. Do the 10 Commandments have a similar breakdown?
Exodus **20:2-6, 12-17, 7-11**

The original 10 commandments can likewise be separated into different groups. The first 2 commandments focus on the identity of God as supreme. The fifth through tenth commandments focus on an individuals relationship to one another. That leaves the third group of commandments, commandments three and four. While they both relate to God, they relate to Him not as an individual but to ways of serving Him. It would probably be best to understand those two commandments as related to identifying those laws that are used to indicate not a relationship but to God or to other people but to that which indicates a separate identity.

3. What classification to some of the other laws break down to?
 Numbers **30:2-8** – Interpersonal relationships and personal responsibility
 Leviticus **18:6-11** – Interpersonal relationships
 Leviticus **1:2-6** – Identity as God's chosen individuals
 Leviticus **25:8-14** – Interpersonal relationships
 Leviticus **25:2-6** – Identity as God's chosen individuals
 Leviticus **18:22-23** – Interpersonal relationships

As you look at the laws of God, identify what or who the focus of the law. This will help you to understand a part of the purpose of the specific law. Some laws are in effect in a way that identifies a necessary relationship with other people. Other laws are in effect to indicate or identify the individual as being God's chosen and thus obedient children.

4. How do some of the special identity related laws function under the New Testament?
 Hebrews **10:25** – Sabbath type assembly to be maintained
 Hebrews **7:23-28** – Offering is and by Christ
 2 Corinthians **6:14-18** – A life of unique separation and dedication to God and Christ

Some of the specific laws associated with one's special and unique identity have a function today but just in a different fashion. The laws still uniquely identify one as belonging to God.