

Old Testament vs. New Testament
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Religion being such a hot topic lately it might be appropriate to set some guidelines when it comes to quoting Biblical passages in their proper context. The “Old Testament” law of Moses wasn’t given to the then populace in general. It was only given to Israel. For instance, man wasn’t permitted to eat the flesh of animals until Noah left the ark (*Gen.9:3*). Nothing was said to Noah about not consuming “unclean” flesh. That was for Israel to consider later when the Israelites were chosen by God, separating them for the purpose of bringing His Son into the world. Part of their identification from the rest of the world consisted of what foods they were to eat, garments they were to wear, circumcision and a host of other Levitical laws that were to distinguish them from all others. Once Jesus came, died, resurrected and returned to the Father, the Old Covenant became null and void except “for our learning” (*Rom 15:4*).

It has to be understood that the law of Moses, including the ten commandments and Levitical laws, were only meant for Israel, then. Those outside the nation of Israel, the Gentiles, were not given such laws but when they did “by nature the things contained in the law” they were “a law unto themselves” (*Rom 2:14*) and were, in that way, blessed by God. Under the “New Covenant” Jesus gave a “new” law (*Jn 13:34*). His commandment to “love one another; as I have loved you” would cover the ten commandments and then some. If I love my neighbor I’m not going to steal from him, take his wife, lie about him, murder him or do anything that would harm him.

But the question has been asked on how we are to treat sin when it is an accepted practice by a minority in our society today. Since the Old Covenant with the Jews was nailed to Jesus’ cross (*Col 2:14*) and the chosen of God are now “spiritual” Israel (*Rom 2:28-29*) which consists of both Jew and Gentile Christians (*Gal 3:28*) then God’s chosen are to “earnestly contend for the faith” (*Jude 3*) which contains certain laws concerning our moral behavior. Any who would defer to the Old Covenant concerning subjects such as tattooing, forbidden foods etc. are not seeking truthful answers. Concerning foods for instance, Paul answered this question in 1 Tim 4:3-4 concluding that “every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused”. So the same has to be accepted when it comes to the certain “lifestyle” in question (*Rom 1:24-32*). That is, if we are really seeking the truth.

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