

Guarded by the Law

Funny laws

In Skamania county, WA: "The slaying of Bigfoot to be a felony and punishable by 5 years in prison."

In Utah, it is illegal to “cause a catastrophe.”

In Tennessee, you cannot hold public office if you “fight a duel, or knowingly be the bearer of a challenge to fight a duel, or send or accept a challenge for that purpose, or be an aider or abettor in fighting a duel.”

In New Mexico, a law existed until 2016 that prohibited “idiots” to vote.

In New Jersey, it is a third degree crime to wear a bulletproof vest if you are trying to commit murder.

Until 2015, nursing homes and senior centers in Minnesota were only allowed to have bingo two days a week.

And finally, in Kansas, it is illegal to put a scoop of ice cream on cherry pie.

The law as a guardian

What is a guardian?

What is the purpose of the law as a guardian? Look at vs. 24, “in order that.”

BIG IDEA: How did the law serve as a guardian?

Project and Protect

Other weird laws

Lev. 19:19 You shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor shall you wear a garment of cloth made of two kinds of material.

Lev. 19:27 You shall not round off the hair on your temples or mar the edges of your beard.

Lev. 19:9 When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner. I am the LORD your God.

Dt. 7:3-4 You shall not intermarry with them... for they would turn away your sons from following me.

Pointing to Christ

How do we stand out as Christians? How does God protect us?

Purify

Moral purity (Lev. 19:11-14)

“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.”

Ceremonial purity

The OT categories of “clean and unclean”

Contact with dead bodies, dietary laws, various bodily emissions, skin diseases, etc.

Pointing to Jesus

What can make me holy like God?

Prophecy

Sacrifices

Various sacrifices for worship, thanksgiving, sin, celebration, and peace with God

The Day of Atonement

Bull for Aaron, the sacrificial goat, and the scapegoat

Pointing to Jesus

Where are your sins? Will I die for my sins?

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. What are the ways the law served as a guardian that pointed forward to Christ and the Gospel?
2. What are the ways that Christ fulfills the law for us?
3. How are we made pure before God? How are we supposed to stand out for his glory?
4. Are you tempted to make up ways to protect yourself that add to God’s law? Why or why not?