

GOSPEL PEARLS

Do Old Testament prescriptions still apply today?

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10_03_2021



And Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5: 17-19)

The heart of the Divine Law is the love we show God (in the first three commandments) and our neighbour (in the other seven commandments). Since God Himself is Love, Jesus does not want to abolish the Law of Love. Obviously, the Old Testament's prescriptions are only valid if confirmed in the New Testament. Therefore, circumcision is no longer necessary and the prohibition of making images of God is no longer valid since He made Himself visible through His Son. In short, Jesus completes the old covenant with a new and everlasting one. As far as our daily lives are concerned, do we listen attentively to what Jesus tells us in the Gospel and strive to put it into practice or are we distracted by other interests?