

...your God

- As who can tell us what to do, who has authority over us
 - looking for parents, teachers, boss, etc
 - note how obeying someone doesn't make them our parent, teacher, boss...!
- Mostly people who can ask us to do things are those who already have some kind of relationship with us:
 - our parents
 - our teachers
 - etc!
- That relationship comes through the Atonement
 - these rules are in the context of the Atonement! (chapter 16, relationship with God through blood sacrifice)

...the Lord...

- "I am the Lord your God" as running tag through this chapter, and most of the chapters 17-26!
 - we've already looked at how he is "your God" - already we are his, not through mere obedience but through Jesus' sacrifice
 - now "I am the Lord your God"
- He is in charge, our maker, and he sets our priorities, limits - no-one else
 - He is the Lord
 - and he wants us to be like him - holy "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy" (19:2)
 - that holiness, purity, distinctiveness, separateness are expressed here in terms of commands that are mostly restatements, amplifications or clarifications on the 10 commandments
 - certainly same underlying priorities!
- God's people are to be pure in all they do and all they are
 - they are to value and care for others - gleanings, justice
 - they are to be honest
- (A) Take v.4 and vs.9-10, and see whether people can translate them into contemporary society
- (B) Finish section with few moments of quiet:
 - which of these commands do I need to refresh my obedience in?

I am...

- Dr Laura satire:
 - from the Internet, supposedly a satirical letter to Dr Laura, well known orthodox Jewish commentator/presenter in the States, reflecting on Christian and Jewish selectivity in applying the Old Testament law today!
 - doesn't make comfortable reading!!
- So how are we to deal with such laws?
 - give up on them? ignore them?
- We need to look at what else Scripture has to say about the issue.
- Perhaps most importantly, **did Jesus have anything to say about it?**
 - eg adultery: "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:11) - gracious and merciful in dealing with the sinner, but adultery is clearly still a transgression
 - or Sabbath observance: "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27,28)
- Also look at what principle might underlie the specific law:
 - for example, the laws in Leviticus 19:19 on not planting more than one crop in the same field & on not mixing fibres in clothing are routinely broken throughout our society
 - most of our kitchen cupboards and wardrobes would fall foul of this pair!!
 - but the underlying principle in the context of Leviticus 19 is that God's people should be **pure**.
 - we don't know whether there were other, practical reasons why these particular laws were included - **but what they certainly did was pointed every Israelite to the purity, the singleness of loyalty and purpose, they were called to by God** - every time they chose their clothes or went to their daily work...

Conclusion

- God is still the same. He says "I am the Lord" (present tense!)
- And so his laws are still relevant:
 - not to enter into relationship with him, but **as a mark of that relationship**
 - and as a recognition of his **Lordship**
 - and therefore worthy of careful reflection and thought - **since he is still our God today!**
- *Lord, help us, who have come to know you despite being law-breakers, through the atonement offered to us in Jesus - help us to live in the light of your love for us, responding in obedience to your laws each day.*