

*We need to have the ability to find revelation in OT law.*

### I. INCORRECT APPROACH TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. The OT contains the Law... Exodus/Leviticus/Numbers/Deuteronomy

1. Which contain many seemingly strange commands
  - a. *Shall not boil a baby goat in its mother's milk... I don't have any goats!!*

B. So there are numbers of incorrect approaches to OT law

1. **To make these literal – apply them physically/literally today**
  - a. *Jews: No milk with meat*
  - b. *You have to have a beard*
  - c. *You can't eat pork*
2. **Ignore them altogether:** *We only use the NT... in the OT – we only use history books*
  - a. *Then this means God doesn't know what He is doing*
3. **Over-spiritualize: Make things overly spiritual/symbolic**
  - a. *Using symbolism/numerology: You can make the scripture anything you want it to be*
    1. *David's 5 smooth stones: 5-fold gift ministry...*

C. This is not helpful

1. We don't grow in the word
2. We fail to preach the whole counsel of God
3. Can get into false doctrine

*a. Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.*

### II. RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

A. We have a command

1. *2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

- a. Cut it straight – not crooked/wandering anywhere we want it to be!

B. Revelation often comes from asking questions

#### 1. The big-picture questions

- a. Why did God give the law to His people? (*Was it actually simply to prevent mixed-material clothing? NO*)
  1. To show our need for outside help
  2. To demonstrate the difference in His people

2. Law questions about the purpose of the law in this passage:

- a. **Is this to demonstrate the power of sin:** *Sin is disgusting to God – it makes God angry*
  - b. **Is this to demonstrate our need for a redeemer:** *The price must be paid by a substitute*
  - c. **Is this to demonstrate how we should treat other people:** *Remember you were slaves!*
  - d. **Is this simply a practical concern:** *Some of the law is simply sanitary – so you don't get sick*
  - e. **Is this to visibly demonstrate holiness:** *Differences from unbelievers*

3. What is the main idea of the passage? The principle of mixture/the dangers of mixture

C. **Practical questions:** What would be the practical effects if they do have mixture?

1. *Do not plant two kinds of seed in your vineyard...*

- a. Pollenization is harmed
  - b. Choking the life of good plants
  - c. Fruitfulness

2. *Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together...*

- a. Pull at different speeds
  - b. Pull in different directions
  - c. Unable to work – or fulfill purpose

3. *Do not wear clothes of wool and linen woven together...*

- a. They have different shrink rates
  - b. When washed – the garment will be damaged

### I. The Problem of Mixture

The bible lays out the principle of kind: Species/type

14x in the Bible after it's kind...

Life/productivity/fruitfulness/usefulness/productivity

But in life there are sometimes mixtures

Different kinds – that don't belong together

This is not simply horticulture/animals: It has to do with God's people

They mix with people that are not good for them!

Believers with unbelievers

Love/marriage Business  
Believers with other believers who have an unhealthy spirit  
Carnal Non-passionate  
Believers with damaging people  
Backsliders Immoral Rebels

## **II. The Damage of Mixture**

Our scrip shows us the practical results of mixture  
The damage to fruitfulness: *Do not plant two kinds of seed in your vineyard...*

The damage to purpose: *Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together...*

The damage to ourselves: *Do not wear clothes of wool and linen woven together...*

## **III. The Power of Purity**

What is needed is purity in relationships  
We make practical decisions in our relationships  
Determine: I will protect my fruitfulness/purpose/my soul

Some ways we do this  
If any man will purge himself from these...

This is where the blessing comes  
God does more than we can do  
Joshua/Caleb survived – and entered into their purpose  
They wound up influencing others – for good!