

The Civil Law—Practical Life Principles

Chapters 21:1–23:18

God calls these laws “judgments.” These laws will help keep the way of peace and justice before the people (Deut. 5:32–33; Ex. 24:3–4).

- I. Master and Servant Relationship (Ex. 21:2–11; 1 Co. 7:20–24)
 - A. A servant pictures a sinner in bondage to sin (Ro. 7:14; 6:20; Jo. 8:34).
 - B. A servant set free by the master, is a picture of salvation through Christ (Ex. 21:2; Gal. 5:1; Jo. 8:36).
 - C. A servant that loves his master could choose to serve him willingly after he is freed. This pictures the believer’s freedom to choose to serve the Lord after salvation (Ex. 21:5–6; Josh. 24:15; Gal. 5:13; Ro. 6:18; 1 Co. 9:19; Ro. 6:22).
 - D. Female slaves were to be protected (Ex. 21:7–11)
- II. Punishment for Murder—Ex 21:12-36
 - A. God, the giver of life, protects life by punishing the murderer. Those that presumptuously murder with presumptuously would be put to death (Ex. 21:12,14; Ge. 9:6).
 - B. God provided safety for those that killed accidentally or unintentionally by appointing a place of refuge. This is a picture of Christ, our refuge from the destruction of sin (Ex. 21:13; Nu. 35:10–12; Heb. 6:18).
 - C. God punished those that smote or cursed their mother and father with death (Ex. 21:15, 17).
 - D. God punished with death to those that would force someone into slavery (Ex. 21:16).

- E. God punished those that would cause the death of an unborn child (Ex. 21:22–24; Psa. 139:13-16; Isa. 44:2, 24; Jer. 1:5; Lu 1:31,41).
- F. If a master would smite a servant and cause permanent physical damage, the servant would go free (Ex. 21:26–27).
- G. Owners will be held responsible for neglecting safety in relation to cattle (Ex. 21:28–36).

III. Property Rights—Ex. 22:1–15

- A. Thieves would restore _____ when caught stealing cattle (Ex. 22:1).
- B. Thieves _____ during a theft at night was justified, but not after sunrise (Ex. 22:2–4).
- C. A man cannot allow his cattle to feed on another’s property without restitution (Ex. 22:5).
- D. If property or crops are damaged by fire there will be restitution paid (Ex. 22:6).
- E. Judges will determine if your neighbor stole your property and restitution (Ex. 22:9).
- F. One that _____ anything from his neighbor is responsible for its return and incurred damages (Ex. 22:14–15).

IV. Crimes Against Humanity—Ex. 22:16–31

- A. Immorality with a virgin required a monetary _____, even if the father refused to allow marriage (Ex. 22:16–17).
- B. _____ were to be put to death (Ex. 22:18)
- C. Bestiality warranted death (Ex. 22:19)
- D. He that sacrificed to _____ gods would be destroyed (Ex. 22:20).

Lessons From the Wilderness

- E. Those that afflict strangers, widows and the fatherless would die by the sword (Ex. 22:21–26).
 - F. One could not charge _____ when borrowing to the poor (Ex. 22:25).
 - G. One could not retain items as collateral that were _____ to the borrower (Ex. 22:26–27)
 - H. One should not revile or curse _____ (Ex. 22:28; Ro. 13:1–4; Prov. 21:1; 1 Ti. 2:1–2; Titus 3:1; 1 Pe. 2:13–14; 17; Ju.1:8)
 - I. One was never to hold back the _____ of the harvest from the Lord (Ex. 22:29–30; Prov. 3:5–10; Lu. 6:38–39)
 - J. An animal that was torn by a wild animal was to be discarded to the dogs, as the blood would not be properly drained. Blood is never to be eaten (Ex. 22:31).
- V. Warning to Dishonest Dealing —Ex. 23:1–9
- A. It was forbidden to _____ as a witness (Ex. 23:1; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9; Prov. 12:19; 19:5).
 - B. One should never _____ a crowd in lies, gossip or slander involved with evil purposes. One may be influenced by the fear of man (self-preservation), the promise of gain (bribery), or lack of moral strength (carnality) (Exodus 23:2–8; 1 Co. 15:33; 5:11; 2 Co. 6:14; Prov. 24:1; Psa. 1:1; Prov. 4:14).
 - C. How to treat enemies
 - 1. _____ lost property that belongs to your enemy (Ex. 23:4; Matt. 5:44).
 - 2. Do not allow _____ to occur to your enemy's property (Ex. 23:5; Prov. 24:17–18).