



# EXODUS

## *discussion guide*

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”
2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share

[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation, and Conversation on today’s text:

**Date: 12/3/23 – “Applying Ceremonial and Civil Law” (Exodus 20:22-21:1)**

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith (19:4) says Israel’s ‘ceremonial laws are now abrogated, under the new testament (Eph. 2:15). To them also, as a body politic, He gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the state [of OT Israel], not obliging any other now, further than the general equity thereof may require. (Exod. 21, 22:1–29...)’
  - In Exodus 20:22-26 where would you identify ceremonial laws that Christ no longer requires of us?
  - Do you see any moral principles that still apply to us today?
  - Do you see any general equity (fairness, justice) principles in Exodus 21-22 that God still expects?
2. In what ways does the law beginning in 21:1 differ from the 10 commandments (20:1-17)? Is there anything in 20:22-26 that was temporary even within the Old Testament, and if so, how might that affect how we understand these laws? What challenges do you see in trying to apply these other aspects of the law today and some errors to be careful of?
3. Pastor Phil referenced Calvin's Institutes giving a helpful 3-fold use of the law:
  - a. shows sinners their need of Christ (like mirror or schoolmaster)
  - b. restrains evil
  - c. shows what pleases God

In what ways might this next section fit under one of the above categories?

- 4.** How does Jesus help us understand how to apply the law in Matthew 5 (consider v. 17-30, and v. 38-39 quoting Ex. 21:24)?
  
- 5.** Where would Exodus 20:22-26 fit in showing what Jesus called "weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness" (Matthew 23:23)? How does the law for burnt offerings on altars picture the gospel here, in Genesis 22 and in the Passover?
  
- 6.** In light of Christ being the ultimate "peace offering," how and when should you pursue peace with other believers? If you need to seek or grant forgiveness, how should meditating on Christ's sacrifice for your sin help you apply this?