

but it is extremely important that everyone in a certain area submit to a definite rule. In the days before automobiles it did not matter greatly on which side of the road one drove, but the coming of rapid transportation made a definite rule necessary.

Another example is the Old Testament prohibition against eating pork. Without refrigeration pork spoils very quickly. Under the conditions of life in Old Testament times it was much safer to abstain from eating it, but under modern conditions pork can be prepared in ways that were then impossible, and it can be kept under refrigeration. We can now eat pork without the great danger to health that was present when methods of preservation and sanitizing were not available. Here is a civil law of real importance that is not needed when conditions are different.

The three kinds of law are also found in the New Testament. Paul gave the command that no woman should pray without wearing a veil or, at least, having her head covered. Most of our churches do not make any effort to enforce this law. It was given in relation to the cultural situation of that time. Neither do we try to obey all the regulations sent out by the Jerusalem council in Acts 15 (except of course, where moral law was involved). These laws were made in order that the Christians should not unnecessarily irritate Jews and others among whom many of them would work. Those conditions do not prevail today, but we have an obligation to work out our own civil laws, applying the principles of the moral law to the conditions of the time and area in which we live.