

## Doctrine of the Bible

### Interpreting the Laws of Scripture

1. There are three types, or precepts
  - Casuistic Law. This is a reference to case law. The normal form in which casuistic law is found is by way of an example. “If...then.” The purpose of case law is to provide a practical guideline for moral judgments to be rendered. General guidelines are given.
  - Apodictic Law. This is a reference to moral law. The normal form is set forth in “you shall...thou shalt not.” The Ten Commandments are given in this form.
  - Proverbs. This is a reference to wisdom in the application of the law. Such application is needed because situations arise in which moral absolutes appear to be contradictory.
 

*Proverbs 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.*

*Proverbs 26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.*
2. The Proverbs were not intended to be moral absolutes.
3. Every culture has vignettes of wisdom, including the American culture. Pithy Proverbs are not to be elevated to moral absolutes less there be hopeless contradictions.
  - *Look before you leap.*
  - *He who hesitates is lost.*
4. What the Law of God provided was a framework whereby the Hebrew society could be organized and blessed.
5. God wanted individuals to understand His Law, and to obey Him, while having freedom of thought and action in order for justice to be administered.