



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: The Ten Commandments

Text: Exodus 20

Theme: The redeemed are called to live by one law – the law of love.

Teaching Notes: Everyone knows of the Ten Commandments, but few know what they actually mean, and even fewer practice them in everyday life. Discover how these simple commands reveal the nature of God and the way of flourishing for his covenant people. Grasp both the beauty and the limitations of the Law. Understand how the commandments point to our need of a Savior. And see how they are fulfilled in one word: love.

Outline:

1. The precursor to the Law. (vv. 1-2)

- Rules are preceded by redemption. Law is preceded by free grace.

2. The principles of the Law. (vv. 3-17)

Interpretive Principle #1: Each commandment must be interpreted in light of the testimony of Scripture with particular emphasis given to how Jesus interpreted the commandments.

Interpretive Principle #2: Each commandment implies a whole constellation of positive and negative applications.

1st Commandment: Give your exclusive loyalty to the God of the Bible.

2nd Commandment: Worship God according to his self-revelation.

3rd Commandment: Treat every use of God's name as sacred.

4th Commandment: Guard the Sabbath as a day of rest, worship, and celebration.

5th Commandment: Honor the God-given role and responsibility of parents.

6th Commandment: Value the lives of image bearers.

7th Commandment: Guard the sanctity of marriage and sexuality.

8th Commandment: Respect the property and rights of others.

9th Commandment: Guard just outcomes by sharing the complete truth.

10th Commandment: Be content with what God has given you.



3. The pardon of the Law. (v. 24)

- The very first thing God shares after the Ten Commandments is a word about altars and sacrifices.
- The Law doesn't just show you that God is holy and you're not. It shows you how God atones for your sin, cleanses away your sin, and makes you righteous – by offering himself in your place and for your sin.

4. The practice of the Law. (Matt. 22; Rom. 13; Gal. 5)

- The entire Law is based on this: Love God and love others. If you practice love, as defined by the Bible, you are living the way of Jesus.



Questions from Exodus 20 to explore individually and with your group:

1. What's one thing you learned or observed from the message on the Ten Commandments?
2. Why do you think God gave the First Commandment first?
3. What are some common idols (gods) of our culture? What do people love, trust, and serve in place of God? What do people look to as their source of identity, meaning, and purpose in place of God?
4. What are some reasons God forbids making any image or likeness of him? How are we violating the Second Commandment when we admire and embrace only those parts of God's nature that are acceptable to our culture?
5. Besides profanity, what are the most common ways the Third Commandment is broken by our culture (including Christian culture)?
6. The Sabbath command is in the moral section of the Torah (not the civil or ceremonial section), between prohibitions against idolatry and murder. So why do you think Christians are comfortable violating this command on a weekly basis? What would it look like to take the Fourth Commandment seriously?
7. What are some practical, specific ways to honor one's parents? What makes that challenging for you?
8. The Sixth and Seventh Commandments, which prohibit murder and adultery, are probably the two that most people believe they have not violated. But what are some other attitudes and actions short of homicide and marital infidelity that violate the spirit of these commands?
9. What are some common forms of stealing and false witness that our culture has no problem with? How have these sinful practices been normalized even within the Christian church?
10. How is the prohibition against covetousness different than the first nine commandments? What does it show you about the nature of all ten?
11. How would you summarize Jesus' perspective on the Ten Commandments?
12. Why do you think God teaches his covenant people about altars and sacrifices right after he gives them the Ten Commandments?
13. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this message?