



Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying, ²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder. ¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Suggested Questions for Small Groups

1. Why do you think God presented these commandments to the people of Israel? Why these people? Why this timing? (Ex. 19-20)
2. Why does God care if we behave one way or another? Why does He impose a moral Law upon us?
3. Divide the Ten into two categories: a) Commandments regarding my relationship with God, b) Commandments about my relationship with other humans. (Luke 10:27)
4. Many times we don’t want to obey God’s commands - but think of every motivation you can for why you should and would want to obey Him. (Ps.1; John 14:21-23)
5. What do you do if (when) you fail to keep God’s Law - if you sin? (1 John 1:5-10)

Next Sunday, April 25, 2010: **Ten Commandments**

Part 2 No other Gods - Romans 1

When God gives the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai He states, “I am the Lord your God.” When He next states the first commandment, “You shall have no other gods before me” He is commanding an exclusive relationship (with the implication that polytheism is prohibited). But isn’t this more a statement of His authority as the one true God? The One Who declares that He is the God who delivered Israel from bondage now proclaims His authority over those He has set free. Do you hear His declaration in your own ear?

I. These ancient moral laws, are archaic, primitive, inspire violence and are absurd to obey today.

Rom. 1:18-21

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

2. We Misunderstand the Lawgiver's Motives: We think it's "Carrot or Stick" but we need to reflect on the sequence.

- a. In Genesis 1-2, what comes first, Law or Love/Relationship?
- b. In Exodus 19-20, what comes first, Law or Deliverance?
- c. With Jesus, what comes first, Obedience or Regeneration?

3. We misunderstand the Goal of the God's Moral Law: Is it given to bring about Conformation or Transformation?

1 John 2:4-6

⁴Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Psalms 1

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

²but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Commentaries and resources used in preparation of this message: [The Message of Deuteronomy](#), and [The Message of Exodus](#), by J.A.Motyer; A message by Dr.Timothy Keller entitled: "[The Freedom of Obedience](#)"; [Moses and the Gods of Egypt](#), by John J. Davis

John 14:21-23

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

4. We don't understand what Obedience actually is: It is not agreement, but disagreement.

Luke 22:40-44

And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,⁴² saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

5. We feel that our failure to keep the Law, disqualifies us from having relationship with God.

1 John 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.⁸ If we say we have no sin,⁹ we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 2:1-6

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.⁴ Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.