

Message #2 “The Sabbath Principle”

- Six days we do the O_____:
We heartily work, toil, produce, strive and create,
bringing glory to our God.
- But one day in seven we C_____
doing the ordinary and instead emphasize
R_____ on our life-path,
R_____ of our hearts,
and R_____ of our souls.

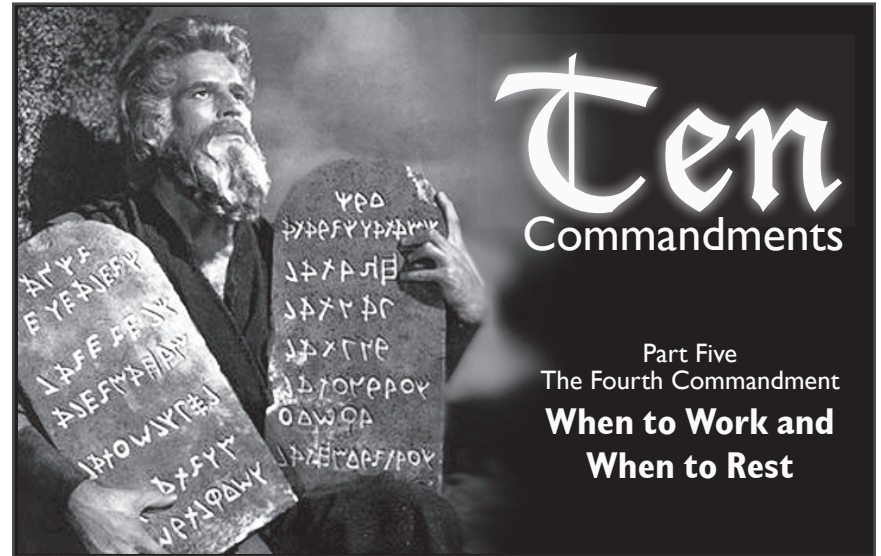
Suggested Questions for Small Groups

1. For you, is your work more like a curse or more like the central place you find your sense of worth? How can both of these viewpoints on work become traps.
2. What are your first impressions as you read Paul's instruction to slaves about their work attitudes in Col. 3:22-24. What kind of attitude is he commanding them to have toward their work and their masters? Why is this attitude the right attitude?
3. According to Paul, who are we attempting to please, serve and obey when we work hard at our careers? How does your faith impact your work?
4. What kinds of activities would make you feel like you are breaking the Sabbath? What activities do you “cease” doing?
5. Why do you think so many people find it hard to keep the Sabbath holy?
6. What are the main activities that help you keep the Sabbath?

Next Sunday, May 16, 2010: **Ten Commandments**

Part 6 Children Honoring Parents

The Fifth Commandment, instructs adult children to honor their parents. Why does God choose to make this one of the ten foundational commandments? Is honoring parents as important a subject as Idolatry or murder or false witness? Could it be that the family unit is a part of God's design and authority structure and what his commandment has more to do with respecting that structure and order than it has to do with a sentimental Mother's Day or Father's Day card? We find out next Sunday.



Exodus 20:8-11

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but 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. ¹¹ For 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.

Message #1 Six Days you shall labor

Col. 3:18-4:1

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Wives submit...in the Lord: Paul follows this same teaching structure in Eph. 5:21-6:9. First he instructs all Christians to lovingly submit to one-another - out of their reverence to the Lord (see Col. 3:12-17). Then he makes specific applications telling certain people to submit to or obey certain other people. Those asked to submit or obey are to do so with a remarkable motivation: They are to do it to please and serve their Lord, Jesus Christ.

Children, obey...this pleases the Lord: First wives are instructed to submit (voluntarily place themselves under the authority of their husbands). Husbands are commanded to love their wives. Next, children are instructed to obey their parents for a reason: It pleases Jesus. And Fathers are instructed to be careful with their authority. Fathers are to parent in such a way that positive nurture and growth occurs.

²²Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. ^{4:1} Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Slaves obey in everything: Remember the context of this instruction to slaves - Paul has declared in Col. 3:11 *Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.* In our saving faith all Christians are equal, without distinction. But in our earthly personal authority we are not all equal. God has designed an authority structure in the creation. This design has been corrupted by the fall, just like every other part of creation has been corrupted. As a result husbands often don't love their wives and wives don't want to submit to their husbands. As a result, children often refuse to obey their parents and fathers often provoke their children toward negative rebellion. And, as a result, slaves have often been treated by their masters as sub-human and sinfully abused and wronged. It is estimated that the first century Roman Empire had as many as 60 million slaves. Does the Bible support human slavery?! The Bible does not support the kind of slavery that we know of in America - where people were kidnapped (stolen) from Africa and sold in America and then often further sinned against by their supposed "owners". Ex. 21:16 "Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death. (See also Duet. 24:7 and 1Tim. 1:10.)

work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men: Wow, Paul is instructing the one group that might be most abused by others in authority over them, to work "heartily" and "with sincerity of heart". Why? Because in the end we Christians know that we work to serve "the Lord Christ" not our "earthly masters".

knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance: It helps to know that this comparatively short life is followed by an eternal reward. In eternity there will be no slaves and masters. In the end we children of the King will see justice reign through our "Master" in heaven.

1. Two common motives for work versus the Christian way:

- Work is my C _____ not my C _____.
- Work is my W _____ not my S _____.

2. How does my faith impact my six days of Labor?

- It alters my base audience - whom I most want to please.
- It alters my basic source of significance.
- It alters my view of life's main purposes and meanings.

Message #2 The Seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord

Mark 2:23-3:6

²³ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

²⁵ He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶ In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

²⁷ Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

^{3:1} Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. ² Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. ³ Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

⁴ Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent.

⁵ He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. ⁶ Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?: The Pharisees' tradition contained 39 general Sabbath laws which detailed what was Sabbath breaking and what was not. One of those laws was about reaping. They watched the disciples picking some heads of grain on the Sabbath which for them was clearly the sin of Sabbath commandment breaking.

The Sabbath was made for man: After pointing them to an example of King David putting the higher good of physical need over the letter of the law, Jesus states a huge principle. In saying that the Sabbath was made for man, Jesus is telling us that the "one day in seven" commandment is a gift from God to mankind; it is the blessing of rest, not a burden or a curse. The Pharisee's nitpicking rules regarding reaping on the Sabbath totally miss the point on why God instituted the Sabbath.

the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath: Jesus claims for Himself a hugely significant title. God alone is the One who instituted the Sabbath. On the seventh day of creation, God rested. In the fourth commandment God declares that He wants His people to cease their every day labors and instead rest, reflect and worship. Jesus is claiming that He, as Lord of the Sabbath, is God, and knows how Sabbath should be kept and practiced.

watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath: The next event Mark uses to demonstrate the growing harsh antagonism between Jesus and the Pharisees take place in synagogue. The Pharisees are hoping Jesus will break the Sabbath by healing someone. By their traditions this was work and should not be done on the Sabbath. Jesus became angry with their hardheartedness. They believed it was sinful for Jesus to miraculously heal this man's shriveled hand on the Sabbath. This demonstrates the 'shriveledness' of their hearts.