

Sermon Outline

Exodus, Part 10: The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-20

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Main Idea: God's commandments are holy, righteous and good (Romans 7:12), but are not given to be kept as a means of redemption; rather, the law helps us to live the Christian life by showing us God's character and will for our lives.

Sermon Outline:

1. You are mine!
2. The Ten Commandments.
 - a. They reveal the nature and character of God to us.
 - b. They reveal the will of God for us.
 - c. They still apply today.

Key Quotes:

"It was the God of salvation who imposed his law on his people; the grace that saves preceded the law that demands. The people were given the law not in order that they might become the redeemed, rather it was because they had already been redeemed that they were given the law. The law of God is the way of life he sets before those whom he has saved, and they engage in that way of life as a response of love and gratitude to God their Redeemer. Grace and law belong together, for grace leads to law; saving love leads to and excites grateful love expressed in obedience." J.A. Motyer

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." - Matthew 22.37-40

Fellowship Starters:

1. Read Exodus 20:1 – 20 and open in prayer.
2. Discuss our tendency to see God's law as a means of justification or salvation verses God's gracious instruction to His people. How does recognizing God first saved Israel from their enslavement in Egypt help us to better understand our own salvation from sin and better apply the gospel as motivation for obedience. If helpful, discuss how in the NT (Ephesians for example), the apostles always exhort us to godly living (Eph. 4-6) *as a result of what Christ has already done* (Eph. 1-3).
3. The Ten Commandments were given to God's people starting out as a new nation. Discuss the way in which the commandments are designed to instruct the people in their relationship with God (Commandments 1-4) and then with one another (Commandments 5-10). How is this instructive to how we should think of living the Christian life and how/why Jesus responded the way he did to the question about which is the greatest commandment (see Matt 22 quote above)?

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4. Close in prayer for one another, especially for those who may be struggling with condemnation for sin rather than God's gracious conviction and strength that leads to repentance.