

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

5-7-2017

Though I have been preaching in this pulpit for about 35 years, and though I make reference to the 10 commandments all the time, I do not recall ever preaching a message on the ten commandments. I may have done so for the children on a children's Sunday, but I do not recall ever preaching a message strictly on the ten commandments. So I would like to focus in on these this morning. I actually wrote a song to help people memorize the ten commandments and that was our Scripture song this morning. I wrote that song because I was out witnessing and as I was talking with a certain person, I asked him if he knew he was saved. He said yes. I asked how do you know that? He said he was a good person and lived by the 10 commandments. I asked him to quote them and he couldn't correctly. He got some of them right but not all of them. Then as I quoted them, I even kind of stumbled. That is when I decided to write a song to memorize them. Probably next to the little song where we sing the books of the Bible, this song is one of the most profitable one for teaching of all the choruses I have written.

There was a time that every grade school child in our public schools was required to memorize the 10 commandments. I remember when I first became a Christian, our Pastor used to have a Bible quiz time in our evening service. He used to let people quote Bible verses that they memorized. No one could quote the same verse twice. There was one fellow who always won the quiz. He was an older gentleman and I asked him after the service how did he learn so many Bible verses? He said, "I learned them in public school when I was a kid.." I was amazed because I grew up in a time when prayer and Bible reading was taken out of our public schools.

Today, most young people in our nation do not know the 10 commandments or the Bible. The 10 commandments are a condensing of all of God's law. I believe they are, in fact, an outline of all that is taught in the Pentateuch or the 1st 5 books of the law of Moses. This morning let us read them:

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,

Exodus 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Exodus 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Exodus 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Exodus 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exodus 20:10 But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Our song that I wrote condenses all these commandments into a little song, to help us memorize them. I was shocked to find out that a survey was once taken and it found that over half of the clergy could not accurately quote the 10 commandments. The little song I wrote, helps me to this day to quote them and given them in the proper order.

Now let us look at these commandments.

I. THE FIRST COMMANDMENT IS THIS: THOU SHALT NOT HAVE ANY OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying, Exodus 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Now when I said that the 10 commandments are really an outline of the whole of God's law I meant that.

The first commandment is that we should have no other gods but HIM.

There is only one true God and the Bible defines who He is.

I remember, that we once got a call for a Joe Bissol that owed a bill to some medical institution. As we starting asking more about this person we realized it was not our son.. Apparently there is another Joe Bissol around here and they got that person confused with my son.

Just because a person says they love God and love Jesus does not mean they love the Jesus we worship. The Bible defines our Lord in detail. Those who worship a Jesus that contradicts who He is in the Bible actually have the wrong Jesus.

1. CONSIDER THAT THERE WERE MANY OTHER GODS WHEN THIS WAS WRITTEN AND THERE ARE MANY OTHER GODS STILL TODAY.

Who is the God that we worship?

He is the same one that brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, the prophets, Israel, and all the prophets, King David, and the Apostles. Simply put He is the God of this Bible that I am preaching this morning!

Any other "god" is but a false "god.."

The Bible gives us the characteristics of GOD.

2. CONSIDER THAT ANYTHING WE PUT BEFORE GOD BECOMES OUR GOD..

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

a. JESUS EXPLAINED THE 1st COMMAND BY SAYING IT ENTAILS LOVING HIM AND PUTTING HIM FIRST.

Matthew 22:35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

Matthew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

God should come first.

Whoever is first in your life is your God!

b. SOME PEOPLE PUT EATING AND DRINKING FIRST AND THAT BECOMES THEIR GOD.

Philippians 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Philippians 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Notice how Paul says that some put their bellies and appetites above God and therefore their god becomes their belly.

c. SOME PEOPLE PUT MONEY BEFORE GOD AND THIS BECOMES AN IDOL

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

People put making money before God and that becomes an idol.

People can put their careers before God and that becomes their idol.

People can put family before God..

JUST FILL IN THE BLANK.

Remember that old game show, TO TELL THE TRUTH? In that game an imposter pretends to be someone he is not. But in the end the real person stands up for all to see. The truth will someday come out as to who really is your GOD.

Your life demonstrates who you worship.

THE WORD WORSHIP MEANS Worthy Vessel. The one you worship isn't the one worthy of your time and devotion and the one that you put first in your life.

You say you love God?

But will the real God in your life please stand up? How do you show you love God? You show it by putting Him first. Do you put Jesus first?

What comes first in your life? What is your priority? Who do you honor?

God gives some clear cut tests to see if you will put him first.

He asks you to set aside the first day of the week to honor Him.

He asks you to set aside the first 10% of your money to honor Him.

When you cannot prioritize and put Him first, are you keeping the 1st commandment?

The truth is, is there anyone alive that at one time or another has not violated the 1st commandment?

You better know that we have all violated it, we are all guilty. But if we are Christians we should want to love God with all our hearts and repent of our Idolatry and set our hearts to love God with all our hearts and put Him first.

II. THE SECOND COMMANDMENT GOES DEEPER INTO HOW WE CAN SHOW OUR LOVE FOR OUR GOD.. WE SHOULD NOT ENGRAVE AN IMAGE OF GOD AFTER OR IMAGINATIONS OR AFTER ANY THING VISIBLE.

Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Exodus 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Exodus 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Our God is Spirit, and we are forbidden to use earthly images to represent him. Why is it men like to bow to images, and material objects. Why do we want to see something that would make us feel spiritual. Men use beads, and pictures, and images, and statues, to make them feel spiritual...

Some men even paint an image in their minds.

OUR GOD IS SPIRIT AND TRUTH. IF WE WANT TO WORSHIP HIM WE NEED TO WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH. THE BEST WAY TO GET CLOSE TO GOD IS MEDITATE IN HIS WORD!

Throughout the Old Testament, the Children of Israel would worship the God of Israel in high places. They would claim that their images and high places were places where they could worship Jehovah. God hated those high places. They were their destruction. They thought they were ok because they used them to worship Jehovah and not necessarily other gods they said.

Jesus told the woman at the well what God thought of their man made religion..

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

III. THE THIRD COMMANDMENT AND TEST AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL LOVE GOD AND PUT HIM FIRST IS THIS:

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Consider what it is to take God's name in vain.

Taking God's name in vain.

In the Old Testament the Sacred Name of God was Yahweh or Jehovah as we know it.. Every time the Jesus came to to read that name they would not say the name Elohim or Lord and not use the Name God gave Moses.

The text is found here:

Exodus 3:13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

Exodus 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Exodus 3:15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

The Hebrew letters for I am are..

YHVH Yod-Hei-Vav-Hei (YHVH). The word "Jehovah" comes from the fact that ancient Jewish texts used to put the vowels of the Name "Adonai" (the usual substitute for YHVH) under the consonants of YHVH to remind people not to pronounce YHVH as written. A sixteenth century German Christian scribe, while transliterating the Bible into Latin for the Pope, wrote the Name out as it appeared in his texts, with the consonants of YHVH and the vowels of Adonai, and came up with the word JeHoVaH ("J" is pronounced "Y" in German), and the name stuck.

The tetragrammaton meaning "consisting of four letters" is the four Hebrew letters YHVH commonly transliterated into Latin letters as YHWH. It is one of the names of God used in the Hebrew Bible. The name may be derived from a verb that means "to be", "to exist", "to cause to become", or "to come to pass".

The books of the Torah and the rest of the Hebrew Bible (with the exception of Esther and Song of Songs) contain the Hebrew word YHVH. Religiously observant Jews and those who follow conservative Jewish traditions do not pronounce YAHWEY, either aloud or to themselves in silence, nor do they read aloud transliterated forms such as Yahweh; instead the word is substituted with a different term, whether used to address or to refer to the God of Israel. Common substitutions for Hebrew forms are hakadosh baruch hu ("The Holy One, Blessed Be He"), Adonai ("The Lord"),⁶ or HaShem ("The Name").

Now we read all this to simply say, that the Jews realized the seriousness of flippantly and irrelevantly saying the name of God. Now we as Christians realize that Jesus was God in the flesh. And we should reverence the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Remember that at his name every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess.

The Jews, when writing about God, will not even spell it out but write G-D. Again this is out of reverence for Him. I say that to say that as Christians we should reverence the name of Jesus Christ and God the Father.

How flippantly people use the name God. I think we should use the name Lord more often. Here is what we see people do..

Oh my G-D we as Christians should never use that expression unless we are praying to him.

We should never use the name Jesus unless we are teaching about him or praying to him.

We should never even abbreviate the name as an expression of speech.

We should never swear by his name.

In other words God expects us to respect him and reverence Him and reverence and respect His name!

Before we were Christians and even for some of us after we were saved, we may have by habit used the name of God irreverently. It is wrong and against his clear command. Repent of it!

IV. THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT IS ANOTHER WAY WE PROVE OUR LOVE FOR HIM. THE COMMAND TO HONOR HIS SABBATH DAY AND SABBATHS.

Exodus 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exodus 20:10 But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Remember all of these commands are in essence showing we love God with all our hearts. They are the proof of our love for Him!

The Jews often indicted Jesus for violating the Sabbath day by nitpicking about him performing miracles on the Sabbath. Jesus said he was Lord of the Sabbath. He was more important than the Sabbath.

To this day the Jews give this as one of the reasons why he could not be the Messiah. They say he made himself out to be God and also he violated the Sabbath.

One Rabbi writes:

Throughout the Christian "New Testament," Jesus contradicts the Torah and states that its commandments are no longer applicable. For example, John 9:14 records that Jesus made a paste in violation of Shabbat, which caused the Pharisees to say (verse 16), "He does not observe Shabbat!"

Matthew 12:2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the Sabbath day.

Matthew 12:3 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

Matthew 12:4 How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

Matthew 12:5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?

Matthew 12:6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

Matthew 12:7 But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

Matthew 12:8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day.

Jesus said something that is significant here. He said He was Lord of the Sabbath, and more important than the Sabbath.

It is for this reason we hold what we call the Christian Sabbath as a greater day to set aside than the Hebrew Sabbath. We set aside Sunday the first day of the week to take off work and worship our Lord. It is just as important that we set aside this day to honor Him as it was in the Old Testament to do so. And this command to remember the Sabbath would include all the Sabbath days, the feasts days, and the Holy days.

The Bible teaches that as His church we now assemble ourselves together with regularity and we as Christians should do so from the heart and with a desire to love and serve Him. Under the New Covenant as a gentile church we are not under the ceremonial laws but it would do us good to understand the purpose of these laws. We today should assemble ourselves together with regularity which fulfills the purpose of the Sabbath.

Paul said,

ROM 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

How do we show we love the Lord our God with all our hearts. We show it by our attendance and worship of Him in His church.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

V. THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT MANY BELIEVE IS THE 1st COMMANDMENT GIVEN IN OUR DUTIES TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES. BUT I THINK IT IS A COMMAND TO SHOWS OUR DESIRE TO HONOR OUR GOD.

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

You see I believe that the 5th commandment is another way we show honor towards God. We honor our parents, and this is the first way we learn to honor God. God gave to us our parents. We honor them when we are young by obeying them. We honour them when we are old by helping them.

Older people will need their children's help as they get older.

All the commandments can be outlined in the ten commandments and all the ten commandments can be outlined as these:

Matthew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Two condense the ten.

10 condense the hundreds.

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for weaseling out of this commandment.

Note what he said to them:

Matthew 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

Matthew 15:5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

Matthew 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Matthew 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

The Pharisees said they were dedicating themselves to religious service and all they had was dedicated to the ministry therefore they were exempt from helping their parents when they got older. The Lord said that is wickedness.

You show you honour God by honoring your parents.. If you cannot honour your parents who God gave you, what makes you think you will honour God!

God expects us to help our parents as they get older. One thing is for sure, we are all going to get old and it is not the responsibility of the government to take care of the older people it is the responsibility of the children!

I dare say if Jesus indicted the Pharisees, I wonder what he would say to young people today? In all my life I have never seen any people more selfish than the children of our present age. But I say that we should cease to be those selfish children of the world when we get saved, and from the heart want to obey God. I remember how my mother took care of her parents when they got older. She took care of her mom, she took care of her dad. Today, we have so much more but have so little time to take care of our responsibilities in these areas. When we honour our parents we honour God. When we dishonour our parents we dishonour God

Is it any wonder that we have a generation that seems to be lackadaisical about their reverence for God, their faithfulness to the local church, their ability to faithfully attend church. And is it any wonder these same people refuse to help their parents when they get older?

Show me a person that refuses to honour their parents and I will show you a person who will refuse to honor God!

EPH 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

EPH 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

EPH 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Notice how it says that honoring your parents is the first commandment with promise. What does that mean?

It is the first commandment that a promise is attached to it. When you honor your parents God promises to honor you. He honors you with a longer and blessed life.

In fact the Bible gives a harsh punishment for people who dishonor their parents.

EXO 21:15 And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.

EXO 21:17 And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.

To dishonour your parents was a sin punishable by death.

Why did the Lord say that when you honor your parents things will go well with you and you will live long upon the earth? He said that because God has lent you to your parents and God makes no mistakes that is part of His design.

Even Jesus was subject to his earthly parents. Imagine he was perfect and they were sinners. Yet he learned submission.

LUK 2:48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

LUK 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

LUK 2:50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

LUK 2:51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

LUK 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Even at his death Jesus saw to it that His mother was cared for:

JOH 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

JOH 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

JOH 19:27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

These are the first 5 Commandments..

Conclusion:

As we meditate on these we realize that there is not one person who has not fallen short in some way in some areas when it has come to obeying these commandments. But there is good news, Jesus paid for all our sins, and has nailed to his cross all the righteous demands of these laws. If we repent of our sins, acknowledge our sin and come to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Then he will send his spirit into our hearts so that his law no longer will be written in cold tables of stone but will be written in our hearts and minds. So now we want to do these things. They are no longer grievous to us. They are not a burden.