

The Law &
The Ten Commandments

Lesson 2

Lesson 2

The 1st Commandment

Review

Three Types of the Law

- 1) Ceremonial - *Israel's Worship of God*
- 2) Civil - *Government*
- 3) Moral - *Direct commands (Ten Comndmnts)*

Law & the Christian

Salvation does not come through obedience to the law!

Salvation comes through trust in Christ!

Nevertheless, we have a new nature in Christ and our new nature desires to do good works and to keep God's commandments.

Law & the Christian

Romans 6:19

¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, ***so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.***

Romans 7:6

⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that ***we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.***

Law & the Christian

Romans 12: 1-2

¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to ***present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*** ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Timothy 3:16 -17

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and ***profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*** ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Corinthians 7:1

⁷ Since we have these promises, beloved, let us ***cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.***

Law & the Christian

1 Peter 1:15

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also ***be holy in all your conduct***, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Law & the Christian

So, even though salvation does not come by keeping the law, we are to:

- *present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification*
- *Be corrected, rebuked, and trained in righteousness*
- *cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God*
- *be holy in all your conduct*

Law & the Christian

Hebrews 10:1-18

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

¹⁰ For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? ³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Law & the Christian

Hebrews 10:1-18

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All (continued)

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Law & the Christian

Hebrews 10:1-18

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All (continued)

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them

after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws on their hearts,

and write them on their minds,"

¹⁷ then he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Law & the Christian

The ceremonial law and the sacrificial system pointed forward to Christ. It was a shadow of what was to come.

Therefore, to offer a sacrifice at this time is blasphemous because it denies the sufficiency of Christ's once for all sacrifice.

Three Uses of the Law

1st Use – Curb

The law is used to control sin. See 1 Tim 1:9

2nd Use – Mirror

The law is used to reveal our sin. See Rom 3:20

3rd Use – Rule

The law is used to guide the Christian in holy living. See Psalm 119:105.

As we will see in the weeks to come, the Ten Commandments, and a deeper understanding of them, can be employed in all three uses of the law.

Summary of the Law

Matthew 22: 34 - 40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Summary of the Law

Two Tables of the Law

First Table of the Law

1st – You shall have no other gods

2nd – You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God

3rd – Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy

Summary of the Law

Second Table of the Law

4th – Honor your father and mother

5th – You shall not murder

6th – You shall not commit adultery

7th – You shall not steal

8th – You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor

9th – You shall not covet your neighbor's house

10th – You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor

Summary of the Law

Two Tables of the Law

First Table – Man's relationship with God

Second Table – Man's relationship with men

1st Commandment

Exodus 20: 3-4

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.

1st Commandment

What does this mean?

Luther's Small Catechism:

"We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things."

1st Commandment

What does this mean?

Luther's Large Catechism:

- A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress.
- In other words, the object of our trust. What you trust in your heart is your god.
- The intent of this commandment is to put all of our trust in God alone

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism:

“the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol.”

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

- Our faith should not be connected to material wealth.
- Luther regards this as the most common idol on earth.
- Wealth can make a person feel secure, as though they had no need for God.
- On the other hand, those without wealth can feel despondent, as though there is no God.

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

"This (care and desire for money) sticks to our nature, even to the grave."

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

- Idols created under the papacy
- Looking to saints for relief from affliction
- For example, if you have a toothache, fast and pray to St. Apollonia
- If you are afraid of fire, turn to St. Lawrence

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

“Thus you can easily understand what and how much this commandment requires, namely, that man's entire heart and all his confidence be placed in God alone, and in no one else. For to have God, you can easily perceive, is not to lay hold of Him with our hands or to put Him in a bag [as money], or to lock Him in a chest [as silver vessels].”

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

“But to cling to Him with the heart is nothing else than to trust in Him entirely. For this reason He wishes to turn us away from everything else that exists outside of Him, and to draw us to Himself, namely, because He is the only eternal good. As though He would say; Whatever you have heretofore sought of the saints, or for whatever [things] you have trusted in Mammon or anything else, expect it all of Me, and regard Me as the one who will help you and pour out upon you richly all good things.”

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

- Human hearts make idols
- Works righteousness elevates our works and creates a false god who is indebted to the good worker

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

God cares for us and all things come from Him

- Land
- Water
- Food
- Family
- Parents
- Laws that form the basis for civilization
- Laws that admonish people to love one another

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

God attached a promise to his commandments (Exodus 20: 5-6)

⁵ You 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, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

“Although these words relate to all the commandments (as we shall hereafter learn), yet they are joined to this chief commandment because it is of first importance that men have a right head; for where the head is right, the whole life must be right, and *vice versa*.”

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

Exodus 20: 5-6

⁵ You 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, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Can you think of examples?

How about Saul & David?

1st Commandment

Luther's Large Catechism (continued):

“Where the heart is rightly disposed toward God and this commandment is observed, all the others will follow.”

1st Commandment

Is this a false idol?

- Money?
- Food?
- Health?
- Retirement?
- Home?
- Entertainment (sports, movies, games)?

1st Commandment

Is this a false idol?

- Family?
- Doctrine?

Questions?

Next Week

The 2nd & 3rd Commandments