

## ***Loving God by Following His Commands...***

### **Three Necessary Steps to Being a Person Who Loves, Appreciates, and Follows God's Commands**

#### **I. Understand the Christian's Relationship to the Law.**

##### **A. The Old Testament foundation:**

###### **1. Survey**

Psalm 1:2 – *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.*

Psalm 19:7 – *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*

Psalm 40:8 – *I desire to do your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart.”*

Psalm 119:18 – *Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law.*

Psalm 119:34 – *Give me understanding, and I will keep Your law and obey it with all my heart.*

Psalm 119:72 – *The law from Your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.*

Psalm 119:92 – *If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.*

Psalm 119:142 – *Your righteousness is everlasting and Your law is true.*

Psalm 119:174 – *I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight.*

Proverbs 29:18 – *Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.*

###### **2. An important distinction**

##### **B. The law's purpose:**

###### **1. To reveal the righteousness and holiness of God.**

Deuteronomy 4:6-8 – *Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to Him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?*

2. To provide a moral compass for daily living.

*Joshua 1:7-8 – Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

3. To reveal our imperfections and sinfulness.

*Romans 3:20 – Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*

4. To bring us to Christ.

*Galatians 3:24 – So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.*

*Galatians 3:13 – Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”*

5. To direct our steps as followers of Christ.

*Matthew 5:17-18 – Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*

*James 2:10 – For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*

*1 John 2:3 – Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

## **II. Cultivate a Commitment to Guarding the Commands.**

### **A. The “Godward” commands:**

1. Do not worship other gods.
2. Do not make images of God.
3. Do not use God’s name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day.

*Matthew 22:37-38 – Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.*

*Colossians 1:18 – He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.*

B. The “manward” commands:

1. Honor your father and mother.
2. Do not murder.
3. Do not commit adultery.
4. Do not steal.
5. Do not lie.
6. Do not covet.

*Matthew 22:39-40 – And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

**III. Embrace the Opportunities a Commandment Oriented Life Provides.**

- A. The opportunity to be drawn closer to Him.
- B. The opportunity to demonstrate the righteousness that only God can give.
- C. The opportunity to minister to others through the testimony of an obedient life.