The Good Life

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Exodus 20

Most people see the Ten Commandments (T.C.) as a measuring stick for goodness and morality. What if the T.C. are more than just a bunch of rules that we need to keep to be "good"?

Question: Does starting with Exodus 20:1 instead of verse 3 surprise you? Why?

When we start with verse 1 of the chapter, we learn three truths about the TC:

1. God's commands are about freedom not slavery.

Exodus 20:2 God says "I am the One who has rescued you out of slavery."

Question: How does understanding the context (from the beginning of creation being "good", Genesis being about God not walking away from humanity, Exodus starting with 400 years of slavery and God's deliverance of His people) shift the way you view the T.C.?

These are 10 commands about how to live in freedom - no longer slaves.

Question: Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

Question: What is freedom? Is your definition and experience closer to "following your heart" or "the power to become what I was made for"?

2. God's commands showcase His goodness.

The Egyptian religion which was all about using magic to control the 1,500 gods that they believed in.

Question: How does understanding that the T.C. were written to a people who didn't really understand who God was as slaves? What of God's values are reflected in the T.C.?

John 14:15

Deuteronomy 11:22 "... Show love to the Lord your God ..."

Question: Have you ever obeyed God out of fear or love? How do they look different in your life? How does it continue to shift for you?

3. Commandments are always rooted in God's grace.

"You need to be good so God will love you and accept you" is how many other religions view their relationship with God.

Question: What are some of the major differences in how Christians relate to God compared to other religions? How does it look different in your life?

"Every other religion says you are accepted if you obey but Christianity says you obey because you are already accepted."