

God's Law: A Guide for His Holy People

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Exodus 20

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Exodus 20 - God has brought His people to meet Him at His mountain. It is here that He reminds them of His Grace & gives them His Law.

God speaks His Law

- Isaiah's description Isaiah 42:21 - magnify His law & make it glorious
- Preface & Prologue: God is Lord & Gracious so keep these commands...
- God addresses EACH person (2nd person singular) not group
- ANE Suzerain Treaty format:
 - Preamble - God spoke 1
 - Historical prologue - God's grace in delivering His people 2
 - Stipulations - Ten Commands 3-17
 - Provisions for deposit of treaty (2 copies): sacred place & where God dwelt
 - List of witnesses - memorial stones; Moses' song; people
 - List of blessings & curses: Deut 27-28
- Character of God's Law: Grace 1st, then responsibility
- Satan's lie: law is bondage - NO: for our good Deut 6:20-24
- Satan's lie: law is burden - NO: plan for living 1 Pe 2:16; Ga 5:13; Mt 22:37-40
- Law shows us God's love: Jn 14:15; Mt 22:37-40

The Law of Christ - Is the law binding today?

- Yes - God has not changed, His standards have not changed
- Some deny law in effect today:
 - Non-believers - deny God & law - Heb 9:27-28
 - Believers misread Bible - over focus on Christ's fulfillment Jn 1:17; Rm 6:14
 - They rightly say we aren't saved by keeping the law, but forget we were saved to glorify God & live for Him: 1 Cor 9:21; Lk 16:17
- Law is best understood as 3 kinds:
 - a) Moral - 10 commands. Governs our relationship with God & others - summarized by love.
 - b) Civil - laws that governed Old Covenant people: waging war; land use, etc.
 - c) Ceremonial - defined regulations for worship in Old: clean, unclean, purity, sacrifice
 - Civil & Ceremonial fulfilled in Christ's completed work! No longer apply
 - Moral Law - still in effect see WCF 19:6

Gospel Grace and the Law - uses of the law today:

- Teaches God's Redeemed people how to live - shows us God's will; same Spirit that uses law to convict a sinner uses law to guide in sanctification
- Law Restrains Sin in Society - law reminds us of God's character & sovereignty
- Law Shows Sinners Their Need for A Savior - law shows us our need for God's Savior

The Law Shows Us Our Need for a Savior

- Unbelievers — We can't meet God's righteous requirements of the law. We can't even keep a law of our own making Rom 1:14-16, just as the Jews couldn't keep God's Law Rom 1:17ff
- Believers — We can't keep God's law on our own. The law shows us our need to walk in God's Spirit to glorify and serve God. Response: thankfulness that Christ has kept the law on our behalf (Rom 8:1; 2 Cor 5:21) and Prayer that God's Spirit might guide us Eph 1:15-22

Think & Discuss:

- **How often do you think of God's law in your life? Why or why not? What are the normal feelings you get when you think of God's law?**
- **The Israelites of Exodus 20 have been saved/delivered. Why is that important as God gives them His law?**
- **Have you ever thought of Exodus 20 presenting Gospel (grace) before the Law? What is the "so-what" of this concept?**
- **How were the Israelites to explain God's law to their children in Deut 6:20-24? How would you apply that idea to today?**
- **Is God's law a burden? Why or why not?**
- **Does God save us so now we are free to live as we please? Explain. Consider 1 Pt 2:16; Gal 5:13.**
- **The law is a summary of God's love. Mt 22:37-40; Mk 12:29-31; Jn 14:15. Explain what that means in practical terms.**
- **How would you describe the 3 kinds of laws: moral, civil, ceremonial? What is the "so what" for today?**
- **For each of the uses of the law today give a real world example where you have seen this in action.**