

## 7 Rules for Understanding God's 10 Commands

August 26, 2018

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Exodus 20

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Exodus 20 - God's Law is given to help His people know how to walk in covenant blessings. These rules help us understand God's Law:

### 1. Scripture interprets Scripture

- A Scripture must be understood in context of the whole Bible
- Second command v4,5 refers to using images for the purpose of worship
- In Exodus 25 God commanded images to be carved for tabernacle - for beauty, not to be worshiped.
- We are to avoid images which lead to improper worship

### 2. The Inside/Outside Rule

- Commands deal with internal as well as external obedience.
- God's law deals with soul - Rom 7:14; Psa 139:1-4
- Tenth command coveting deals with attitude of heart (internal)
- So do other commands: 7<sup>th</sup> Ex 20:14>Mt 5:28; 6<sup>th</sup> Ex 20:13>Mt 5:21-22
- God's Law exposes our hearts, shows need for Gospel: Ro 7:22-25

### 3. The Two Sided Rule - law of opposites

- Though only one side is commanded its opposite is required.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Ex 20:15>Eph 4:28; 9<sup>th</sup> Ex 20:16> Eph 4:29
- Law Summarized by Jesus Mt 22:26-40 - Love God, Love Neighbor

### 4. The Rule of Categories

- WLC #99.6 - 'under one sin or duty, all of the same kind are forbidden or commanded...
- Jesus on the 6<sup>th</sup> Ex 20:13>Mt 5:21-22 Even anger or insults...
- See Peacemaker - Slippery Slope
- We demonstrate Love by loving those made in image of God, not murdering

### 5. The Brother's Keeper Rule

- Cain - Gen 4:9: "am I my brother's keeper?"
- Adam — did not protect Eve when she was tempted Gen 3:6
- The Rule applied:
  - Don't help or encourage others to sin — Ex 32:1-4 Aaron... Hab 2:15
  - Setting a bad example for others — Lk 17:1-3
  - Responsibility to help others from sin — Gal 6:1. Eli rebuked 1 Sa 3:13
- Never forget WONDER of the Gospel: Rm 3:23-24. Christians aren't sinless, we are merely covered by God's perfect atonement. Point others to Gospel!

### 6. The Rule of Tables - rule of priority - God 1<sup>st</sup>

- The order of the laws seems significant, especially fact that our duty to God is first and then our duty to man made in God's image.
- If parent/teacher tells child to worship a false god, 1<sup>st</sup> command before 5<sup>th</sup>
- Peter applied Act 5:28-29; must obey God rather than men

### 7. The Rule of Love

- Jesus: God's law summarized by Love: Mt 22:36-40;
- Paul: Paul summarized law by Love: Rom 13:8-10

### Laws for God's Covenant People

- We don't earn God's love by keeping the law — despair Rom 7:24; Jms 2:10
- God's saves us, calls us and enables us to keep His Law <sup>Rm 8:3-4</sup> for His glory
- Gospel Hope for Redeemed Sinners who Sin:
  - God has provided us an Advocate - Jesus 1 John 2:2
  - When you sin, God is praying for you - Heb 7:25; Rom 8:26-27
  - God feeds sinners He has saved: Mt 26:74-75; Jesus invited His fickle, cursing, and rebellious friend to eat with Him: Jn 21:12

Think & Discuss:

- **For each of these 7 Rules discuss how you can you it to help you live in God's Blessings. Give a real world example where you have seen this in action.**
- **Can you think of other Rules which are helpful in keeping God's Ten Commandments?**
- **How do we keep from being like the Pharisees and making these Rules burdensome and difficult as we seek to walk in obedience as redeemed people?**

