

The Ten Commandments

Introduction; The Ten Commandments are in the news lately.

- A. In Alabama a Chief Justice, Roy Moore, donated a monument of the ten commandments several years ago.
1. This was placed inside the Alabama Supreme Court building. Recently some have opposed it. The U.S. district judge, Myron Thompson, ordered it to be removed.
 2. Justice Roy Moore took the issue to the U.S. Supreme Court and it refused to hear the case. He said he would not remove the monument. Alan Keyes, a former presidential candidate, and others have gone to Alabama to support Roy Moore.
 3. However Judge Moore has been suspended and it seems it will be removed soon. In 1980 the U.S. Supreme Court barred posting the Ten Commands in public school but has not ruled on public displays like this one.
- B. Part of the issue here is a public recognition of the religion of the Bible.
1. For the last 40 years religion has slowly been removed from public life.
 2. In 1962 prayer in schools was banned.
 3. In 1985 the 'moment of meditation or prayer' was ruled unconstitutional.
 4. On June 19, 2000 the US Supreme court decided that a prayer before a high school football game was unconstitutional.
 5. On Sept 13, 2002 the Sixth District Court of Ohio ruled that a conviction for aggravated robbery, rape and murder was invalid because the jury had a group prayer.
 6. Yet before each session of the US Supreme court the bailiff says, "God save the honorable court." Both houses of congress open with a word of prayer.
 7. Yet religion, and especially the religion of Jesus Christ, is ridiculed and taken from public display. It seems most of the political leaders and judges do not want the rest of the nation to practice what they practice.
- C. We want to look at the Ten Commandments today.
1. We want to see that we are not under them but under the law of Christ. They were a part of the law of Moses.
 2. We do want to see that all but one of them are repeated under the law of Christ. They are things that God has always demanded.
 3. We will see that we are not under the 'Sabbath Day' commandment. Sunday is not the Sabbath day. It isn't the 'Christian's Sabbath'.
- D. We need to be very concerned about the moral and religious condition of our nation.
1. Decisions like this talk us father and father away from God. This will continue to have an affect on our nation.
 2. However despite our desire for public displays of religion, we must know the truth about things like this.
 3. Most denominations think the Ten Commandments are still God's law and binding. That is why they call Sunday the, "Christian Sabbath."
 4. This issue of the Ten Commandments is strictly not a N.T. issue but a Jewish issue. It is their law.
 5. However we are still very concerned about our nation' refusal to recognize Jehovah God and His rule in our land.

I. The 10 Commandments were for the Jews.

- A. The 'Ten Commandments' or "10 Words" were given by Moses to the Jews.
1. Moses received these 10 words on Mount Sinai. They were part of the Covenant that God make with Israel. They were not given before this to other peoples (in this way) and they were not given in this way afterwards.
 2. *Exod 34:27-29 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words*

I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." 28 So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. 29 Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.

3. There were two tablets of stone. There are many ideas about this.
 - a. The Catholics and Lutherans say the first 3 commands were on the first tablet and the next 7 on the second. They also divide them differently.
 - b. Some put the first 4 on the first stone tablet and say they are our duty to God. The next 6 on the second tablet are our duty to man.
 - c. The Jews and many others simply put 5 commands on each tablet.
 - d. The Samaritans added to the second command that Mount Gerizim is the mount of worship.
 4. Many feel that both tablets had all ten commands. This was a covenant or agreement. Two copies would be made, one for each side, God and man.
 5. Both copies are kept in the Ark of the Covenant. Jehovah and man come together at the Mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.
- B. Moses received the 10 Commands for the people and kept them for the Jews.
1. The 10 Commands were first spoken by God on Mount Sinai to the people. When they were afraid they asked for Moses to go up and listen to God for them.
 2. *Deut 10:3-5 "So I made an ark of acacia wood, hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, having the two tablets in my hand. 4 And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the LORD had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me. 5 Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the LORD commanded me."*
 3. God gave them to Moses during a period of 40 days on the mountain. When Moses came down the people had reverted to idolatry. Moses broke the tablets of God in anger.
 4. *Exod 32:19-20 So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. 20 Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it.*
 5. Breaking the tablets probably symbolized the breaking of the covenant. God was never angry with Moses for doing this. Israel had already broken the agreement. Moses showed them this by breaking the tablets of God.
- C. We see briefly then, that the 10 Commands were for the Jews and a part of their law.

II. Most of the 10 Commands are repeated in the New Testament.

- A. The N.T. never lists the 10 Words in one place as the O.T. does.
1. They are not given as a group. They are not separated from the rest of the N.T. as a special part of the law. Jehovah did this for the Jews through Moses. They are not found grouped like this before Moses either.
 2. Being a part of the O.T. they are taken out of the way and nailed to the cross.
 3. *Col 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*
 4. *Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,*
 5. However 9 of the 10 commands were part of God's law both before and after the law of Moses. They are commands and expectations God had always had for His people.
- B. Most of the 10 Words are part of the N.T. They are repeated for us.
1. The list is found in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-22. Several of the commands are very similar and go together. They form a basis for the rest of the law of Moses.

2. *1st; Exod 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."*
This is strictly against idolatry, regardless of having an idol or not. They are not to worship other gods. Jehovah is the only true God. The Gentiles reject Jehovah to make idols in their own images –Rom 1:18 ff.
3. *2nd; Exod 20:4 "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;"*
 - a. These are commands against idolatry. Idolatry was very common in O.T. times. It was very hard for Israel to learn to not follow idols. We are also warned against them. These idols could be of Jehovah. The golden calf as of Jehovah. This is different from the first command in this respect. No carved images of Jehovah in any form whether man or animal or whatever.
 - b. 1 Cor 10:14 *Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.*
 - c. Col 3:5 *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*
4. *3rd; Exod 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."*
 - a. This is a command to treat God as Holy. He is not common and ordinary. We must honor and respect Him. His 'name' is **who He is**. We must not disrespect Him. This is more than just saying God's name in a vain or empty way. This is worshipping God in an unauthorized way –see Luke 6:46. This is following men instead of the Lord. Saying, "*Lord, Lord...*", does not make something right –Matt 7:21-23.
 - b. Lev 20:3 *I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given some of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name.'*
 - c. Psa 23:3 *He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*
 - d. 1 Pet 1:15-16 *...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*
 - e. Rev 3:7 *"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true...*
5. *4th; Exod 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."*
 - a. As Jehovah is honored as our heavenly Father and Lord, our earthly parents must also be honored. This is in both word and deed.
 - b. Eph 6:1-3 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*
6. *5th; Exod 20:13 "You shall not murder."*
 - a. This is very simple. Murder is always wrong. All societies recognize this. We must not murder. We must also not ridicule and mistreat our brethren.
 - b. Rev 22:15 *But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*
 - c. Matt 5:22 *"But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.*
7. *6th; Exod 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery."*
 - a. Adultery has always been wrong. Any violation to God's establishment of marriage in Eden is wrong.
 - b. Gal 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness...*
 - c. Matt 5:28 *"But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*
8. *7th; Exod 20:15 "You shall not steal."*
 - a. Stealing has always been wrong. We must work for a living. We cannot take advantage of others in any way.
 - b. Eph 4:28 *Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.*
 - c. 2 Thess 3:10-11 *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.*
9. *8th; Exod 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."*
 - a. Lying has always been wrong. God cannot lie (Tit 1:2) and does not want His children to. We must be honest and dependable.
 - b. Eph 4:25 *Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.*

10. 9th; *Exod 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."*
- Coveting involves envy and jealousy. It involves hating someone who is better off than we are. More than they it involves wishing them ill. Many will even do things to those who have what they don't. They may even do things to destroy what they have.
 - 1 Cor 6:9-10 *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.*

C. We see most of these laws are common laws for all people of all times.

III. We are not under the Sabbath law.

A. The one law of the Ten Commands not repeated is to remember the Sabbath day.

- Exod 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work; you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."*
- Notice that the Sabbath day is Saturday —vs 10. It is the 7th day of the week, not the first. God rested on the seventh day in Genesis.
- Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*
- The Sabbath day is a day of rest, not worship. The Hebrew word for 'Sabbath' means, 'to cease, to desist and to rest.' It was for man to rest and renew himself physically.
- Exod 31:14 "You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people."*
- It was about a thousand years after the law of Moses and the Ten Commandments were given that the Jews made the Sabbath a day of worship. They did this in Babylonian captivity because they were away from the temple.

B. Sunday is the Lord's day. It is a day of worship.

- It is not a day of rest. We are not to kill Christians who work on Sunday. While many neglect to worship in order to work and will be judged for doing so, it is not wrong to work on Sunday.
- Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*
- 1 Cor 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.*
- Sunday is the Lord's day and a day to remember His death, burial and resurrection for us. It is a very different kind of day than the Sabbath day.
- 1 Cor 11:20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.*
- Mark 16:9 Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.*
- The church began on the day of Pentecost which was always a Sunday —Act 2:1-4. This is the Lord's day —Rev 1:10. It is a day to remember Him and what He did for us.
- Sunday is never called the 'Christian Sabbath' or even the Sabbath day. These are words of men.
- Man still needs times of rest. A particular day is not commanded in the N.T. It is up to us to plan our own times of rest. The Sabbath under the O.T. system is a symbol of our eternal rest in heaven.
- Heb 4:1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.*

C. We have a day of rest promised when this life is over. Sunday is not it.

Conclusion; The Ten Commandments have a lot of attention today.

- A. It may be good. Many are upset that our government will not allow public displays like this
1. Many are seeing the direction our nation is going. Will the outcry be enough to turn things around? Perhaps.
 2. While we know we are not under the 10 Commands today we still need to worry that the Bible is suppressed in public places.
- B. The Bible tells us how to be saved.
1. We must believe in Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God. We must repent of our sins and turn from them. We must then be buried with Him in baptism (Rom 6:3-7) so our sins can be washed away —Act 22:16. We then become children of God who follow Him.
 2. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
- C. If we can help anyone serve the Lord today, please let us.