



Outward Group Discussion Guide

January 11, 2026 (Silverton)

SUMMARY

This sermon explores the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai, emphasizing that God's law was given after salvation, not as a means to it. The pastor challenges two common cultural misunderstandings of the Ten Commandments: viewing them either as a checklist for salvation or as oppressive restrictions. Instead, the commandments are presented as grace-filled instructions for how redeemed people should live in relationship with their Rescuer. God establishes three foundational truths before giving the law: His absolute authority as Yahweh, His intimate relationship with His people, and His prior rescue of them from slavery. The sermon emphasizes that our obedience is a response to salvation already accomplished through Christ's perfect obedience, not a means of earning it. The order of operations matters: God saves first, then calls us to obey as an expression of relationship with Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do we treat God's timeless commands like outdated technology that needs constant updates, and how does this reveal our hearts?
2. What does it mean for God to claim both absolute authority over all creation and intimate relationship with you personally, and how do these two truths shape your daily life?
3. How does understanding that God saved Israel before giving them the law change the way you view obedience in your own relationship with God?
4. The pastor mentioned that both loving the Ten Commandments as a checklist and hating them as oppressive miss the point—what is the true purpose of God's law in the life of a believer?
5. George MacDonald said the theme of hell is 'I am my own'—how does our culture's emphasis on personal autonomy conflict with biblical obedience, and where do you see this tension in your own life?

6. What does it look like practically to have your will crossed in relationship with God, and why is this necessary for genuine intimacy with Him?
7. How does recognizing that your salvation depends on Christ's perfect obedience rather than your own change the way you approach God's commands?
8. The Israelites asked God to stop speaking because His holiness was too overwhelming—when was the last time you felt the weight of God's holiness, and how did it affect you?
9. If the Ten Commandments reveal how we were always designed to live rather than arbitrary rules, what does your struggle with specific commands reveal about areas where you need restoration?
10. How can the church better communicate that God's law is grace that shows us the path to flourishing, rather than either a burden to bear or a ladder to climb?