

Written in Stone...

The Commandments

In a world that often views "rules" as restrictive chains, we are embarking on a journey to rediscover the beauty of the boundaries set by our Creator. God's Word, Written in Stone, invites us to look past the cold surface of the tablets and into the heart of the Law-Giver. We will explore how the Ten Commandments were never intended to be a heavy burden for us to carry, but rather a protective hedge planted by a loving Father. By diving into the moral architecture of God's Word, we'll see how His "thou shalt nots" are actually invitations to a life of true freedom, stability, and purpose.

Throughout this series, we will examine how these ancient decrees remain perfectly relevant to our modern struggles, relationships, work ethic, and for our inner peace. We'll bridge the gap between the Old Covenant Law and the Grace found in Jesus Christ. While the Law reveals our need for a Savior, it also provides a blueprint for abundant life. Join us as we learn that when we live within the lines God has drawn, we don't find confinement—we find the profound blessing of a life aligned with His holiness and His design for human joy.

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:8-10

The Context

1 And God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." Exodus 20:1

- God establishes His identity before He establishes His rules.
- We don't obey to get saved, we obey because we are saved.
- The law is not a ladder to reach God, it is God reaching down to us.

The Timing

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." Exodus 19:5-6

- God had to get them out of Egypt, and Egypt out of them.
- He took slaves and turned them into a holy people.
- God reaches us when we are most ready to listen.

The Transformation

3 “You shall have no other gods before me. 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. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. 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. Exodus 20:3-7

- God states He is not like God’s you used to serve.
- We still live in “Egypt” today.
- Know Who you serve.

God’s Nature

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:17-20

- He took "Do not murder" and applied it to our anger.
- He took "Do not commit adultery" and applied it to our lust.

Written on our hearts. Written in stone. Written in His blood.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let’s dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – The people lived their whole lives, and generations before them, a certain way. Then, God called them to a new place – physically and spiritually. How has He called you similarly?

Tuesday – God did not give them the law as soon as they left. He got them out of Egypt. His law was working to get Egypt out of them. How is God working to get the “old you” out of the “new you”?

Wednesday – The Commandments begin with 3 laws about no other gods or idols. What idols still threaten to steal our attention, faith, and hope from the One True God?

Thursday – Jesus came to fulfill the law where couldn’t. Where do we still fall short?

Friday – Jesus showed us it is not just about acts, but about our hearts. Anger is murder and lust is adultery. God looks at what is inside. How is this encouraging and scary at the same time?