

Written in Stone...

The Heart of a Child

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

Last week, on Mother's Day, we looked at the Fifth Commandment in our Written in Stone series. We talked about how authority in the home reflects the authority of God. The Fifth Commandment tells children how to respond to their parents. Today, God's Word is going to tell us as parents, as grandparents, and as a church how we are to respond to our children.

The Foundation

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Spiritual legacy is not accidental...it is an intentional, everyday lifestyle.

When you sit in your house.

When you walk by the way.

When you lie down.

When you rise.

The Fulfillment

13 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went away. Matthew 19:13-15

Jesus does not view children as a distraction from the ministry. He views them as the very definition and focus of it.

Bring them in your Prayers.

Bring them to Kids Club.

Bring them to Youth.

Bring them to Church.

The Function

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:1-4

The gospel transforms parental authority from a tool of control into a ministry of grace.

We don't discipline out of personal embarrassment or uncontrolled anger.

We don't hold them to a standard of perfection we can't meet ourselves.

We are quick to say, "I'm sorry, I was wrong. Please forgive me."

Today, we didn't just watch a show at the beginning of the service. We made a promise. When that child was raised from the water, and when that family stood on this stage with their baby... we as a church said: "We are with you."

Let's be a church that teaches diligently. Let's be a church that never hinders a little one from coming to Jesus. And let's be a church where our homes reflect the beauty of the gospel.

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 – Before you try to share your faith with anyone else today, how is your own connection with Jesus? Is the gospel a fresh reality in your heart right now, or just a routine?

Tuesday – Look at the ordinary moments in your schedule today (meals, drives, waiting rooms). How can you turn one of these "in-between" moments into a quick conversation about God's goodness with a child or loved one?

Wednesday – Children learn what Jesus is like by watching us. Is there anything in your attitude, temper, or busyness this week that might accidentally be acting as a "spiritual bouncer" making it harder for the younger generation to see the gentleness of Jesus?

Thursday – When you have to enforce boundaries or correct someone today, are you reacting out of personal frustration, or are you modeling the grace that God shows to you?

Friday – Think back to the baptism and baby dedication. How can you pray for or encourage a young family in our church so they know they aren't walking this path alone?