

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"THE OTHER HALF" | EXODUS 20: 12-21 | PASTOR BRIAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is a unique or funny family rule you've heard of or used yourself?

"Honor Your Father and Mother" - (Exodus 20: 12)

Remember, this command was addressed to adults, not children, showing it applies to all ages. What are ways adults can honor parents today? What are ways adults dishonor parents?

"Murder, Adultery, Theft, False Witness" - (Exodus 20: 13-16)

Commands against murder, adultery, stealing and lying were meant to show boundaries of how people were to relate to one another and build a society. What does this reveal about God and His desires for His people?

"You Shall Not Covet" - (Exodus 20: 17)

This is the only command of the 10 that deals with thoughts and desires, showing how powerful they can be to leading us to breaking the other commandments. What in our society today makes it easy to covet? How can people avoid coveting?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Pastor Brian pointed out the first 4 of the 10 commandments focused on our relationship with God. The next 6 focus on our relationship with others, which Jesus summarized by saying love one another. How has your heart been towards loving others lately? Are there people you should apologize too? Ask God to humble you and to help you to love others His way.

The Other Half

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Lar: Men's. Moms. Foundations. CG. Missions.
- B. Slide7 Faith and Family Night at Storm Stadium: This Fri, Aug 27. Call The Storm directly for tickets.
- C. Slide8 Prayer:

II. Slide9a Intro:

- A. The **1st 4** commandments deal with *a relationship with God*, while the **last 6** deal with *a relationship with others*. Thus my title: The Other Half
 1. Slide9b If we love God & obey Him, we will also love others & serve them.
 2. Some people *obey God* because of **fear** (18-20), others *obey* only because they **want His blessing**. The highest motive for *obedience* is our **love** for the Lord. *The one who loves fulfills the law*. Romans 13:8.
- B. Slide10 Let's start with *audience participation*. Help you to remember the **big 10 comm**, using your fingers (explain).
- C. Slide11 Let's remember this is **A Story** about *loving God and loving others*.
 1. The Torah or the Law (5 books), or their constitution, which ends up having 613 laws which are simply placed within **a story**.
 2. **The Torah could be summarized**: right after God gives them the 10 Commandments (don't worship other gods, don't make idols), is the story of them *breaking* these very laws with **a golden calf**. Then, more laws and then more stories of rebellion. More laws, more rebellion, etc.
 3. **So** the conclusion of the Torah's story (Deut) is Moses telling them I know you guys aren't going to keep all of God's laws and are not able to. **The problem is your hearts are hard, your hearts are on a default setting** to

not follow these laws. What you need is a transformed heart to be able to follow God's law.

D. **So** He gives the 15 books of the prophets.

1. **Ezekiel**, says if you're going to obey God, His Spirit would have to transform your hard hearts, into soft hearts.
2. **Jeremiah** said basically, that's when obedience to God's commands wouldn't feel like a duty **but** would be written deep inside their hearts.
3. **Isaiah**, promised a future leader, the Messiah, who would lead the people to obedience of the law.
 - a) So it's **one-whole-connected story**.
 - b) **Jesus** identifies *our problem of sin* is having these *hard hearts* and **that** He came to solve this problem. **So** he explains that He came to fulfill the law, by showing us *love for God & love for man*. Which seems to be what we all want, **but it's not**. Jesus shows God's love is far more *demanding* than we think.
 - c) Before Jesus left He explained, *I will send My Holy Spirit, so that you will be able to do as I did*.

E. **Slide12a-c The Rich Young Ruler**. Mt.19:16-22 he asked Jesus, *what good deed must I do to have eternal life?* Jesus responded, do #6,7,8,9, skips 10, but adds #5. *Mic drop, did that!* **Then** Jesus adds ok, do #10, *if you want to be perfect go and sell what you possess and give to the poor and you'll have treasure in heaven and come and follow me*. This is when he went away sorrowful. #10 speaks to his covetous heart.

1. **If** we were able to keep God's law perfectly **then** it would be able to save us.
2. According to God's own Word, *the person who obeys the commandments will live by them*. Rom.10:5

III. Slide13 **THE SECOND HALF (12-17) READ**

A. Slide14a #5 **HONOR YOUR FATHER & MOTHER**

- B. (12) *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*
- C. The 2nd, of the 2 of the 10, rendered in the **positive** (the other #4 Sabbath day).
1. The others say what **not to do**.
- D. **Parents are our co-creators**. How important God deems honoring parents.
1. **Slide14b** Note, it doesn't use the term **obey**, but **honor** (since not all parents desire their children to obey God's law). [most commentaries said, *the audience of this one is adults, is not primarily addressing little children*]. Sometimes the older you get, the harder dad & mom are to honor :(
- E. **Parents must act honorably**. Implicit in the Commandment to honor our parents is the expectation for parents to act in ways that elicit their children's respect.¹
1. It is difficult to **honor** parents who act **dishonorably** (such as parents who are criminally, **or** dysfunctional due to drug or alcohol addiction, **or** treat the other parent with contempt).
- F. **Slide14c** The only commandment that specifies a **Reward**. But don't think of this individually **but collectively**. The **nation** collectively will preserve its family units and its traditions and beliefs, and they as a civilization will therefore long endure.
1. **Slide14d** "The breakdown of the **family** is a guarantor of the breakdown of a **civilization**."
 2. **Also** think of **Totalitarian Regimes**, who seek to shift the children's loyalty and obedience from their parents, to the state (even encouraging the children to inform on their parents).
- G. **Lastly**, we see **this is a Gospel saying**, as Paul records it even with the reward attached in Eph.6:1-4. **Many biblical stories about families involve strife and struggle**. Thus the command to **honor** has important practical implications.
- H. **Slide15a #6 YOU SHALL NOT MURDER** - *don't deprive your neighbor of his life*

¹ Dennis Prager, Exodus, pg.256.

- I. (13) *You shall not murder*. (This is not about *killing* but *murder*) Sanctity of Human Life.
- J. Murder is the *immoral* killing of a human being. If *killing* was forbidden, then you could not defend yourself, *or* your family, *and* no war would ever be justified.
1. You couldn't kill anyone in the process of shooting 100 school children.
 2. *Thou shall not kill* - *was an unfortunate translation by the KJV*. Which led many people to use it to *defend pacifism* & to *oppose capital punishment* for murder. (There may be valid reasons to oppose the death penalty, *but* the 6th Commandment is not one of them).
 - a) *Slide15b* To take an *innocent* life was tantamount to *killing God in effigy* (likeness/representation), since humans were *created in God's image*. Protecting an *innocent* human life showed *reverence for God*, the primary object of all OT law.
 - b) *Side note*: the Torah *commands* the death penalty for *premeditated murder* *and* allows killing in *war* *and* in *self-defense*. Ex.21:12-14; 22:2.
 3. We differentiate today by saying, *a terrorist murdered five people*, *and* we say, *the police killed a terrorist*. We say, I *killed* a fly, *not* I *murdered* a fly.
- K. *Slide16a #7 YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY - don't deprive your neighbor of his family*
- L. (14) *You shall not commit adultery*.
- M. A basic human desire is *to love, and be loved*. Often when a person in the marriage doesn't feel they are *being loved* as they should, *and* an attractive outsider makes him/herself *sexually and/or emotionally* available to that person, is when we see the downfall. (it's *betrayal, loss of trust, often denial, deception*, which if it continues, the partner finds themselves married to *an actor*)
1. *Slide16b* But like the fifth commandment fidelity is indispensable to forming and maintaining a higher civilization. *It's family stability, that leads to social stability, that leads to national stability*. (and vice-versa)
 2. Adultery is also an offense against *3 parties: the spouse, the family/ community, and God*. [ps: it was a *capital offense*, if had 2 witnesses]

N. You shall not commit adultery, is God's way of putting *a protective hedge* around marriage. This hedge is a strong barrier that is meant to keep the union safe and to keep temptation out.

1. Of course, adultery is not the *unpardonable sin*, it can be forgiven.
2. You can prevent adultery by *building hedges around your married relationship*:
 - a) *Slide16c* Build a hedge around your **mind** (where the battle is won or lost).
 - b) Build a hedge against **temptation** (watch out for *emotional* attachments).
 - c) Recognize your **weaknesses** (many christians have fallen thru *overconfidence*)
 - d) Build a hedge of **affection** around your marriage (Marriages don't collapse overnight; they suffer a slow leak).
3. Commit to meeting each other's needs: *emotional, spiritual, and sexual*. God put a hedge of protection around marriage so that our lives would be *full, blessed, and satisfied*. We should cultivate and tend that hedge through our thoughts and actions.²

O. *Slide17a #8* YOU SHALL NOT STEAL - *don't deprive your neighbor of his goods*

P. (15) *You shall not steal.*

Q. This encompasses all the other commandments, on the 2nd tablet.

1. **Murder** is the stealing of another persons life. **Adultery** is the stealing of another person spouse. **Perjury** is stealing justice. **Coveting** is the desire to steal what belongs to another person.
2. *Early rabbinic tradition* interpreted this commandment specifically referring to kidnapping, not to *steal human beings* (& sell them into slavery). *Slide17b* Ex.21:16 *Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.* (HT) Slavery is stealing their person as they are forced to labor, for no pay.

² Skip Heitzig, *Building Hedges Against Adultery*. Logos

3. Obviously refers to *stealing property* (meaning, God sanctifies personal property. Meaning you can't just *not steal people*, you *can't steal what people own*).

a) In 19th century Europe many socialist argued for confiscating private property and giving it to *the people*, in what became known as the communist world, theft of property quickly resulted in a total theft of freedom, and ultimately a massive theft of life. *Dennis Prager*

4. It also refers to *stealing another persons reputation* (stealing their good name thru libel, slander, gossip). Or their *dignity* (aka humiliation). Or their *trust* (aka deceit. *Tricking someone into buying something*. Or telling someone you love them to take advantage of them). Or today *intellectual property* (is another form of theft, from copying software, downloading films, music, or movies, or even plagiarism).

5. *Also be warned*, accumulating **property or stuff** can be problematic in itself, it can create temptation to *false security, arrogance, greed, or lack of concern for others*

R. *Slide18 #9 YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS - don't deprive your neighbor of his reputation*

S. (16) *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

T. Especially **in court** (perjury) **but outside** the courtroom as well.

1. Society must be built on **truth and** not **falsehood**.

U. *Slide19a #10 YOU SHALL NOT COVET - don't despise what God has given you*

V. (17) *You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.*

W. This last one prohibits the thing that **leads to** (6-9) **murder, adultery, stealing, and perjury**. *Dennis Prager*

1. This is the only 1 to legislate **thoughts**. All the others legislate **behavior**.

2. **Do not covet:** house or spouse, maid or mouse, or anyone's property.
 - a) Actually out of the 613 laws virtually none prohibit *thought*.
 - b) Why then does the 10 Commandments include one that prohibits *thought*?
 - c) Because *coveting* so often leads to *evil* (or the preceding 4 commandments).
 - d) So we need to know what it means & doesn't mean.
3. **Slide19b Coveting:** means much more than *to want*. *To want to the point of seeking to take away something that belongs to another person*.
 - a) You're not being satisfied with what God gave you, *instead* you want what God gave you *plus* what he gave your neighbor.

X. **David** was a perfect example of how bad this 10th sin is: By *coveting* Bathsheba (married to Uriah, 1 of his officers) it led him to *adultery*, which caused her to steal her fidelity, which led him to *murder* her husband (to cover up the pregnancy), which led him to *lie* to the prophet Nathaniel.

Y. If #1 command was the *umbrella* over the 1st table, *then* #10 is the *umbrella* over the 2nd table.

1. **Slide19c** See not being satisfied with *what you have*, is not being satisfied with **God Himself**, which takes you right back to the 1st table.

IV. **Slide20 THE PEOPLE TAP OUT (18-21) READ**

A. **End:** What if we mess up on any of these commandments. God made provision for Israel in the prescribed sacrifices.

1. And He made provision *for believers today* through **the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross**. This is not an *excuse for sin* but an *encouragement for loving obedience to His will*.

B. Keywords: story, torah, law, honor, father, mother, reward, murder, adultery, steal, bear false witness, covet.