

ECBC Summer Series: *The Law of Life: The Ten Commandments: Exod. 20:1-17*

June 6th **Introduction:** Matt. 22:34-40; Matt 5:17-20; Rom. 7:14-8 : (4)11;
I Cor. 10:6-11; James 2:5-26; Eph. 2:8-10

The Ten Commandments are the ten principles of spirituality believers need to follow, in order to be healthy, and in order to be strong in the L-rd. Faith gives us life, obedience gives us health.

There is no conflict between the Gospel of Grace and the Law of Moses. They are two sides of the same coin.

In Hebrew the word for law is Torah and it means at least two things: the Ten and all and any teaching about anything. (Matt. 22:34-40 Shammai/Hillel – which is the greatest – it is not a pick and choose buffet lunch, it is a full meal deal, an all of nothing proposition).

In the Pentateuch, the Law Code was divided into three categories: the Ten, the sacrifices and rituals, and the moral applications of both the ten and the procedures related to the ceremonies and the calendar.

All the sacrifices and rituals and festivals of Judaism have their ultimate fulfilment in Jesus' death and resurrection – and in His return. He fulfilled the sacrificial/ceremonial part of the Law. He never freed us from our obligation to walk with G-d in total obedience and complete submission. He never fulfilled the Ten, that is both our obligation and our privilege (Matt. 5:17-20).

In this series, I want to look with you at each of the Ten Commandments and show you how each one applies in the life of all believers, both Jewish and non-Jewish. His grace sets us free to obey, it never sets us free from obedience (Romans 7:14-8:4).

In Romans there are four spiritual laws which apply to all believers: the Law of G-d, the Law of Sin, the Law of Understanding and the Law of the Spirit. G-d's Law is the Ten. The Law of Sin is our carnal nature which crouches at the door of our hearts and wants to conquer us (Gen. 4:6, 7). The Law of Understanding is the inner man where the image of G-d is written, it is our true conscience, our true awareness, the centre of our spiritual hunger.

It is the Law which is taken captive by the Law of Sin and is unable to obey the Law of G-d. What a mess. I do not do what I really want, but I end up doing what I really do not want. I need serious help. I am a prisoner to the Egypt of this world and am a captive of the Pharaoh of Sin – beaten, conquered and unable to serve G-d's Law.

The Law of the Spirit is the power of our crucified and resurrected Messiah which comes into our hearts and empowers our understanding to overcome the Law of Sin and to obey the Law of G-d. It is the Law of the Spirit which teaches us how to rebel against the world and to overthrow the Pharaoh of Sin in our hearts and live.

When Jesus said that those who love Him will keep His commandments, He was referring to the Ten. The New Commandment is a call to sacrificial love based on His sacrifice, where we are empowered to love each other as powerfully and as intensely as we are loved by G-d. But unless we are set free by the Law of the Spirit, we are incapable of this kind of love. The Law of the Spirit sets us free from the spiritual darkness of this world and from the spiritual darkness of our own hearts and lives.

It is not a replacement of the Ten, it is based on them and takes them one step further, because the Law of G-d and the Law of the Spirit strengthen the Law of our Understanding and we are able to overcome the Law of Sin and fulfill the Law of G-d and extend this obedience into love. This is true spiritual warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

You cannot love your brother or your sister as Jesus loves you, unless this love is based first on faith and then on obedience – otherwise it becomes a glorified I love you, but please love me even if. The only kind of true unconditional love, according to the Scriptures grows out of true unconditional faith and total surrender to the grace of Jesus, which produces a complete and total obedience to the Ten Commandments. Anything less is unacceptable to G-d. Anything less is only partial, carnal, and will eventually grow sour and destroy the work of G-d's grace in our lives.

Let me conclude with one of the best discussions of the balance which has to exist in our lives between the grace of G-d and the Law of G-d (James 2:5-26).

We were redeemed into order to have faith and obedience. (Eph. 2:8-10) They are inseparable. Faith without obedience is dead. Obedience without faith is also dead. You need both. You need faith to have life. You need obedience to be healthy and to grow spiritually.

As we go through this series, I will be teaching you how each of the ten principles apply to our lives as disciples in the modern world, for Jews, for Gentiles and especially for Chinese Baptists.

For two Sundays, I will be away at a conference in the States. While I am gone, if your pastors wish, there are two passages of Scripture which discuss obedience which can be studied: Romans 14:1-15:7 (The Power of a Redeemed Conscience) and Eph. 4:17-5:21 (The Power of Obedience in the New Man).

These two passages along with Gal. 5:16-26 and Phil. 3:7-21 explain how powerful faith can become powerful obedience. Powerful obedience is faith in action. May the L-rd teach you both the faith of Abraham and the obedience which will set you free to become all that G-d has called each of us to be.

Amen.

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I Cor. 10:6-11; James 2:5-26; Eph. 2:8-10
- June 13th **Number One:** Putting G-d First: Matt. 6:33, 34; Mic. 6:8; Deut. 30:11-20;
Gen. 15:6 (faith); Gen. 18:18, 19 (obedience); Matt. 16:26
- June 20th **Number Two:** Worshipping the Creator, not the Creation: Rom. 1:18-32;
Is. 44:6-20; I John 5:22; Phil. 3:3-21
- June 27
July 4 Rabbi Mike away at a Messianic Jewish Conference
in Boston, Mass. USA.
- July 11th **Number Three:** Don't Blame G-d for Your Problems: Matt. 5:33-37
- July 18th **Number Four:** Rest is Holy: Matt.11:28-30; Heb. 4:1-11; Rom.14:1-15:7;
Col. 2:16-23
- July 25th **Number Five:** Honour Adam's Blood, The Genetic Imperative
Col. 3:18-21; Matt 10:34-39; Luke 12:49-53
- August 1st **Number Six:** Life is Sacred: Exodus 21:22-25; John 10:10
- August 8th **Number Seven:** Do not Defile the Temple of the Holy Spirit:
Lev. 18; I Cor. 59-13; I Cor. 6:9-11
- August 15th **Number Eight:** We Are Stewards – Never Owners: I Peter 4:15-19
- August 22nd **Number Nine:** Help Prevent Forest Fires: James 3:3-18
- August 29th **Number Ten:** Godliness With Great Contentment: I Tim. 6:3-10
And series conclusion: Eccl. 12:13, 14