

God's Ten Words

(1) At the heart of every relationship is law

John 14:15

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

(2) The law shows us our relationship with God is broken

Romans 3:20

Through the law comes knowledge of sin.

This is very counter-intuitive

Luke 10:25-28

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

²⁸ And Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

2 Corinthians 3:7-9

⁷ Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.

Romans 7:7-10

⁷ If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ⁸ But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹ I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰ The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.

Therefore, the law prepares us for the gospel (law → gospel)

(3) But the gospel precedes the law (gospel → law)

- the positive role of law: to teach us how to love God
- notice the order: rescue from Egypt, then giving of law

Exodus 19:2-6

² The people of Israel came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³ while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 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."

Religion: I obey, therefore I am loved.

Liberalism: I am loved, I don't need to obey.

Gospel: I am loved, therefore I obey.

(4) Ultimately, Jesus keeps the law on our behalf

Exodus 24:6-8

³ Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."

⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." ⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Notes:

Ten Commandments called *Decalogue*

- ten words | God's instruction human flourishing in just 10 words

(1) At *heart* of every relationship is law

- we tend to think of law and love as opposed

Imagine you are in a relationship

- what is first thing you do?
- learn their likes and dislikes | that's their law
- because if you love someone, you want to please them

Imagine: “this is very important to me”

- I hate loud music, cigarette smoke | faithfulness very important
- imagine – “I prefer to think of you someone likes loud music, smoke”
- “and I don't think you really care if I sleep around”

“You don't love me”

- that's why Jesus says, “if you love me, you will obey me”

This is why the Ten Commandments are vital

- sometimes we think, “oh I don't need to study them”
- or “I already intuitively know them”

Like saying, “shhhhh, they're not important / I already know”

(2) The law shows us our relationship with God is *broken* (Rom. 3:20)

- we see clearly where we have wronged God

Law is like a *mirror*

- shows us what we really look like

This is very *counter-intuitive* | Luke 10

- law says, “do this and you will live”
- but the point of law is to kill you – 2 Corinthians 3
- counter-intuitive: *to obey* the law as means to life is *death*

Why?

- because of our fallen nature | sinful nature

Romans 7 – deeply *paradoxical*

- the law is an ally to sin
- sin uses law to manifest itself | Paul didn't know covetousness
- therefore, moralism (just prohibitions) is utterly useless

Therefore, the law *prepares us* for the gospel (law → gospel)

- law destroys our self-righteousness | how desperate our situation
- law magnifies the grace of God in Christ | such a sinner can saved!
- gospel – *you more sinful dare imagine, more loved dare hope*

(3) But the gospel *precedes* the law (gospel → law)

- both negative (condemn us) and positive (teach us how love God)

Chronological order of giving of law critically important

- law was giving in the Exodus from Egypt
- notice: not law first, then rescue (obey me, then I'll save you)
- but law given at Sinai after rescue from slavery

Exodus 19:4 – “I bore you on *eagles' wings*”

- imagery of absolute helplessness and total rescue
- The Lord of Rings, giant eagles appear character beyond help
- God's people in no way contributed | totally by grace

v. 5 | “if you obey, you shall be my *treasured possession*”

- does this contradict what we've been saying?
- no | God would not take back what he just said in v. 4
- “if” – not redeemed status, but enjoyment of redemption
- if we obey, we will happily enjoy what means sons of God
- but we are sons by grace
- illustration: if Judah disobeys, he's still my son
- but I'll be displeased and he will not flourish

Religion: I obey, therefore I am loved.

Liberalism: I am loved, I don't need to obey.

Gospel: I am loved, therefore I obey.

Religion

- makes you deeply insecure | harsh, angry person
- cocky when succeed | defensive, devastated when fail

Liberalism

- makes you deeply selfish |
- doesn't transform you because there's no cross

Gospel

- simultaneously makes you humble and confident
- deep generosity (loved) and deep compassion (sinner)

(4) Ultimately, Jesus keeps the law on our behalf

Immediately after reading of law

- people all cry out in unison, “we will obey”
- and then Moses does this very strange ritual
- sacrifices oxen, takes blood, sprinkles on people

Because the *people cannot obey*

- at moment of covenant laws being given, a savior is promised
- Jesus will have to suffering consequences of law – death, blood
- on behalf of the people, so his blood covers redeemed people