

CELL NOTES 8.10.17

1. Working together as a group without looking at the Bible, take a large sheet of paper, number 1-10 on the left hand side and see if you can list all ten commandments (and get them in the right order!). Now read **Exodus 20:1-20** and check your list against it!
2. What is the difference between ceremonial law, common sense regulations, and moral law in the Old Testament law books? Try and think of examples of all three types. Which of these still apply to us today?
3. How do you *feel* about the Ten Commandments? Sobered? Overwhelmed? Challenged? Excited? Does it help to see them as promises as well as commands?
4. Which of the Ten Commandments are taken least seriously in today's world? Why do you think that is?
5. Which Commandment do you personally find most challenging?!

Hope there's something here to get your teeth into!

Allan

Thoughts on the Ten Commandments

Introduction:

- If mean: paper and pen, 1-10 in margin; how many of 10 Coms can you remember?! Don't want to embarrass you, but give it a week and try.
- Did it with vicars, alarming number didn't get 10/10 – maybe early onset memory difficulties – sympathy!
- Last week's ABC milestones: 10% and finishing Leviticus! When did you last hear a sermon on Leviticus... or even 10 Coms?

Thought 1: Which OT laws still apply?

- Paul: we are *no longer under law but under grace*. And *Christ is the end of the law...* Does that mean we no longer have to bother with 10 Coms?
- Big question if currently wading through Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy! *How much of this stuff still applies to us?*
- As I see it, there are 3 types of material in the 'law' sections of OT:
 1. **Ceremonial law** (sacrifice, temple, priesthood, ritual washing etc.). Jesus fulfilled/released us PTL! Perfect Sacrifice, Passover, Temple, High Priest.
 2. **Common Sense regs** (food, health, hygiene). Pre refrigeration, antiseptic, disinfectant = progressive guides. Still good sense; not binding as 'laws'.
 3. **Moral law** (10 Coms ++) still apply. Not free in Christ to murder, steal, lie etc.! (some nutty fringe Christianity says so, not broad mainstream).
- **Not clear which?** (e.g. same sex relationships). Read Bible discerningly, carefully, prayerfully – as always!

Thought 2: The 2 'tables' of the Law – don't separate.

- Traditionally seen as 2 Tables: (4 vertical/God-facing; 6 horizontal/ fellow human facing) e.g. wall paintings at front of churches
- Have now been 'put assunder'! Secular humanism (still our prevailing philosophy?) has Christian roots, but has now done away with 1st table.
- Many people still broadly accept 2nd table (honour parents; no murder, adultery, stealing, lying, coveting) but have cut 'selves free from 1st
- Never intended. If we do away with honour for God, weakens honour for other people. 2nd table begins to lose its power... as is happening.
- Murder & stealing still taboo – but adultery, lying (post-truth), coveting?
- In reaction to this, human rights 'industry' seeks to bolster the 2nd table in the absence of any respect for God's 'rights'.
- Our society needs to re-couple the two which have been separated.
- Recovery of respect for God will re-energise respect for others.
- Just another evidence that we need revival of faith, reawakening of awareness/honour of God leading to renewed honour for fellow humans

Thought 3: Both Commandments and Promises.

- Wonderful word-play in English trans. (not sure if same in Hebrew): **You shall** have no other gods... have no idols... honour father and mother etc.
- Still commandments... but also promises for followers of Jesus. PTL.
- Next week 10 YPs publically declare they are follows of Jesus (Baptism) and pray to receive Holy Spirit (Confirmation – one way, not the only)
- When you do that (surrender to Christ as Lord; open self to work of HS) God produces these attitudes/behaviours/characteristics in us
- Progressively, little by little as you follow Christ:
 1. You will not want any other god, but this good, true, wonderful One
 2. Modern day idols (money, power, position, status, possessions) will increasingly lose their power.
 3. You won't have murderous, adulterous, greedy thought towards others.
 4. You'll develop a love of truth and a passion for veracity (truth-telling).
- 10 Coms are a wonderful promise of the kind of people he transforms us into (progressively, from glory to glory). Jesus perfectly embodied.

Conclusion:

- In a week, test yourself – how many can you remember?! Check list.
- Remind yourself they still apply; 2 tables must be kept together; this is what I am becoming as I walk with Christ, surrender to him as Lord and open myself to the work of the Holy Spirit.