

THE RELEVANCE OF THE TEN WORDS

| DATE | Sunday, August 30th, 2020

| SERMON TEXT | Exodus 20:1-21

IN ORDER FOR US TO OBEY THE TEN WORDS WITH DELIGHT,
WE MUST UNDERSTAND OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAW IN CHRIST

I. The Structure Of The Law Of God:

A) The Ten Words/Commandments were distinct from the rest because they were...

1. Spoken and written directly by the Lord God (Ex.20:1,18-19; Dt. 5:22-27).
2. Given *entirely* with universally-binding language (**apodictic** vs. casuistic law).
3. Provided by God as a summary statement of the laws that followed after.
4. Not new, but already known in their essence since the beginning of creation.

B) The Civil/Judicial Laws (i.e., Ex. 21-23; Dt. 6ff):

1. applied the 10 words to various circumstances, often listing punishments.
2. given with a mixture of **apodictic** and casuistic language.
3. given for use “in the land” of Canaan (Dt. 4:5,12-14; 5:31; 6:1).

C) The Ceremonial Laws (i.e., Leviticus; Num. 3-10; 15; 18; 19; 28-30):

1. regarded sacrifices, feasts, priests, the tabernacle, and symbolic holiness.
2. given to enable the people of Israel to dwell near the Lord.
3. given to distinguish Israel from the nations.

II. Our Relationship To The Law Of God Through Christ:

A) Christ makes the ceremonial law obsolete by offering himself as a sacrifice.

1. Christ is the final sacrifice, our great high-priest, the temple of God.
2. Christ has made us holy and set aside the food laws, etc. (Mk. 7:18-19).
3. The ceremonial law reveals the grace and glory of Christ Christ.
4. If we were to obey the ceremonial law, we would be rejecting Christ’s work!

B) Christ changes our relationship to the civil law:

1. The punishments of the civil law were fully poured out upon Christ.
2. Christ transformed the church into a spiritual nation made up of all peoples.
3. Christ’s people now live on earth as strangers and exiles away from “the land”
4. The principles within the civil law still reveal wisdom for Christian living.

C) Christ fulfills the 10 commandments, and enables us to live them out:

1. Christ obeyed the 10 words in the fullness of their meaning, once for all.
2. Christ obeyed the 10 words as an example for us (1 Jn. 2:4-6).
3. Christ reveals the heart of the 10 words: love (Mt. 22:34-40).
4. Christ enables us to obey the 10 words out of love (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 4:19).