

“Family Values: What They Are and Why They Matter”

Deuteronomy 5:16-22

INTRO:

A very important reality in any election is “family values.” This issue was introduced by one party and has been redefined by the other. What are “family values?” To a great extent the parties have been somewhat at a loss to define this important quality because they have both shied away from using the Bible as their source for authority on this matter.

Are there values that are not just the focus of political campaigns? God did provide us absolutes describing our responsibility to Him and instructing us how we should live our lives. What are these values? We will try to discover some of them in our study today.

- I. Why We Need to Obey God's Commands***
- II. What Are These Commands?***

I. Why We Need to Obey God's Commands

A. “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's. These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me”
(Deuteronomy 5:16–22).

What, this is the second half of the Ten Commandments isn't? We don't need to obey this because it is part of the Mosaic Law and we are not under law, but under grace.

B. That is true, but being under grace does not mean that God's moral law has nothing to do with us. Do you remember Paul's statement in **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**?

“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.”

In this text that many use to authorize their lawlessness, there is an amazing amount of law. The Law the Paul speaks of being under is the moral law that is still functioning.

C. Law and grace is a huge subject and beyond our study this morning let us make two observations and then move on to our text. First, Jesus made this apply to us when he answered the lawyer's question in **Matthew 22:36-39**.

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Our Lord Jesus summarizes the whole moral law of God in two statements and applies them to us. We must do the Great Commission and we must carry out the Great Commandments.

The second observation is why the Children of Israel were to obey the commandments. There are two reasons. Over and over again in **Leviticus 18-19** we are given the reason they must obey: ***“I am the LORD your God.”*** They needed to obey Him because **(1)** He is God and as God He has the right to tell us how to live. **(2)** We are to obey God because He is Yahweh, the covenant keeping all faithful God of Israel; they have a unique relationship with Him. We also have a unique relationship with God because we are His people of the New Covenant.

II. What Are These Commands?

Now that we have determined why it is imperative that we obey God's Ten Commandments, let us now look at what these commandments are and how they affect our lives. Keep in mind that we want and need to obey these commandments because we love the LORD our God. We will only look at the second table of the law.

A. The first command is that of a proper respect and relationship to those who are in authority in the family.

“Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

While the instruction here has direct application to the Promised Land, it is also applied to us by the Apostle Paul in the book of **Ephesians**. The structure of the family is not an invention of the United States Government. God intended the family to be a place built on love and operated under a basic authority structure. If the home is not properly structured, it becomes chaos rather than blessing.

1. God created the institution of family. He commands the chain of authority and commands obedience and respect for those responsible to carry out the authority in the home. And then He adds a promise of blessing for obedience to this command.

2. Why is this so important? It is because the family is the building block of society. What the home is the society will ultimately become. It is because our homes are disintegrating that our society is coming apart at the seams. What are those who would be in control of our government doing about this? Beloved, one of the candidates for President openly supports homosexual rights.

B. Second, God tells us, ***“You shall not murder.”*** We are required to have respect for the sanctity of human life. We are not allowed to murder because humans are created to bear the image of our Creator. Do we believe this?

1. Abortion and the lack of capital punishment are the two largest ways that this value is attacked today.

2. Assisted suicide is another way in which this idea is ignored today.

C. A third value God commands us and that is taken far too lightly today is the sanctity of marriage. ***“You shall not commit adultery.”*** God takes this area far more seriously than many times we realize. **Hebrews 13:4**

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

D. The fourth value Our Lord commands is a concern for our neighbor and his possessions.

“You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

We must recognize that God is not against the private ownership of property. God warns us about sinning against Him by not respecting that which belongs to my neighbor.

Now as we look at these values, these commands that God has given to us how do apply all of this to our lives in the day in which we live?

1. Obey the commands of God. These are not suggestions these are laws. God has promised blessings for obedience to His commands and He has promised judgment to those who ignore these commands. He is still faithful to these promises today.

2. As good citizens in the nation in which we live, we have a privilege that many Christians down through the ages were denied. We have a voice in the selection of our leaders. In view of this, we need to examine the candidates against the values that God has given us and vote as God would have us vote. The moral issues not the economic ones should carry the greatest weight with those who name the name of Christ. Let us vote our convictions.

3. Third, and most important, it is what we are and not what we do that has the greatest impact on our world. **Matthew 5:13-16** reminds us,

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Let us not curse the darkness but rather seek to be salt and light in a world of darkness that the Father may be glorified in us.