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2  **Command #5 – Honor God’s Law**

What does it mean to  
honor God’s Law?

3  **Leviticus 19:1-4**

• *And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy. Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.*

4  **Leviticus 19:11-14**

• *Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning. Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.*

5  **Leviticus 19:15-16**

• *Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor. Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I am the LORD.*

6  **Leviticus 19:17-18**

• *Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD.*

7  **Matthew 5:17-18**

• *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (KJV)*

• *Do not think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets. I have not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one tiny letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all takes place. (LEB)*

8  **The fact of the matter**

- Not all of God's will has been fulfilled yet.
- Therefore, the law is still valid.
  - So does that mean we still have to regard the dietary laws of the Old Testament?
  - Does it mean weird to still keep certain festivals or Sabbaths?
  - Or do we still need to bring animals as offerings to our God?

9  **Abraham speaks (Lk 16)**

*Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of*

*torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

- Why was the rich man told his brothers needed to refer to the law of Moses for their salvation?

10  **A critical distinction**

- No one can be saved by the works of the Law.
  - Galatians 2:16 -- *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

11  **A critical distinction (2)**

- Jesus, however after His resurrection made an explicit reference to the words of the Law.
  - Luke 24:44 -- *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

12  **A critical distinction (3)**

- Focusing on the works of the Law brings discouragement or pride.
- Focusing on the words of the Law reveals beautiful pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Jesus said the real purpose of the Old Testament law was to point people to Himself.
  - *For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?* (John 5:46-47)

13  **A critical distinction (4)**

- The central focus of the Old Testament and New Testament is Jesus Christ.
- When we read the Old Testament, we are to look for:
  - Pictures of Christ
  - Ways to honor and glorify Christ
  - Ways to more effectively serve Christ
  - Ways to worship Christ

14  **Analogies that reveal Jesus Christ**

- The second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:22, 45)
- Abraham's sacrificing of his son Isaac (Genesis 22)
- Moses (for whom much of the Law is named) led the people out of bondage it to Egypt but Joshua (whose name means Savior) brought the people into the Promised Land.

15  **Analogies that reveal the Christian life**

- Paul applied an Old Testament story to convey truth to New Testament Christians about their need to avoid worldliness and lust and instead enjoy a rich relationship with Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:1-7).
- The five battles in the book of Joshua correspond to five battles of the soul.
  - See <http://tinyurl.com/soulbattles>

16  **God's Law explains how to love**

- Jesus explained that the Law of God in the Old Testament could be summed up into commandments (Matthew 22:36-39).  
– *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

17  **Paul using law about oxen**

- Paul brings up a law in the Old Testament that says you cannot muzzle an oxen while he is treading out the corn .
- Paul makes an application of this law to teach that you should pay a pastor well who labors in the Word and prayer.
- 1 Corinthians 9:6-11; cf. 1 Timothy 5:17-18
- So, a law about oxen contains a principle about loving your pastor.

18  **God's Law teaches us wisdom**

- God promised the nation of Israel greater wisdom, health, and wealth than other nations if they meditated on His law (Deut. 4:6-9).
- David got wisdom by meditating on God's Law (Psalm 119:98-100).
- The Law teaches reverence for God which is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10).
- *Testimonies* give wisdom to the simple (Psalm 19:7).

19  **Deuteronomy 4:6-9**

- *Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. 7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? 8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? 9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons.*

20  **Psalm 119:98-100**

- *Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.*

21  **Psalm 111:10**

- *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*

22  **God's Law draws us to Christ**

- Galatians 3:24-26 -- *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*
- The schoolmaster (*paidagogos*) was a slave that took the children of wealthy families to

school where they were taught.

23  **Psalm 19:7**

- *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*
- *Testimonies* are the stories of how God relates to His people.

24  **God's Law defines sin**

- We must know we are sinners before we can know we need a Savior.
- Paul said we would not know sin except for the Law (Romans 7:7).
  - *What then shall we say? Is the law sin? May it never be! But I would not have known sin except through the law, for I would not have known covetousness if the law had not said, "Do not covet."*

25  **God's Law produces success**

- Joshua 1:8
  - Meditate in the Law day and night
  - Observe to do it
  - You will have good success
- Psalm 1:1-3
  - Meditate in the Law
  - You're like an irrigated tree that brings forth much fruit in due season

26  **God's laws last**

- King Darius couldn't cancel a law he made about praying and Daniel was thrown into the lion's den.
- Ahasuerus could not undo a law he made that would have caused the Jews to be slaughtered.
- Herod had to keep his oath which caused him to honor his daughter's request for the head of John the Baptist.
- If these kings couldn't break their own law....

27  **Why wasn't she stoned?**

- Woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8:4-11)
- Law commanded her to be stoned
- She was not stoned. Why?
- The Law required 2-3 witnesses. After Jesus wrote on the ground and said, "You who are without sin cast the first stone," all the accusers and witnesses left. He did honor the law in this case.

28  **When will God's Law cease?**

- Luke 16:17 -- *But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the law to become invalid.*
- While on earth, Christ established a kingdom that transforms the Law of Moses in to a law of love and a picture of Christ.
- He has not invalidated the Law yet.
- Much of the Law must still be fulfilled.

29  **Standards of grace supersede the standards of the Law**

- “Ye have heard it said”
- “But I say unto you”
  - Adultery vs. lust
  - Divorce vs. hardness of your hearts
  - Keeping your oaths vs. just saying Yes or No (Matt 5:33, Matt. 19:9)
  - Limitations on revenge vs. love and forgiveness (Lev. 24:19-20 vs. Matt. 5:39-40)

30  **Application**

- The Laws are STILL for Christians.
- We are not focus on the works of the Law.
- We are to focus on the words of the Law and how they reveal Christ and how we are to live in relationship to Him.
- The danger comes in saying that some portions of Scripture are no longer valid when Christ has not invalidated any of it.