

WHY THE LAW OF MOSES IS STILL VALID TODAY

PART II. The First and Second Commandments

By Duane A. Linn

1Jo 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Good Morning.

Last week, we had a look into the 2nd Table of the Law of Moses when we exegeted John 14:15.

This week, We're going to get into the 1st Table of the Law of Moses, Commandments 1-4 with an emphasis on the 1st and 2nd Commandments. For they go hand in glove with each other.

I had originally intended to just touch upon the first 4 Commandments. But with all the civil unrest going on in our nation, I am moved to extend this 2 part sermon into possibly 3 or 4 parts. It is important that we, as the professing body of Christ, be found without spot or blemish in this wicked generation.

It is clear, that the love of God is not present in our society. Not in our Churches; not in our politics. Not in the way we conduct our lives. This is why I want to get into the Ten Commandments as a way of establishing the foundation of our faith. The Lord Jesus Christ, as I expounded on last week, says "IF you love Me, Keep My Commandments". Christ is our foundation and He is the one who to whom we MUST obey.

As with any credible exposition of Scripture, we must state What loving God is and what Loving God is not; this way, we cannot be accused of only preaching half the Gospel.

With these assertions now laid out, let's get into the message for today.

I'd like you to open your Bibles, (for those who are following along on Sermon Audio or YouTube) to Exodus Chapter 20.

Ex 20:1 ¶ And God spake all these words, saying,

Ex 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Ex 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

The First Commandment immediately explodes into the Second... where God tells us what those “other gods” are that we are to not place before Him, OR in place of Him.

Ex 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Ex 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Ex 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

These are the first two Commandments in the 1st Table of the Law.

Verses 2-3 make up the 1st Commandment. Verses 4-6 comprise the 2nd Commandment.

First, we will learn the definition of who and what God is.

What is the definition of “God”?

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

god

GOD, n.

1. The Supreme Being; Jehovah; the eternal and infinite spirit, the creator, and the sovereign of the universe.

God is a spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4.

2. A false god; a heathen deity; an idol.

Fear not the gods of the Amorites. Judges 6.

3. A prince; a ruler; a magistrate or judge; an angel. Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

Ex. 22. Ps.97.

Gods here is a bad translation. (not according to the pagan tribes of the Earth, however).

*4. Any person **or thing** exalted too much in estimation, or deified and honored as the chief good.*

Whose god is their belly. Phil.3.

GOD, v.t. To deify. Not used.

We see the first definition of the word, “god” as what we, of the Judeo Christian religion would define Him who Created all the Heavens and the Earth; the Father and God of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The 2nd definition here is clear. A false god; heathen deity’ an idol.

WHAT GOD IS.

1. God is the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth. Genesis 1:1
2. God is a spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4.

The first definition of God is self explanatory.

WHAT GOD IS NOT, are represented in the second, and fourth definitions. In this, we now shift our focus to the 2nd Commandment.

The worship of a false god (graven image) AND any person or thing exalted too much in estimation, or deified and honored as the chief good, are referred to as idolatry. In order to keep this from getting too confusing, I am limiting the focus on who God is not by defining three words and then listing Scriptural examples for each word. Idolatry, fornication, and adultery.

First, IDOLATRY, or IDOL, or GRAVEN IMAGE.

Idolatry.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

idolatry

IDOL'ATRY, n. L. idololatria. Gr. idol, and to worship or serve.

1. The worship of idols, images, or any thing made by hands, or which is not God.

Idolatry is of two kinds; the worship of images, statues, pictures, &c. made by hands; and the worship of the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars, or of demons, angels, men and animals.

2. Excessive attachment or veneration for any thing, or that which borders on adoration.

I would go even further and say that anything that consumes the most of your time and attention is in and of itself, idolatry.

FORNICATION

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

fornication

FORNICA'TION, n. L. fornicatio.

1. The incontinence or lewdness of unmarried persons, male or female; also, the criminal conversation of a married man with an unmarried woman.

2. Adultery. Matt. 5. Jeremiah 3

3. Incest. 1Cor. 5.

4. Idolatry; a forsaking of the true God, and worshipping of idols. 2Chron. 21. Rev. 19. Jeremiah 3

ADULTERY

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

adultery

ADUL'TERY, n. L. adulterium. See Adulterate.

1. Violation of the marriage bed; a crime, or a civil injury, which introduces, or may introduce, into a family, a spurious offspring.

By the laws of Connecticut, the sexual intercourse of any man, with a married woman, is the crime of adultery in both: such intercourse of a married man, with an unmarried woman, is fornication in both, and adultery of the man, within the meaning of the law respecting divorce; but not a felonious adultery in either, or the crime of adultery at common law, or by statute. This latter offense is, in England, proceeded with only in the ecclesiastical courts.

In common usage, adultery means the unfaithfulness of any married person to the marriage bed. In England, Parliament grant absolute divorces for infidelity to the marriage bed in either party; and the spiritual courts divorce a mensa et thoro.

2. In a scriptural sense, all manner of lewdness or unchastity, as in the seventh commandment.

3. In scripture, idolatry, or apostasy from the true God. Jer. 3.

4. In old laws, the fine and penalty imposed for the offense of adultery.

5. In ecclesiastical affairs, the intrusion of a person into a bishopric, during the life of the bishop.

6. Among ancient naturalists, the grafting of trees was called adultery, being considered as an unnatural union.

Now that we have our definitions for the terms, “idolatry”, “fornication”, and “adultery”, let’s get to it.

In the King James Version of the Holy Scriptures, we have the word, idolatry(ies) used in 6 verses. Here are a couple of them.

ISa 15:23a For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

For the term, IDOL(s), 105 verses. I will give you a couple here.

Le 26:1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

Isa 2:8 Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

Eze 6:9 And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

For the phrase GRAVEN IMAGE, 27 verses.

Here are a few of them...

Le 26:1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

De 4:16 Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

De 4:23 Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.

De 27:15 Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

GRAVEN IMAGES, 26 verses

De 7:5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

Ps 78:58 For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.

Ps 97:7 Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods.

Before I move on to the next words and Scripture postings, I want to impress upon you something that some of you may, or may not have considered yet... the fashioning of images in your minds.

Jer 17:1 The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars;

What we think and what we do are indeed one and the same.

Pr 6:25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

Mt 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Daydreaming can be considered as a form of idolatry and the making of a graven image, or images. Picturing what the Lord Jesus Christ looks like, et cetera.

Be mindful of what you are doing at all times, beloved... keep the reins of your heart well governed.

Ps 7:9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.

Ps 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

The MIND is the reins of the heart.

Now, to the next words.

The word, FORNICATION, and its variants, are listed in 40 verses.

Here are a few for your consideration.

Mt 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery

Ac 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

1Co 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

The word, ADULTERY and its derivatives are used in 38 verses. Here are a few for your consideration.

Jer 3:8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

Jer 3:9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

Jer 7:9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

Jer 13:27 I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when shall it once be?

Jer 23:14 I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

I used the verses in Jeremiah to show that the word adultery is not confined to sexual immorality.

In keeping with the opening verse of Scripture in 1 John, I will proceed to what it is to "know God" as is given in the opening verse of this sermon. I will repeat it for your consideration.

1Jo 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

know

6. In scripture, to have sexual commerce with. Gen 4.

7. To approve.

The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous. Ps. 1.

9. To acknowledge with due respect. 1Thess. 5.

10. To choose; to favor or take an interest in. Amos 3.

11. To commit; to have.

Another definition of the phrase, "to know", is "to LOVE".

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

love

LOVE, v.t. luv. L. libeo, lubeo. See Lief. The sense is probably to be prompt, free, willing, from leaning, advancing, or drawing forward.

1. In a general sense to be pleased with; to regard with affection, on account of some qualities which excite pleasing sensations or desire of gratification. We love a friend, on account of some qualities which give us pleasure in his society. We love a man who has done us a favor; in which case, gratitude enters into the composition of our affection. We love our parents and our children, on account of their connection with us, and on account of many qualities which please us. We love to retire to a cool shade in summer. We love a warm room in winter. we love to hear an eloquent advocate. The christian loves his Bible. In short, we love whatever gives us pleasure and delight, whether animal or intellectual; and if our hearts are right, we love God above all things, as the sum of all excellence and all the attributes which can communicate happiness to intelligent beings. In other words, the christian loves God with the love of complacency in his attributes, the love of benevolence towards the interest of his kingdom, and the love of gratitude for favors received.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind -

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matt. 22.

2. To have benevolence or good will for. John 3.

LOVE, n.

1. An affection of the mind excited by beauty and worth of any kind, or by the qualities of an object which communicate pleasure, sensual or intellectual. It is opposed to hatred. Love between the sexes, is a compound affection, consisting of esteem, benevolence, and animal desire. Love is excited by pleasing qualities of any kind, as by kindness, benevolence, charity, and by the qualities which render social intercourse agreeable. In the latter case, love is ardent friendship, or a strong attachment springing from good will and esteem, and the pleasure derived from the company, civilities and kindness of others.

Between certain natural relatives, love seems to be in some cases instinctive. Such is the love of a mother for her child, which manifests itself toward an infant, before any particular qualities in the child are unfolded. This affection is apparently as strong in irrational animals as in human beings.

We speak of the love of amusements, the love of books, the love of money, and the love of whatever contributes to our pleasure or supposed profit.

The love of God is the first duty of man, and this springs from just views of his attributes or excellencies of character, which afford the highest delight to the sanctified heart. Esteem and reverence constitute ingredients in this affection, and a fear of offending him is its inseparable effect.

A.W. Pink, in his book, "The Sovereignty of God: addresses the term, "to know" in this manner...

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:2). Here again election by the Father precedes the work of the Holy Spirit in, and the obedience of faith by, those who are

saved; thus taking it entirely off creature ground, and resting it in the Sovereign pleasure of the Almighty. The

"foreknowledge of God the Father" does not here refer to His prescience of all things, but signifies that the saints were all eternally present in Christ before the mind of God. God did not "foreknow" that certain ones who heard the Gospel would believe it apart from the fact that He had "ordained" these certain ones to eternal life. What God's prescience saw in all men was, love of sin and hatred of Himself. The "foreknowledge" of God is based upon His own decrees as is clear from Acts 2:23-"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain"-note the order here: first God's "determinate counsel" (His decree), and second His "foreknowledge." So it is again in Romans 8:28, 29, "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son," but the first word here, "for," looks back to the preceding verse and the last clause of its reads, "to them who are the called according to His purpose"-these are the ones whom He did "foreknow and predestinate." Finally, it needs to be pointed out that when we read in Scripture of God "knowing" certain people the word is used in the sense of knowing with approbation and love: "But if any man love God, the same is known of Him" (1 Cor. 8:3). To the hypocrites Christ will yet say "I never knew you"-He never loved them. "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father" signifies, then, chosen by Him as the special objects of His approbation and love."

"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:23). In the previous chapter it has been shown that the words "know" and "foreknowledge" when applied to God in the Scriptures, have reference not simply to His prescience (i.e., His bare knowledge beforehand), but to His knowledge of approbation. When God said to Israel, "You only have I known of all the families of the earth" (Amos 3:2), it is evident that He meant, "You only had I any favourable regard to." When we read in Romans 11:2 "God hath not cast away His people (Israel) which He foreknew," it is obvious that what was signified is, "God has not finally rejected that people whom He has chosen as the objects of His love"-cf. Deuteronomy 7:8. In the same way (and it is the only possible way) are we to understand Matthew 7:23. In the Day of Judgement the Lord will say unto many, "I never knew you." Note, it is more than simply "I know you not." His solemn declaration will be, "I never knew you"-you were never the objects of My approbation. Contrast this with "I know (love) My sheep, and am known (loved) of Mine" (John 10:14). The "sheep," His elect, the "few" He does "know"; but the reprobate, the non-elect, the "many" He knows not-no, not even before the foundation of the world did He know them-He "NEVER" knew them!

As with the opening verse of this sermon, The Apostle John declares, “1Jo 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”

This should be sufficient enough to illustrate how we know the we love God; that is, “we know we love God if we keep His Commandments”.

I had planned initially on keeping this series simple, but as I was editing (even prior to the preaching of the sermon, I realize that the Second Commandment needs to be thoroughly expounded to everyone that is listening; as it really is the, imo, our biggest defect as a body. We love our idols; whether we know it or not.

In fact, I will share something that happened to me yesterday. I do it to show that even the pastor has troubles; and that I am certainly not above temptation or sin.

(tell the story from yesterday)

I can only say this; we must remain diligent and focused; we must remain awake and always searching ourselves; examining ourselves to make certain that we are walking with the Lord Jesus Christ and that we are obedient to his voice.

Jer 7:1 ¶ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Jer 7:2 Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.

Jer 7:3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

Jer 7:4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.

Jer 7:5 For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;

Jer 7:6 If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

Jer 7:7 Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

Jer 7:8 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

Jer 7:9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

Jer 7:10 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?

Jer 7:11 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

Jer 7:12 But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

Jer 7:13 And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

Jer 7:14 Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

Jer 7:15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.

Jer 7:16 ¶ Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jer 7:17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

Jer 7:18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

Jer 7:19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?

Jer 7:20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

Jer 7:21 ¶ Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh.

Jer 7:22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:

Jer 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Jer 7:24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Jer 7:25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:

Jer 7:26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

Jer 7:27 Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee.

Jer 7:28 But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.

Let us remember these words of the prophet Jeremiah; that we keep ourselves from falling into the same trap that Israel and Judah did.

Let us pray...

Oh Heavenly Father,

I thank you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the privilege of reading and teaching Thy Word to those who have been drawn to YOU and also to the LORD JESUS CHRIST by Your Mighty Hand.

It is my prayer that all who have received this message be blessed and preserved in order to come back next week to spend more time together.

Nu 6:24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:

Nu 6:25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

Nu 6:26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I pray,

Amen