

RULES TO LIVE BY!



1. Introduction to the Ten Commandments

Our Bibles are divided into the Old and New Testaments. The word 'testament' means 'covenant'. We understand what a contract is, but we rarely use the word covenant except to describe a marriage relationship. However God has made a number of covenants with mankind, and two of the major ones are the Old Covenant, which was given to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai, and the New Covenant, which was made available to all mankind through the Lord Jesus Christ.

In a covenant there are two parties involved, so not only does God make promises to us, but we in turn are to put Him first in our lives and listen to what He says. At the time when God made the first covenant with Moses and the children of Israel He gave them His laws, known as the Ten Commandments.

Often we think these are out dated, no longer relevant and that we are under grace, not the law. But as we dig into God's Word we will begin to discover that God has not scrapped His law, in fact Jesus gave it greater meaning, and gives us the power to obey it. So let's begin ...

❶ How were the Ten Commandments given, and to whom? Deuteronomy 5:2, 22-31

❷ Why did God give these commandments to His people? Exodus 20:20, Deuteronomy 5:29, 33

(God gave the law so His people would fear Him and be kept from sinning, but also because obedience to His law would bring blessing to them and their children.)

❸ These commands are still important to us as Christians. What does the law show us, according to the New Testament? Romans 7:7, 1 John 3:4-6

(The law shows us what sin really is, and that our sin is against God. Only when we understand that and repent can we receive forgiveness and eternal life.)

The only person who ever fully obeyed the law was Jesus. He never broke any of God's laws. 1John 3:5 says: "In Him is no sin."

❹ According to Jesus, what did He come to do? Matthew 5:17 What does this mean?

(Jesus said that He came to fulfill the law. First of all this means that Jesus kept the law Himself. He also explained what the law really means. Since He perfectly kept God's law He is able to satisfy God's requirements, and could become a sacrifice for our sins.)

- 5 Read through the Ten Commandments together. Deuteronomy 5:7-12, 16-21
Now read them yourselves and consider which of these commands you have fully kept!

None of us have been able to fully obey God's commands. We have all sinned! If we have never received God's forgiveness you can do that right now. But for those of us who have, let's thank God once again for His gift of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

"But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense -
Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins ..."
"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

1 John 2:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:15