

RULES TO LIVE BY!

12. A Summary



Introduction

During our studies together we have been going through the Ten Commandments and discovered that they are relevant for us today. Let's 'wrap up' or conclude our series.

1. PURPOSE OF THE LAW

One thing we have discovered is that we have broken God's law probably more than we ever realized before! Since God knew we could never keep His law, we may wonder why He gave it.

- 1 Why did God give the law according to the following verses: Romans 3:20, 7:7, Galatians 3:24?

*(The law makes us conscious of sin.
The law helps us understand what sin is.
The law leads us to Christ.)*

- 2 Why did God send His Son, Jesus, according to Romans 8:3-4 and Romans 10:4?

*(To be a sin offering.
To meet the righteous requirement of the law.
To be the end of the law.
To provide righteousness for everyone who believes.)*

God gave the law so we will know what sin is and realize we need forgiveness from God. The law helps us see our need of a Savior. When we come to God in faith, He forgives us, because of what Jesus has done. The Holy Spirit then comes to live in us and gives us the power to overcome our sinful nature and obey God.

2. THE NEW LAW

Jesus often spoke about God's law. One day some religious leaders asked Him what commandment was most important.

- 3 How did Jesus answer that question? Matthew 22:34-40
- 4 What do you think Jesus meant when He said all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments in Matthew 22:40?

(All the commands that God gave during the entire Old Testament period can be summed up or contained in these two commands. The phrase, 'The Law and the Prophets' is sometimes used to describe what we know as the Old Testament.)

- 5 How can the Ten Commandments be summarized into these two that Jesus gave? Which commands refer to what Jesus said in Matthew 22:37 and which refer to Matthew 22:39?

The two commands that Jesus gave were not new. They are also found in the Old Testament in

Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. However at the end of His life Jesus told the disciples (and us) that He was giving them a new command.

- ⑥ In what way was this command new? Compare Matthew 22:39 and John 13:34.

*(The standard of love Jesus spoke about was new. It was no longer, 'love your neighbor **as yourself**, but love one another **as I have loved you.**')*

- ⑦ This commandment is far higher than any of the sayings in Buddhism, Hinduism or Islam. Why is that so? How is it possible to fulfill it?

(It is higher because the standard of love is not mans' but God's – a love that is willing to lay down its' life for another. It is only possible to attain this when we allow the Holy Spirit to give us God's kind of love.)

- ⑧ Is there someone in your life right now who you are struggling to love? Share (if appropriate), and then pray for one another that God will give us His love for those people we find hard to love.

Conclusion

As we realize how far we have fallen from God's standards and His laws, it helps us appreciate and value His salvation more and more! "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch just like me." Amen! We can't keep His laws, but He has given us His Spirit to live in us, to empower us to walk in obedience and love. He is with you. Hallelujah!