



*Exodus 20:19*

*'And they said to Moses, "You tell us what God says, and we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us. If He does, we will die!"*

This is a fascinating verse from the Book of Exodus. The Israelites, now freed from slavery in Egypt through the love and protection of God, are now receiving the Law. Moses has been to the mountain top to fast, pray and commune with God. In this time of communion God gives to Moses to share with His chosen people ten commandments (laws) by which they are to guide their lives. These laws define the two critical relationships we all need; our relationship with God and our relationship with other humans, our brothers and sisters of God.

The ten commandments include four that speak to our relationship with God. Simply put, we are to worship the one and only living creator God. We are not to make idols for worship and we are not to take the Lord our God's name in vain. Finally we are to keep the Sabbath a holy time for worshipping our God. Time each day and a day each week should be reserved for developing a closer relationship with God. Instinctively most all people know this. However, in this ever more busy world that we live in, God often fails to be our highest propriety. We get lost in our own desires and passions and forget that our first love should always be God. We were created in His image and after His likeness. In other words at our very essence we are spiritual people. To deny this is utter foolishness

The other six commandments deal with our relationships with each other. The purpose of these commandments is not to restrict

us, it's to protect us. God's laws were given as an act of love, not an act of judgment. They were given so that we might observe the boundaries that we must observe to live in mutual peace. It is essential to honor our mothers and fathers even if they are not honorable themselves. They gave us life through God's will and we should do all we can to honor them. When we love our earthly parents, it is always easier to love our heavenly Father for He is truly just.

Commandments 6-10 simply say don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, and don't covet what others have. Think how much easier life would be if all of us honored these laws. These are all common sense boundaries established by God. No rational thinking person would break these laws of behavior and expect good things to come of it. Don't let the relativism of this secular world confuse you. You know to do this is wrong, absolutely. There is nothing here for interpretation. Sin is sin. Wrong is wrong. In fact, that is why Jesus reduces these ten commandment to just two by saying love God and love one another. If you do these two things you would not think of violating the ten commandments. To break them is to hate not to love.

Remember, God loves you. In Christ Jesus you can stand before God and not worry about dying. God offers you a new path, a new beginning with Him at the center of your life. Seize it my friends.