

Episode #332 We Establish the Law 8 - The Last Five Commandments

I. Paul said in Romans 3:31, “We Establish the Law.” We are not under the law, but with proper teaching, we establish the law in its rightful place. That is what we will be seeking to do through this current series.

II. The Ten Commandments were in fact the ten terms of a covenant God made with the people of Israel. However, we also saw that the things listed in the Ten Commandments were wrong before this covenant was ever made. Those who make a religion out of Christianity make much of these commandments. We obey God through love, not law!

III. The Ten Commandments: The Commandments Themselves.

F. Exodus 20:13. Thou shalt not kill.

1. Another command that could be kept!
2. Kill = do no murder. The command against murder goes back to after the flood. Genesis 9:4-6. Also, establishes human governments.
3. Does not refer to killing animals, for God Himself allows us to use them for food. Genesis 9:3.
4. Does not refer to capital punishment! Exodus 21:12 shows that capital punishment IS the penalty for breaking the sixth commandment.
5. Does not refer to killing in war. Israel was often commanded to do this. Deuteronomy 20:10-18. They carried this out. Joshua 6:17.

G. Exodus 20:14. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

1. Another command that could be kept!
2. Some apply this to Matthew 5:28, and say that no one can keep this. But the Lord was pointing out that this is sin, not that this is what the law was talking about. Leviticus 20:10. If a man looks lustfully at a married woman innocently walking by him, should they both be taken and put to death? Clearly this is not what the law meant.
3. The land each Israelite had was his inheritance (portion) given to him by God, and was meant to belong to him and to his descendants perpetually. Example: Caleb, Joshua 14:8-9. Any break in the blood line of inheritance adulterated the blood line.

H. Exodus 20:15. Thou shalt not steal.

1. Another command that could be kept!
2. Establishes the right of private property, something the Lord always acknowledges, though some modern forms of government try to deny it.
3. Also enjoined on us. Ephesians 4:28. We should not be the sort of people whose homes are filled with stolen pens, towels, silverware, etc.

I. Exodus 20:16. Thou shalt not bear false witness.

1. Another command that could be kept!
2. Does not have to do just with lying, but especially with lying under oath in a trial; that is, perjury.
3. The penalty for lying under oath was most severe: the same penalty that would have been enacted on the other if your lie had been believed! Deuteronomy 19:16-21.
4. Whether or not it is part of a trial or we are under oath, we are to speak truth to each other. Ephesians 4:25.

J. Exodus 20:17. Thou shalt not covet.

1. Another command that could be kept!
2. Does not have to do with strongly desiring something, but desiring something that belongs to another that you have no right to have!
3. Perhaps it is wrong to be materialistic and caught up in things, but this desire for more is not coveting. Coveting is linked up with jealousy and desire for what is rightfully another's.

IV. Paul places importance upon teaching the law lawfully. The Ten Commandments were the ten terms of a covenant God was making with Israel. They were wrong before the covenant was made, and are still wrong for those not in the covenant. The last five commandments were not to murder, commit adultery, steal, commit perjury, or covet what belongs to another. The prohibition on these sins was part of the covenant, but these are still wrong things that we should avoid as well.