

Episode #334 – We Establish the Law Part 10: More Misconceptions

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. Much is made of these Ten Commandments in religious circles today, and yet little is known of what the Bible actually teaches about them. This leads to many misconceptions.

III. Misconceptions Concerning the Law.

E. The law was given to be kept.

1. Some insist the law was never given to be kept, but was given so that people would break it and prove it could not be kept.
2. Certain declarations in Romans seem to coincide with this idea. Yet it is false, because some did keep it (Luke 1:6, Philippians 3:6). Romans was written to Jews living outside the land, where it WAS impossible to keep the law.
3. Exodus 19:5; 20:6, Deuteronomy 4:2, 6, 40. These verses all show that God intended them to keep the law.

F. The law did not cover all sins.

1. It is commonly asserted that the law provides a complete guide for life in regard to morality, and one will live a “pretty good” life keeping the Ten Commandments.
2. There are many sins the 10 do not cover. One could live a very ungodly life while still keeping the Ten Commandments!
3. Galatians 5:19-21. This passage lists seventeen sins, only three of which are covered in the Ten Commandments, while fourteen are not! One could do every one of these and still claim to be keeping the Ten. But Paul says those who do these things will not inherit the kingdom of God!
4. Galatians 5:22-23. Not one of the fruits of the Spirit was commanded by the law. One will live a much more moral life by following Galatians 5 rather than Exodus 20!

G. The law is not greater than its component parts.

1. In some mysterious way, the law is said to be greater than its components, and that you could keep all these and still end up breaking the law. This is supposed to condemn every man.
2. God specifically commanded that they were not to add to nor diminish from His words. Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32.

H. Christ did not end the law.

1. Some suggest that Christ made an end of the law. This is a half-truth.
2. Romans 10:4. Christ made an end of the law “for righteousness.”
3. Romans 3:19 speaks of those who are under the law. I am not under the laws of Canada, for example. Nor was I under Israel’s law-only Israel was.
4. Romans 3:20-22. A new righteousness revealed not related to the law.
5. Romans 3:23-24. A justification without a cause by His grace.
6. Acts 21:18-26. Paul still kept the law, and the Jews in Judea were still zealous for it 30 years after Christ’s death!

IV. We please God without Israel’s covenant.

- A. Exodus 18:21. Nearly 80,000 men in Israel were already producing a law-like morality before the Ten Commandments were ever given!
- B. Abel, Enoch, and Abraham pleased God long before the Ten.
- C. So one today who has faith in Jesus Christ can live well pleasing to God even though he insists he is not under the law!
- D. There is a high morality produced by keeping the fruits of the spirit.
- E. If the law is kept today, it will produce a fair morality, nothing else.
- F. Jesus Christ can give life, redeem, and justify.

V. Conclusion: Paul places importance upon teaching the law lawfully. The Ten Commandments were the ten terms of a covenant God was making with Israel. The law was meant to be kept, the law did not cover all sins, the law is not greater than its component parts, and Christ did not end the law. We can and do please God through Jesus Christ without keeping the law. Praise God for giving us the gift of life, redemption, and justification in His Son!