



GOD'S LAW WRITTEN IN YOUR HEART

Class Four

“As Long as it Doesn't Hurt Anyone Else...”

Everything you do affects others... Some things REALLY do!

• Exodus 20:1-17

- 1) And God spake all these words, saying,
- 2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 3) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 4) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- 5) Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
- 6) And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- 7) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- 8) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 9) Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- 10) But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
- 11) For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- 12) Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 13) Thou shalt not kill.
- 14) Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 15) Thou shalt not steal.
- 16) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- 17) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

- The last Five Commandments all relate to our dealings with other people...
- Paul sums them up in Romans...
- Romans 13:9
 - 9) For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
- That sounds a little too easy...
 - Besides, it would make for an awfully short class...
- I think that the problem is that we often don't know how to honestly "love ourselves" properly...
- We may know how to "please ourselves", but do we often really know what is the best and most beneficial thing for ourselves?
 - What is really going to help us in our service to God the most?
- Usually not...
- The problem is that all sins are in our head...
 - And our brains are very deceitful...
- Jeremiah 17:9
 - 9) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
- All sins are in your head...
 - Some of them we act out and they actually cause physical harm to others
- But the battleground is in our head
 - Whether it's hatred or lust...
 - We fight the battle within, and we can only defeat the external foes if we are first victorious internally
- When we consider the Sixth Commandment, we find the same thing...
- On the surface, the Sixth Commandment seems simple...

- Exodus 20:13

13) Thou shalt not kill.

- But, killing really isn't the problem, is it?

- How many of us actually wrestle with whether or not we should kill someone?

- Jesus, of course goes right to the heart of the matter...

- Matthew 5:21-26

21) Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22) But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

23) Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24) Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

25) Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

26) Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

- The Old Testament was simple...

- No one disagreed

- Exodus 20:13

12) Thou shalt not kill.

- But Jesus took it One Step Further...

- Sure, everyone knows that you shouldn't kill...

- But I say unto you,

- *"You shouldn't even be angry with your brother."*

- Like today, there probably weren't many murderers in Moses' time...

- There might have been a few accidents here and there...

- The Law made provision for someone who killed, but didn't mean to in his heart

- Numbers 35:22-24

- 22) But if he thrust him suddenly without enmity, or have cast upon him any thing without laying of wait,
- 23) Or with any stone, wherewith a man may die, seeing him not, and cast it upon him, that he die, and was not his enemy, neither sought his harm:
- 24) Then the congregation shall judge between the slayer and the revenger of blood according to these judgments:

- What about the opposite?

- What about the intention being in the heart, but not being acted upon?

- Isn't this the more common sin?

- Isn't this really the intention of the commandment?

- Not just to prescribe the type of punishment due a person who sins...

- But to strike at the root of the sin, and remove it before it starts

- John understood this...

- 1st John 3:9-16

- 9) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
- 10) In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.
- 11) For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.
- 12) Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.
- 13) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.
- 14) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.
- 15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
- 13) Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the Brethren.

- Back to Jesus' words in Matthew 5...

- Matthew 5:22

- 22) ...and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

- Raca = Worthless

- 2nd Samuel 6:20

20) Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

- Thou Fool = Moros = As in Moron, Dull, Stupid, Blockhead, as if to say Shut Up...

- Obviously these three are examples of a type of character, a state of mind...
The lesson is clearly not limited to these simple sayings...

- The Angry Man who speaks this way holds his brother in such contempt as to clearly not understand the teachings of Christ and the calling to which we are called

- The only solution is to reconcile with your brother...

- Immediately...

- Notice that it is the one who is the object of the bad feelings that must reconcile

- Matthew 5:23-34

23) Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24) Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

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23) Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,

24) Leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift.

- The gift that we offer is our prayers...

- This becomes a vitally important lesson to learn then...

- Psalm 66:18

18) If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

- If we have a problem with someone

- That can get in the way of our relationship with God

- We need to resolve it...
 - Immediately...
- The Sixth Commandment is deceptively easy...
- Don't Kill...
 - That's the visible, outward, external commandment that the law required
- Jesus calls us to go One Step Further...
 - Jesus wants us to address the inward, invisible matters of the heart
 - The matters that have to do with disposition, attitude, motive and intention
 - Don't Kill... Sure.
 - Don't even allow yourself to get angry with your brethren
- 1st John 3:15
 - 15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
- Examples of this are simple...
 - Because there are so many...
- ***Now, lets try to restate what the Sixth Commandment is really trying to teach us...***

- The Seventh Commandment is also a battle that is fought in your head...
- Exodus 20:14
 - 14) Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- Again...
 - The real lesson of the Seventh Commandment is not about the physical, external sin...
 - We all know that adultery and fornication are wrong...
 - It's not Rocket Science to figure out that something so wonderful, special and unique would be reserved for a marriage union
- God loves us, and he wants the best for us...
 - He purposely designed our bodies to enjoy and appreciate sex...
 - We are designed to desire it, and want it...
- But, because He knows best for us, he has reserved that for marriage...
- The emotional wounds that are caused by getting involved in a sexual relationship outside of the bonds marriage are huge...
 - To give yourself... So fully... To someone else, and then to have that person break up with you, and go be with someone else...
 - I'm not even going to talk about the HUGE risks involving pregnancy, disease and permanent physical damage...
 - God is concerned with protecting us...
 - Preserving us for a lifetime of happiness with our spouse...
- The Commandment then, is very easy to understand...
- Exodus 20:14
 - 14) Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- But, Christ understood our hearts...
 - He knew what goes on in our minds...
- He knew that the battle CANNOT be fought in the bedroom

- The battle CANNOT be fought in the back seat of your dad's car...
- If you wait until that point to try to obey God and do what is right...
 - You will be amazed how strong your body is in overpowering your mind!
- Christ brings the battleground right to where it belongs
 - In our minds!
- Matthew 5:27-30

- 27) Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:
- 28) But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.
- 29) And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.
- 30) And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

- This is perfect arena for Jesus to bring the ideal of taking things One Step Further
- Moses' Law was based on ACTIONS... Outward, Visible, External Actions...
 - Christ's Law is based on THOUGHTS... Inward, Invisible, Internal Thoughts...
- In what other area are the two so apparent, and so common...
- Our goal is not spiritual respectability in the eyes of men
 - Our goal is the peace of mind which only the satisfied scrutiny of an alert and educated conscience can impart
- Everyone understood that Adultery was wrong...
- But in this area of human sinfulness especially, the desire and intention are themselves guilt
- Jesus acknowledged this and called us to go One Step Further

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- Matthew 5:28

- 28) "...I tell you anyone who looks on a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

- Jesus says, “We all agree the act of Adultery is bad...”

- “I say don’t even think about it.”

- L.G. Sargent in “The Teaching of the Master”:

“Jesus is far too much of a realist not to know that there is a vital difference between the act contemplated and the act completed – just as there is a wide difference between hard words and murder. But that difference is in the injury suffered by the other person; and **Jesus has in view the effect upon the sinner** rather than on the one sinned against. *It is not a man’s actions but his state of mind that erects a barrier between himself and God.*”

- If the sin is in your mind...

- How is guilt to be avoided then?

- We are barraged every day with sex-ridden images

- There is a difference between alluring thought and tempting thought

(Remember that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness)

- It is the thought that is welcomed and *even encouraged* that is sin, whether or not it matures into action

- The process of Temptation and Sin describes this exactly...

- James 1:13-15

13) Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

- This is exactly what happens with our sexual desires...

1) We are drawn away of our own lusts...

- No one else makes us do it...

- Did David blame Bathsheba... She was the one naked on the roof!

- You can’t blame God... He doesn’t tempt anyone

- We are drawn away by our own lusts...

2) When Lust hath conceived...

- Do you know what conception is?
- It takes TWO to conceive...
- You have to add something to the mix...
- Your thoughts added to the situation is what brings forth the sin...

• Jesus gives some “advice” on how to deal with these thoughts:

Matthew 5:29-30

- 29) And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.
- 30) And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

• Is he really advising us to dismember ourselves?

• NO!

• What is he asking us to do then?

• Clearly the meaning is that we can't hold back at all in exacting the severest self-discipline in order to avoid the overpowering temptations of lust

• Don't give yourself the tiniest little bit of “wiggle-room”

• Flee Fornication!

• 1st Corinthians 6:15-20

- 15) Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.
- 16) What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.
- 17) But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.
- 18) Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.
- 19) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
- 20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

- Your body is what you use to worship God...
 - Don't pollute it with sin...
- This thought is also expressed in the Proverbs...

Proverbs 6:20-29

- 20) My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
- 21) Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.
- 22) When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.
- 23) For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:
- 24) To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.
- 25) Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.
- 26) For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.
- 27) Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?
- 28) Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?
- 29) So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

- Paul also gives us clear advice

2nd Timothy 2:22

- 22) Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- Don't Commit Adultery...
 - That's easy...
 - That's the visible, outward, external commandment that the law required
- Jesus calls us to go One Step Further...
 - Jesus wants us to address the inward, invisible matters of the heart
 - The matters that have to do with our attitude, motives and intentions
 - Don't Commit Adultery...
 - Don't even allow yourself to think about that
 - Flee those thoughts... Put them far from you...

- **Don't even think about it...**

- "I Think, Therefore I Am"

- "What I Think, I Am"

- Matthew 12:43-45

- 43) When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

- 44) Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

- 45) Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

- This is an odd little parable...

- Who knows what it means?

- EXPLAIN

- You HAVE to fill your life with something else!

- You have to fill your MIND with something else!

- Let's try the Chocolate Test...

- For the next 3 seconds, don't think about Chocolate...

- Don't think about a huge, giant, Hot Fudge Sundae with Chocolate Ice Cream, Hot Fudge, Nuts, Chocolate Sprinkles...

- Mmmm...

- How'd you do?

- Not, very good eh?

- Try thinking about a giant pink elephant...

- A huge elephant painted entirely hot pink...

- Cute little pink slippers

- A fluffy, feathery, little pink ballet outfit

- With a giant pink ribbon tied around his ears...

- Did you think of Chocolate then?
- See!
- Fill your minds, fill your days, fill your life with something else...
- Otherwise, you will be tricked and enslaved by your own mind

- Romans 7:18-19

- 18) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
- 19) For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

- TV & Movies

- Promotion of Sex over Love

- You don't see a person on TV and want to fall in Love with them...
- You don't want to be there rubbing their back when they are sick and throwing up in the toilet in the middle of the night...
- You don't want to fix them breakfast in bed when they are so old that they can't get themselves out of bed...
- True love does those things...
 - You simply Lust after them...
 - TV is based on Lust... Sexual Lust

- Concentrate on Love...

- Love is what God has called us to
- "Physical Things" will follow if it's the right person
- Sex will follow if you Love that person enough to marry them

- Talk about some examples...

- ***Write it in your own words...***