



GOD'S LAW WRITTEN IN YOUR HEART

Class Five

Honesty is the Best Policy

Honest dealings with others, both physically and emotionally.

• 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 Eighth and Ninth Commandments are pretty straight forward...

- And again Christ expands them further...

- The Eighth is...

- Exodus 20:15

- 15) Thou shalt not steal.

- Jesus reiterated the same Commandment...

- Matthew 19:16-21

- 16) And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

- 17) And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

- 18) He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

- 19) Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

- 20) The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

- 21) Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

- The sanctity of someone else's property was just as important to Jesus as it was to Moses...

- Under the Law of Moses, there were some interesting penalties that teach us a lesson

- Exodus 22:7-9

- 7) If a man shall deliver unto his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the thief be found, let him pay double.

- 8) If the thief be not found, then the master of the house shall be brought unto the judges, to see whether he have put his hand unto his neighbour's goods.

- 9) For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbour.

- If you are caught stealing...

- You have to repay double
- That seems fair enough...
- If you steal my \$20 bill, and we find it in your wallet...
 - You not only have to give it back...
 - But, you have to give me one of yours also
- But, what if you don't have it anymore
- Exodus 22:1

1) If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.

- Why?
- Anybody?
 - If you were doing it for profit...
 - If it was a "business" for you...
 - Then your punishment was worse
- But, what about this Law?

- Numbers 5:5-7

5) And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

6) Speak unto the children of Israel, When a man or woman shall commit any sin that men commit, to do a trespass against the LORD, and that person be guilty;

7) Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed.

- What do you have to pay back here?
 - Why the difference?
- From the very beginning God has treated us differently if we confess and admit our sins...
 - As opposed to being caught in them...
- The New Testament has an even more complete approach to stealing...

• Ephesians 4:17-32

- 17) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,
- 18) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
- 19) Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.
- 20) But ye have not so learned Christ;
- 21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:
- 22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
- 23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
- 24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
- 25) Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.
- 26) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
- 27) Neither give place to the devil.
- 28) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
- 29) Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
- 30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
- 31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
- 32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

• Look carefully at what Verse 28 is saying...

- 28) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

• It's obvious that you can't steal...

- It's not yours
- It's somebody else's

• If you've ever had anything taken from you, it's a very violating kind of feeling

- Clearly, you wouldn't be loving your neighbour as yourself

- But, what are we to do instead?
 - A) Stop Stealing
 - B) RATHER let him labour
 - Working with his hands
 - Something that is good
 - That he may GIVE to him that needeth
- It's not just good enough to stop stealing...
 - You HAVE to stop stealing...
- But, instead you need to give something back to society...
 - Do something productive...
 - So that you can help those who are less fortunate
- It's not only about not stealing...
- Its also about giving...
- You don't steal?
 - You do well
- But, what do you give?
- Examples, Examples, Examples...
- What kinds of Stealing are there?
 - Cheating
 - Stealing answers
 - Stealing from parents
 - Falling short in responsibilities as a member of the family
 - Stealing from employer
 - Not fully doing what you get paid to do
- ***Now you write it...***

- The Ninth Commandment is very similar...

- Exodus 20:16

16) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

- Bearing False Witness...

- Anybody?

- Lying...

- Let's look again at those verse we looked at in Ephesians 4...

- Ephesians 4:17-32

- 17) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,
- 18) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
- 19) Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.
- 20) But ye have not so learned Christ;
- 21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:
- 22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
- 23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
- 24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
- 25) Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.
- 26) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
- 27) Neither give place to the devil.
- 28) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
- 29) Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
- 30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
- 31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
- 32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

- The same principle applies here...

- Christ not only reiterates the Ninth Commandment...
 - But we see the lesson from the New Testament EXPANDS upon the teachings of the Old Testament...
- Put away lying...
 - That is clear...
 - It's wrong
 - It's sin...
- But, don't just do that...
- *Speak every man truth with his neighbour...*
- Don't just stop lying...
 - But speak the Truth...
- We are to be made new in Christ Jesus...
- Colossians 3:1-10
 - 1) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
 - 2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
 - 3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
 - 4) When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
 - 5) Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:
 - 6) For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:
 - 7) In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.
 - 8) But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
 - 9) Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;
 - 10) And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:
- Honesty really is the best policy
 - God is a God of Truth
- Remember what happened when he introduced himself to Moses...

- Exodus 34:6-7

- 6) And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,
- 7) Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

- God is abundant in Truth

- God is truth...

- And he hates lies

- Proverbs 6:16-19

- 16) These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
- 17) A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
- 18) An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,
- 19) A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

- What different kinds of Lying is there?

- False Witness

- Half Truth

- Withheld Truth

- God hates dishonesty...

- Dishonest actions...

- Dishonest statements...

- It all comes from a dishonest mind

- We must strive to not only stop stealing...

- But to work and earn money to give to those who are in need

- We must strive to not only stop lying...

- But to speak good things about others.