

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER: What is your attitude toward people who believe differently than you?

OVERVIEW: The Ten Commandments have confused many Christians because on the one hand the New Testament says that we are free from the law, and on the other hand it says that we must obey the law. There are some Christians that reject the entire Old Testament, and there are some Christians who say the entire Old Testament must be followed to this day. In this discussion we will go deeper with why and how the law is still binding upon Christians, and how to interpret the Ten Commandments.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Romans 6:14 and Romans 3:31. Is the law binding on Christians today? Why or why not?
3. Read Galatians 5:4-5. How does this verse help us understand the Christian's relationship to the law?
4. The law of Moses contains 613 laws. What is the difference between the three kinds of laws (ceremonial law; civil law; moral law), and how do these categories help us understand our relationship to the law?

5. Read Colossians 2:16-17. What does this verse teach us about the law?
6. How do we know that the moral law is still binding upon Christians?
7. In the sermon we looked at seven principles for interpreting the Ten Commandments. One of those principles is that the Ten Commandments are inward and outward. Explain this principle and give an example.
8. Another principle for interpretation is that the Ten Commandments are positive and negative. Philip Ryken wrote, "Where a sin is forbidden, the corresponding duty is required; and where a duty is required, the corresponding sin is forbidden. There is a flip-side to every commandment. Each one contains a particular vice, while at the same time commands a particular virtue." Give an example of this principle. Why is this principle important?
9. Another interpretation principle is that the Ten Commandments are categorical. Philip Ryken writes, "Each commandment stands for a whole category of sins. It governs not only the specific sin that is mentioned, but all the sins that lead up to it, and all the supposedly lesser sins of the same kind." Give an example of this principle. Why is this principle important in everyday life?
10. Another principle of interpretation is that the Ten Commandments are personal and social. Not only must we keep the commandments, but we must do everything we can to help others keep the commandments. What are some ways that people violate this principle?

The Last Word: "Do we then nullify the law through faith? Absolutely not! On the contrary, we uphold the law." Romans 3:31