



Exodus 20 records the most majestic moral commands ever spoken, the clearest rules of human rights and responsibilities ever written. In the midst of moral relativism today, they provide a moral foundation for individual and national behavior. Having examined each of the Ten Commandments, the Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities, we are left with the challenge of contemporary Christian faith: “How shall we then live?”

However, there is actually a more pertinent question: “How shall we then believe?” Are the Ten Commandments a source of bondage or the charter of human freedom? Does grace replace the Law? Do the Greatest Commandments (Matthew 22:37-39) replace the Ten Commandments?

The answer has been disputed and settled through the history of the church (eg. Marcion controversy in 2nd century) and is evident in such practical considerations as one’s view of the relevance of the Old Testament or acceptance of the Old Testament God. As we journey from the Decalogue to the Logos, we must reconcile the universal features of the Ten Commandments with their unique fulfillment by Jesus, who is the alpha and omega (Revelation 1:8), the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

1. Read the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 5: 6-22). Is there grace in the Law?
2. What does the people’s response reveal about their view of God? (Deuteronomy 5:23-27)
3. What does God’s response reveal about his view of people? (Deuteronomy 5:28-33)
4. The Law is the basis of the Old Covenant. What are the predicted characteristics of the New Covenant? (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
5. How did Jesus view the Law? (Matthew 5:17-20; 22:37-39)
6. How is righteousness fulfilled today? (Romans 3:19-26; Galatians 2:15-21; Romans 13:8-10)
7. Is there Law in grace? (Romans 3:31; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:14-17)

“Love is the fulfillment of the law.”
Romans 13:10