

A BETTER WAY!

Imagine a great breakthrough in rocket science, and within a few years mankind lands on Mars. Before long, thousands of people are living on Mars. But soon bad things begin to happen. Things get so out of hand that the government back on earth sends space police to arrest the guilty. The police arrive but run into a problem. They are on Mars now, not earth, and Mars has no laws. If there is no law, then there's no violation.

That's why all governments have laws. If there are no laws, there would be no constraints on any of us. Who would want to live in such a place? Imagine how different our world would be if everyone obeyed the 10 Commandments.

KEY POINTS

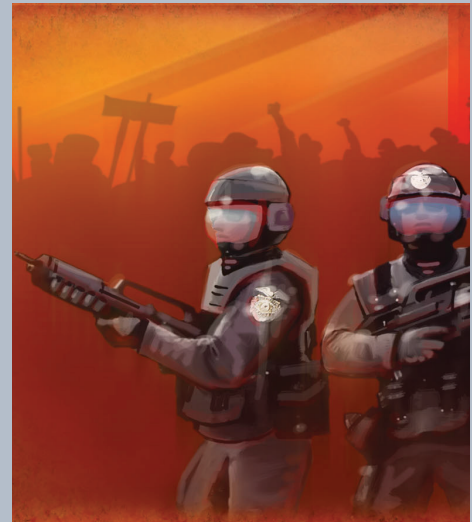
Yes, God has given us the Ten Commandments as a universal and timeless moral code. He told His people in Bible times to keep the commandments "which I command thee this day for your good." (Deuteronomy 10:13) This is a crucial point. He knows that obedience to His law is something that is for our benefit. We cannot trust to our own feelings for what is right and wrong. The Bible says "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9) (Proverbs 28:26).

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes." (Proverbs 21:2)

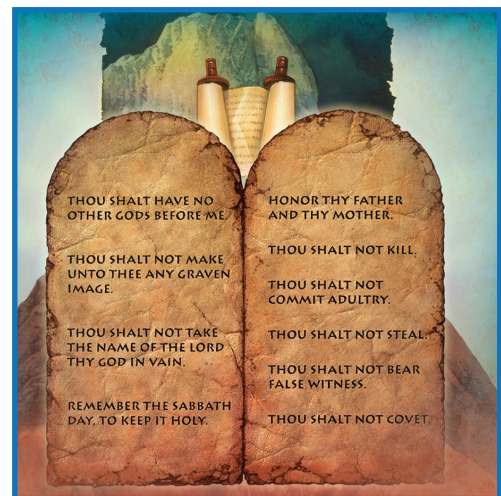
Years ago a debate on moral values took place between an atheist and a Christian. The atheist insisted that moral values came only from a person's feeling, nowhere else. The Christian said that moral values came from God. The Christian finally answered, "Sir, in some societies people love their neighbors, in others they eat them, all based on feelings and the promptings of their hearts. Which society would you prefer to live in?"



Cain knew murder was wrong.



If there are no laws, there would be no constraints on any of us.



The Ten Commandments are a universal and timeless moral code.

Did you know that some say the Ten Commandments were given only to the Jewish people? What they want to establish is that it is no longer necessary for Christians today to adhere to God's law. Think about it, though. Were the Jews the only ones who were not supposed to kill, to steal, or not take God's name in vain? Remember the story of Cain and Abel and how Cain killed his brother? This was long before the giving of the law on Mount Sinai; before Abraham, the first Jew. And God punished Cain for murdering his brother. But how could God punish Cain if his act wasn't wrong? How about the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife. He was tempted to commit adultery. Joseph said: "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9)

But what about the New Testament? Didn't Jesus come to abolish the law? Actually, the New Testament teaches repeatedly that sin is breaking God's law. Here's one example: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4) Here is another New Testament text, also written after the death of Jesus. "Awake to righteousness, and sin not." (1 Corinthians 15:34) So we can see clearly that in the New Testament the law of God was still in effect. Jesus Himself said: "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:17)



Jesus said that not even the least commandment should be broken.

But someone may be asking, aren't we saved by grace and not by

God's Ten Commandment Law

- A universal and timeless moral code.
- Is for our benefit.
- For all mankind.
- Jesus "did and taught" it.
- Shows us what is right and wrong and reveals our need of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

works of the law? Of course. No one can be saved by keeping the law because the law was never meant to save anyone. Let me illustrate this point with a mirror. Let's say your hair is disheveled and your face isn't washed. Looking in a mirror isn't going to fix that, is it? Of course, it wasn't supposed to. It was merely to help you see your need of a good cleaning. The same is true with the law of God, the Ten Commandments. They show that we are all sinners in need of a spiritual cleaning, in need of a Savior. "For by the law is the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:21)

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Are you struggling with sin today? If so, I have good news for you. First, you can be forgiven! Second, Jesus wants to give you power

over sin. This doesn't mean you'll never sin again. It simply means that sin will no longer dominate your life. Listen to how the apostle Paul puts the matter: "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." (Romans 6:14) When we're under grace, we have God's spiritual force field around us and He views us as perfectly righteous and holy.

Having been saved by grace we now desire nothing more than to honor our Savior by keeping His commandments. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (1 John 5:2) Grievous? Look at all the suffering that has come to this world because people have disobeyed God's law. Sin is what is grievous, not obedience. The Bible adds, "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." (1 John 2:4)

BETWEEN YOU AND GOD

In the last days God's people are described this way: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." (Revelation 14:12) How can you and I get to this state of obedience? In two wonderful ways: First, by asking God to live out His life within us. And, secondly, by accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior so that even when we fall short, He tells us, "I've still got you covered." Isn't that beautiful?

Wouldn't you like to have that experience? To be changed, to be healed, to start living in a way that is not only pleasing to God but will also make your life better? You can, starting right now, with Jesus in your life.