

## **The Ten: Timeless Truths for Today**

**Dr. John Carmichael**

**[Exo 20:1-2 NASB95] 1 Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

- **A headline, “Religion is gaining ground, morality is losing ground.” You have people who acknowledge God but refuse His ways. People are making their own rules. Postmodernism says there is no grand narrative. Whatever you think is right is right.**
- **The Ten Commandments (or ten words) were spoken audibly by God.**

**What are some universal truths we need to know as we study the Ten Commandments?**

**Here are three truths we need to know as we study the Ten Commandments.**

### **I. The Ten come from God.**

- a. They have authority.
  - i. Because The Ten comes from God they have authority to tell us what to do.
  - ii. Westminster Shorter Catechism, “Because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all of His commandments.”
  - iii. Jesus is Lord of our lives. That is only way of salvation. [Jhn 14:6 NASB95] 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
- b. They are good.
  - i. [Rom 7:12 NASB95] 12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.
  - ii. Plato: “Does God command the law because the law is good, or is the law good because God commands it?” The answer is both. It springs from the goodness of the character of God.
  - iii. Notice: God did amazing things in their lives from chapters 1-19. He wants only good for them and us.

### **II. The Ten are timeless.**

- a. They should speak to every generation including this postmodern culture that says anything.
  - i. [Psa 11:3 NASB95] 3 If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?"
  - ii. This question reflects a sense of helplessness or urgency among those who strive to live according to God's will when faced with societal decay.
  - iii. This is not new: [Jdg 21:25 NASB95] 25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- b. They speak to every Christian.
  - i. There are three types of Law: moral, civil, and ceremonial. Ceremonial=sacrifice & circumcision. Civil=responsibilities to government of Israel. Moral=God’s law of character that He expects from us.
  - ii. [Rom 3:31 NASB95] 31 Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.
  - iii. [1Co 9:21 NASB95] 21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law.

### **III. The Ten point us to Christ.**

- a. They remind us of what He expects from us.

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- i. [Jhn 14:15, 21 NASB95] 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ... 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."
  - ii. [Mat 5:17-19 NASB95] 17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others [to do] the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches [them,] he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
  - b. They show us our need for Him.
    - i. [Rom 3:20 NASB95] 20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law [comes] the knowledge of sin.
    - ii. [Rom 7:7-11 NASB95] 7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." 8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin [is] dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.
  - c. They point to what He did for us.
    - i. [Rom 8:1, 13 NASB95] 1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ... 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
    - ii. [Rom 5:20-21 NASB95] 20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **We considering the Ten Commandments, God wants us surrender to His authority in our lives despite the times we live in as we trust in the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ's atonement for us.**