

Understanding 'The 10' Exodus 20:1-2

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Take-Home Truth: Obedience to our Lord's moral law is every believer's fundamental responsibility.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments . . .
1 John 5:3a (English Standard Version)

HOW SHOULD BELIEVERS UNDERSTAND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

And 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." Exodus 20:1-2 (ESV)

THREE UNDERSTANDINGS

- The moral commands found in the ten words are from God Himself: Behind all the words of God in the Scriptures . . . is His voice.
- We obey God's law because of who He is, our LORD.

Basic Implications of "Lord"

- God's Lordship means that **He is in control**.
(See Lamentations 3:37-38; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 11:33-36)
- God's Lordship means that **He has all authority**.

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?
Luke 6:46 (ESV)

- God's Lordship means **His committed presence** with us.

"And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst."
Exodus 25:8 (ESV)

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous . . .
Psalm 1:6a (New International Version)

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5b (ESV)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)

- All biblical commandments, including the Ten Commandments, reflect [a grace-based relationship](#).

The Mosaic Covenant calls believers to obey God as the appropriate response to redemption, just as the **New Covenant** calls believers to obey God as an appropriate response to redemption.

ARE OLD COVENANT COMMANDMENTS BINDING FOR A NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN?

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant . . . I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people . . ." Jeremiah 31:31, 33b (ESV)

". . . you are not under law but under grace." Romans 6:14 (ESV)

Basic Guideline: If an Old Testament command has clearly been renewed in the New Testament, then it is binding for New Testament believers.

Laws that Appear Not to be Renewed in New Testament

- All laws dealing with the priesthood (Hebrews 7:1-18)
- All laws dealing with sacrifices (Hebrews 8:1-10:18)
- All laws which guarded His unique relationship with the Jewish people in the Promised Land

“Rule of Thumb”: Obedience to our Lord’s moral law is our fundamental responsibility, not the ceremonial law or civil law found in the Old Testament.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10:4 (ESV)

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5:3 (ESV)

APPLICATION: So how do we evaluate whether something is morally right?

Three Things to Consider

- First, am I following the **right standard**?

Ask yourself: Is what I’m doing consistent with God’s Word, with His commandments?

- Second, am I pursuing this action with the **right motive**?
See Romans 13:8-10.

Ask yourself: Is this action an expression of love?

- Third, am I choosing this course with **the right goal** in mind?

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)

Ask yourself: Is my goal to bring glory to the Lord?