



The Ten Commandments.

A New Covenant:

Love Without Condemnation;

For many, the Ten Commandments are symbols of condemnation that point to our faults and mistakes. Some feel so guilty that they believe God will never accept them. Others simply choose to reject God because His Law is impossible to obey. Ironically, the Ten Commandments were never given by God to condemn humanity, but rather, they were given to convict humanity, and give us freedom within their boundaries.

The Ten Commandments act as a mirror to "reflect" the condition of our souls. When we examine our life in light of the Ten Commandments, we realize our shortcomings and our need for redemption. Jesus Christ is our redeemer. Therefore, God gave the Ten Commandments not to condemn humanity, but to show us His love for us. For, *"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).

Here we are at the last of our series on the Ten Commandments, I pray that you have enjoyed it and grown in the Lord as you have taken this journey with Him. To complete the walk, we need to understand what Jesus, our great teacher, has to say in the New Covenant.

Read Hebrews 8:1-13, also Jeremiah 31:31-34

- 1 Are the Ten Commandments still relevant and applicable to us today? Why, or why not? What importance is left, or eliminated, with the New Covenant?

The response to the idea that we cannot live up to the standards of the Ten Commandments lies in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth to reconcile this dilemma, to demonstrate God's love for us.

- 2 What is love?

See John 3:16,17 to find an answer to this.

The Old and New Testaments teach that we should love one another (Lev.19:18). What was new in Jesus' commandment was that we are to "love one another; as I have loved you..." John 13:34. He loved us so much that He gave His own life for us (John 15:10-13).

- 3 If the Ten Commandments are the *words* of the Old Covenant, not the covenant itself, what is the New Covenant about?

Jesus said that He came not to abolish the law but to fulfil it (Mat.5:17). His fulfilment of God's law brings us into a new relationship with the Lawgiver. Acknowledging our failure, through Christ, we discover the law of grace.

- 4 How are God's grace and justice related? (See Rom. 3:9-31 for help).

The Beatitudes (Mat.5:2-11 have been described as the Ten Commandments of the New Testament.

- 5 How do these fit with the New Covenant?

God communicated his laws of the Old Covenant by writing them on stones and the book of the law.

- 6 Where does God establish the New Covenant?

The new covenant provides the motivation to obey His laws, extends forgiveness when we don't, and results in an intimate relationship with God for all eternity. We look forward to the time when we will fully experience the benefits of the new covenant as eternal spirit members of God's family.

Hence 'Ten to the Power of Two'!

Read Mark 12:28-34