

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

43 – Dealing with Sin

The Old Testament

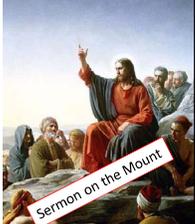
- A greater focus on a nation under God.
- Has many regulations describing how a righteous nation should be governed.



Ten Commandments

The New Testament

- A greater focus on individuals under God.
- Has many regulations about how righteous individuals should live, when a wicked government rules the land.



Sermon on the Mount

The Old Testament

Shows us how a righteous nation should be governed.

- Contains many regulations and principles.

These continue to be relevant

- even though the specific context changes.

- Example: The prophets took principles that were given to an agricultural society and applied them to an urban society.



A change in CONTEXT (a new type of situation) does NOT mean a change in MORALITY!



DO NOT STEAL *

APPLIES TO ANY TYPE OF STEALING

Back then...

- Cattle, pieces of silver.
- Stealing one's reputation.

Today...

- Cars, stocks and bonds.
- Identity theft.

* (This statement is a summary of many regulations.)

SIN does not become "NOT-SIN"!



DO NOT MURDER *

APPLIES TO ANY TYPE OF MURDER

Back then...

- Knife in neighbor's back.
- Child sacrifice.

Today...

- Bullet in neighbor's heart.
- Abortion.

* (This statement is a summary of many regulations.)

When the context changes MORAL PRINCIPLES CONTINUE TO BE AFFIRMED



DO NOT COMMIT SEXUAL SIN *

APPLIES TO ANY TYPE OF SEXUAL SIN

Back then...

- Adultery, incest, fornication, homosexuality, lust.

Today...

- Adultery, incest, fornication, homosexuality, lust.

* (This statement is a summary of many regulations.)

When evil people choose to "redefine" morality,
SIN REMAINS SIN

WE HAVE DECIDED TO REDEFINE "SIN"

WE ARE GOING TO REDEFINE "MURDER"

WE ARE GOING TO REDEFINE "HUMAN NATURE"

WE ARE GOING TO REDEFINE "MARRIAGE"

THESE (AND THEIR MANY APPLICATIONS TO LIFE) HAVE NOT CHANGED!

Do not worship any other gods
Do not make any idols
Do not misuse God's name
Keep the sabbath holy

Honour your father & mother
Do not murder
Do not commit adultery
Do not steal
Do not lie
Do not covet

Even instructions that appear to have no relevancy today may teach principles that DO apply.

EXAMPLE OF A PRINCIPLE THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO A MODERN SITUATION.

- The "Master-Slave Principles" found in Scripture can be rightfully applied to other situations in which one person works for another.
 - Masters [→→ **employers**] treat your slaves [→→ **employees**] justly and fairly, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven. Colossians 4:1a (ISV)

I'M GOING TO TREAT THEM WELL AND PAY THEM WELL!

"Master-Slave Principles" (continued)

Slaves [→→ **employees**], obey your earthly masters [→→ **employers**] in everything, not only while being watched in order to please them, but with a sincere heart, fearing the Lord. Colossians 3:22 (ISV)

I'M GOING TO DO MY JOB WITH QUALITY!

I'M GOING TO GIVE AN HONEST DAY'S WORK!

"How then should we respond to sin?"

?

?

?

SIN NEEDS TO BE JUDGED AND PUNISHED!

- Refusal to obey God in this matter is SIN.
- Permitting sin to continue is SIN.

BUT GOD DETERMINES WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DO THE PUNISHING!

- In many issues, the government – not the individual – has the obligation to punish.

↓

An **individual** is NOT to take and use authority that God has NOT given him!

... BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS CORRUPT!

Government corruption is nothing new!

- The New Testament was written when a pagan government ruled most of the world around Israel. It gives many instructions related to this issue.

SO?

This fact does not cancel the government's legitimate role.

[The governing authority] ... is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Romans 13:4b (NIV)

OBLIGATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT... THINGS A RIGHTEOUS GOVERNMENT WILL DO.

PUNISHMENT THAT IS FITTING FOR THE CRIME.

[Many examples in the Old Testament, which teach us how to determine what is "fitting."]

WITHOUT PARTIALITY.

"Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly." "

Leviticus 19:15 (NIV)

[SCRIPTURE ALSO RESTRAINS GOVERNMENT'S ROLE.]

"OK... What should I do
if the government is corrupt?"



WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS CORRUPT: WHAT SHOULD A PERSON DO?

FIRST:

- You still do NOT have authority to take the government's matters into your own hands.

SECOND:

- It may mean you have to suffer injustice... just like Jesus did. And as many other Christians have, down through the centuries.
- The New Testament shows us how to respond to injustice.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO INJUSTICE? WHAT SHOULD A PERSON DO?

FIRST:

- Your moral obligation to promote justice has not changed.
- But you are not to do the government's job when it fails to do so.

SECOND:

- Scripture gives us specific instructions – ways to respond when the government promotes injustice.

EXAMPLE: JESUS' "SERMON ON THE MOUNT." > SHOWS US HOW TO RESPOND <

FIRST:

- Jesus did not come to cancel the law, but to:
 - ✓ Correct the people's distortions of the moral law and its application.
 - ✓ Fulfill the ceremonial aspects of the law. (He also came to bring us the NEW Covenant, which does not have the ceremonial aspects of the OLD Covenant.)

SECOND:

- Jesus was telling INDIVIDUALS (not governments) how to respond to injustice.

**HOW INDIVIDUALS SHOULD RESPOND,
WHEN FORCED TO ENDURE INJUSTICE.**

(2 EXAMPLES FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT)

If someone strikes you on the right cheek,
turn to him the other also.

Matthew 5:39b (NIV)

If someone forces you to go one mile, go
with him two miles.

Matthew 5:41 (NIV)

DON'T FORGET JESUS' OWN EXAMPLE!

[Christ] left you an example so that you could
follow in his footsteps.

Christ never committed any sin. He never
spoke deceitfully.

Christ never verbally abused those who
verbally abused him. When he suffered, he
didn't make any threats but left everything
to the one who judges fairly.

1 Peter 2:21b-23 (GW)

**THERE ARE MANY OTHER ISSUES
RELATED TO THIS TOPIC,
BUT IT'S NOT OUR PURPOSE HERE TO
EXPLORE ALL OF THEM.**

EXAMPLES:

- The need to defend the weak.
- The place for civil disobedience (i.e., when governments should be opposed).
- The duties of other authority structures – family, church, local community, etc.

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN, SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES!

**"Now what about
Romans 12:17?"**

>> ESPECIALLY THE FIRST LINE! <<

Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

Be careful to do what is right in the
eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

**MANY PEOPLE
(FALSE TEACHERS AND CONFUSED PEOPLE)
CLAIM THAT THIS VERSE CANCELS
ALL THE BIBLE'S COMMANDS
RELATED TO THE DUTIES OF GOVERNMENT!**

Show no pity: life for life, eye
for eye, tooth for tooth,
hand for hand, foot for foot.

Deut. 19:21 (NIV)

**DOES IT
REALLY
CANCEL
THIS?**

**Romans 12:17a has *nothing* to do with
the issue of "promoting justice"!**

It's about paying back with "EVIL,"
NOT with justice!

Do not repay anyone *evil* for evil.

Be careful to do what is right in the
eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

- ✓ But since false teachers and confused people sometimes make such a claim, we have to point out and avoid their error!

DOES THIS VERSE CANCEL JUSTICE?

FIRST:

- Paying back with evil is EVIL! It is NOT "promoting justice"!

SECOND:

- We need to remember that this verse is focusing on our response as individuals, not as civil authorities.
- The proper response for government is shown in the next chapter (Romans 13).

THIRD:

- Paul's own life contradicts such a misinterpretation!
 - ✓ He often appealed to the government for justice!

If I have done something worthy of death, I don't refuse to die. But if I am innocent, neither you nor anyone else has a right to turn me over to these men to kill me. I appeal to Caesar!"

Acts 25:11 (NLT)

- ✓ When he didn't get justice, he obeyed the Scripture's teachings about responding to injustice. Example:

... I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

2 Timothy 2:10 (ESV)

Your Mission...

PRAY!

PRAY THAT:

1. The government will do its job.
2. You will do your job.
3. You will not confuse the two!

Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. (www.newlivingtranslation.com)
- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbibles.com)
- Scriptures marked "GW" - Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®. Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "ESV" - Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (www.gnpcc.org)
- Scriptures marked "ISV" - Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version®. Copyright © 1996-forever by The ISV Foundation. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY. Used by permission. (<https://www.isv.org/bible/>)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Moses and the 10 Commandments (painting) – James Tissot [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tissot_Moses_and_the_Ten_Commandments.jpg
- Jesus and "Sermon on the Mount" – Carl Bloch [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Block-SermonOnTheMount.jpg> (cropped)

Credits (2)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Moses (2nd picture); also 10 Commandments (Hebrew words) – By Utilisateur:Djampa - User:Djampa (Own work) [CC BY-SA 4.0-3.0-2.5-2.0-1.0] (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0-3.0-2.5-2.0-1.0/>), via Wikimedia Commons: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thais_dime1%C3%ABie_luif_Mo%C3%AFAae.jpg (cropped; modified)
- 10 Commandments (English words) – By j4p4n [Public domain], via openclipart.org: <https://openclipart.org/detail/274042/ten-commandments>
- Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2017.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree; some might not.

Your Mission...

BASIC RELATIONSHIPS

This refers to the established order or framework in which we are to live. One command has to do with our relationship to *God*; one has to do with our relationship to other *people* (the family being the basic pattern for all other such relationships). These commands focus on the expression of honor and loyalty, as well as our response to authority.

Command 4 - "Set aside the Sabbath as special." Taking one's focus off "daily life"; setting aside time for God - a time of freedom, joy, celebration, release, resting in God, sharing and generosity. (For Israel, this was to be on Saturday, the "Sabbath.")

Command 5 - "Honor your father and mother." Representing our attitude toward *all* authority structures; maintaining justice and righteousness; includes obligations related to various authorities and to those who are under their authority.

BASIC OBLIGATIONS TOWARD PEOPLE AS INDIVIDUALS

Command 6 - "No killing!" Protecting life and livelihood (including property); opposing the wrongful destruction of life and livelihood; restrictions related to murder and war (the destruction of life).

Command 7 - "No adultery!" Focuses on *all* aspects of sexual purity; is also related to the general concept of purity and cleanness in *all* areas of life (including our relationship with God).

BASIC OBLIGATIONS TOWARD PEOPLE AS A SOCIETY

Command 8 - "No stealing!" The right to have wealth and property (with limits, and if rightly obtained); the correct use of property; sharing; giving to others what is rightfully theirs.

Command 9 - "No false witness!" Honesty, integrity, fairness.

Command 10 - "No coveting!" Having righteous desires and motives; contentment; placing the well-being of others above the gratifying of one's own desires.

Embracing God's Rule in *all* of Life

Each of the 10 Commandments represents a *category* of obligations and prohibitions, affecting both external (visible) actions and internal (heart) attitudes. They were given to guide *both* individual and society (including government).

Two things to note: 1) Each "*don't*" command implies its opposite: a "*do*" obligation. 2) Many of life's activities can be described as "matters of freedom," provided that they are done in ways that do not violate these moral principles. (Otherwise, they become expressions of sin.)



GOD'S EXCLUSIVE CLAIM ON OUR LIVES

Because of who God is, there are certain claims he has a right to make. These commands have to do with our attitude toward God, and are to be the foundation for *all* our thinking and actions.

Command 1 - "You must have no other gods." Choosing the one true God over *all* else; worshiping *only* the one true God.

Command 2 - "No self-made images of God!" Expressing *complete* devotion to God; worshiping in the way he requires; rejecting false perceptions of God.

Command 3 - "No misuse of God's name!" Acknowledging God's value and worth; having the highest esteem for God (shown by our actions and talk).