

## Quarter One: God's Love and Justice

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### Lesson 13—Love Is the Fulfillment of the Law

Sunday: The Law of Love

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- **Last Week:** “Love & Justice: The Two Greatest Commandments”
  - 2 greatest commandments= love God & love others
  - 2 greatest sins = idolatry (opposite of love 4 God) & injustice / oppression of others (opposite of love for others)
    - God is love: if we love God, we will love each other
    - God loves justice: if we love God, we will seek to relieve suffering & oppression
- **This Week:** “Love Is the Fulfillment of the Law”
  - Separation of love & law
    - We think legalism = law
      - The law is Pharisaical
      - The law is devoid of Jesus or love
    - We think love = cheap grace without law
      - Love is feelings without any principles
      - Love is a free “reign” without any consequences
  - Unity of Love & law (inseparable)
    - The law is a transcript of God's character
      - God is love (1 John 4:8)
    - The law is holy, just & good (Rom 7)
      - God is holy, just & good
    - The law is love (Rom 13:8)
      - The law = love & love = the law
  - \*Story from lesson
    - Problematic member
    - Someone on the church board said to the pastor, “We can't make decisions based on compassion.”
    - ?? Compassion is part of love & love is part of the law
  - \*3ABN – if make mistake, err on the side of mercy

**Memory Text:** “Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** The Law of Love (Jill)
  - Ex 20 – totality of law is about 1. Loving God; 2. Loving others (law & love intertwined)
- 2. **Monday:** The Law is Holy and Righteous and Good (John L)
  - Rom 6 & 7 – the law reveals our sin & sinfulness & need of a Savior
- 3. **Tuesday:** Law and Grace (SQ)

- Saved by grace through faith; we keep the law because God writes it in our hearts & because we are saved & desire to love God & others
- 4. **Wednesday:** Love Is the Fulfillment of the Law (James)
  - Multiple Scriptures - Relationship between law & love; the Sabbath as a sign of redemption / deliverance & how we take that day to do deeds of mercy toward the oppressed
- 5. **Thursday:** Above All, Love One Another (Daniel)
  - James 2 -

## Sunday: The Law of Love

Ex 6:7, 8; Lev 26:12; Ex 20:1 – 17; Ex 19:5, 6; Matt 22:37 - 40; Deut 6:5; Lev 19:18

- The 2 greatest commandments: Matt 22
  - Vs 36 – “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”
  - Jesus’ answer:
    - Vs 37, 38 – “... ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ (38) This is the first and great commandment.”
    - Vs 39 – “And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
  - Vs 40 – “On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
- The 10 commandments
  - First 4 = love to God
  - Last 6 = love to others

### 10 Commandments = God’s law of love

- Ex 20:1, 2 – “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 bondage.’”
  - **Takeaway #1: Love delivers** (before any expectation)
    - Delivered from Egyptian bondage
    - Delivered from addiction & sin
  - Ex 6:6, 7 – “Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. (7) I will make you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.’”
    - God delivers (rescues from bondage)
    - God redeems
    - God calls us as His people (into covenant relationship with Himself)
      - Ex 19:5, 6 – bore you on eagle’s wings
- Ex 20:3 - 6 – “‘You shall have no other gods before Me. (4) You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; (5) you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, (6) but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.’”
  - **Takeaway #2: Love owns**

- God owns us – He created us & redeemed us (bought us back)
  - God wants no idols pulling our affection from Him
  - Love God; love Him supremely
- Love = ownership
  - God is jealous for us (because He owns us)
  - Sinful jealousy = jealous of us (because it's something we don't have)
- Ex 20:7 – “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”
  - **Takeaway #3: Love respects**
    - Respect Him as our Creator
    - Respect Him as our Savior
    - Respect Him as our Deliverer
    - Respect Him as our King
    - Respect His name
  - Phil 2:10, 11 – “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- Ex 20:8 – 11 – “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (10) but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. (11) For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”
  - **Takeaway #4: Love remembers**
    - Ex 20 – the Sabbath = a sign of creation
    - Deut 5 – the Sabbath = a sign of redemption
    - Ex 31:13 – the Sabbath = a sign of sanctification (sign between Me and you that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you)
  - Love remembers God's creative work
  - Love remembers God's redemption / salvation
  - Love remembers God's recreative work in my heart & life
  - First 4 commandments = love God
- Ex 20:12 – “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.”
  - Last 6 commandments = love others
  - **#5: Love honors**
    - Care for parents (physical or emotional)
    - Listen to parents – spend time with them
    - Respect parents – their time, their counsel, their position
- Ex 20:13 – “You shall not murder.”
  - Matt 5 – sermon on the mount – murder = hatred in the heart
  - **#6: Love protects**

- Protect the life of others
  - Protect the life of the unborn
  - Protect the heart & spirit of others by not even holding hatred toward someone else
- Ex 20:14 – “You shall not commit adultery.”
  - **#7: Love commits**
    - Be committed to one person
      - Honor that person
      - Respect & love them
      - Cherish them
      - Commit to them, and only them
    - \*Men especially – commit adultery with eyes (lust in the heart)
    - \*Women especially – can build up romantic fantasy in mind
      - Wished husband listened as well as friend’s husband did
      - Was as good a provider as your boss
      - Was as good looking as your favorite movie star
    - Don’t compare
    - The grass grows greenest where it is watered
- Ex 20:15 – “You shall not steal.”
  - **#8: Love gives**
    - Don’t take from others; give, instead
      - Don’t take money (that doesn’t belong to you)
      - Possessions
      - People
      - Affections
      - Time
    - Give of your
      - Money
      - Possessions
      - Affections
      - Time
    - Luke 6:38 – “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.
- Ex 20:16 – “You shall not bear **false witness** against your neighbor.”
  - False witness = Heb, Lit, injurious falsehood in testimony, esp. in court”
  - False testimony can unfairly condemn the innocent, or clear the guilty
  - **#9: Love testifies**
    - We are called to speak the truth – but in love
    - Not to shade the truth, or color the truth, or skirt the truth
      - Speak the truth, in love (Eph 4:15)

- Ex 20:17 – “You shall not cover your neighbor’s house; you shall not cover your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”
  - Focused on inner attitude, rather than outward act
  - **#10: Love is content**
    - Content with the spouse God gave me
    - Content with the home God gave me
    - Content with the job / ministry God gave me
    - Content with the gifts God gave me
    - Content with the friends God gave me
  - Not lusting / longing for something else
  - Phil 4:11 - 13 – “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: (12) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (13) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

#### **10 Commandments – God’s law of love**

- #1: Love delivers (before any expectation)
- #2: Love owns (nothing diverts our affection from Jesus)
- #3: Love respects
- #4: Love remembers (sign of Creation, redemption, sanctification)
- #5: Love honors
- #6: Love protects
- #7: Love commits
- #8: Love gives
- #9: Love testifies
- #10: Love is content