

***“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*** – Mathew 6:33 (NKJV)

***Kingdom Living ... is a life lived under the authority of a king.*** Accordingly, the king has absolute authority. His commands are not for our consideration but for our obedience. For us that King is Jesus! We are living under His authority and guidelines and we are being brought into harmony with the priorities of His kingdom.

The more I understand Kingdom Living under the authority of Jesus, the more I will begin to realize the power available to me to live a life pleasing unto the King Jesus. That happens when His priorities have become and are becoming my priorities!

***Just as a loving parent lays down ground rules for his child to follow to lead a safe and successful life ... God the Father gave us the Ten Commandments to help us lead our best lives with regard to our relationship with Him and our relationship with each other.***

## **Why Did God Give His People The 10 Commandments?**

Firstly ... To know more about this Kingdom Living, I need to know more about the King, God. The kingdom is defined by the King. God gave the Ten Commandments to the people of the Old Testament covenant. Despite this and because sin continues to exist in the world, the New Testament affirms that the Ten Commandments are still essential laws that should govern a Christian's life today.

Since the Garden of Eden, man has rebelled against God. To help free humanity from this propensity to sin and help each of us to lead our best lives, God handed down the Ten Commandments as a code of moral laws for us to live by. The 10 Commandments are not a burdensome set of rules we should follow out of fear or guilt. Rather, the Commandments serve as signposts that point us to the straight and narrow path while showing us our need for a Savior when we inevitably stray from that path.

## **The Laws of the Old Testament**

In the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments formed part of the 613 laws that governed ancient Hebrew society. The 613 laws consisted of civil rules that governed the Israelites' day-to-day life, ceremonial rules that governed the worship of God in the Temple, and moral rules (better known as the Ten Commandments) that concisely summarized all of the Old Testament laws as to how people interacted with God and with each other.

Jesus Christ's death and Resurrection did away with the need for ceremonial laws involving bloody Temple sacrifices and other Old Testament laws that no longer applied to those saved by faith in Christ. However, the moral laws written in stone and placed in the Ark of the Covenant — the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), did become part of the New Testament covenant also.

Jesus summed up all of the commandments by saying in Matthew 22:37-40 ... *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

### **A Brief Review of the Ten Commandments**

The Ten Commandments — also called the Decalogue — represent God's personal interest in bringing out the best in His children so that we may live life to the fullest (John 10:10). **The Commandments set God's people apart, identify right from wrong, and uphold the ultimate importance of love for God and neighbor in promoting peace in this life and salvation after.**

The Ten Commandments can be divided into two parts: The first four Commandments deal with our relationship with God ... and the last six Commandments deal with our relationship with one another. In light of the current cultural trends evil and violence, let us give some examination and have some discussion on the individual commandments. (*Not in any specific order*)

Western culture no longer takes seriously many of the Ten Commandments. The third and fourth commandments are certainly neglected. There is also a good argument that our society does not care much about the prohibitions against adultery (seventh commandment), theft (eighth commandment), slander (ninth commandment), or covetousness (tenth commandment) either. However, apart from abortion and euthanasia, there is no movement to legalize murder. In the modern West, people still want to hold that killing an innocent human being is wrong.

### **The Sixth Commandment**

**“You shall not murder”** (Exodus 20:13; 1 John 3:15; Romans 13:9). The word “murder” is operative here ... as the Commandment forbids the taking of another's life unlawfully. Scripture makes a distinction between murder and killing as seen in Paul's discussion on the right of the government to kill evildoers (Romans 13:1-4).

However, enough other scriptures appear in God's Word to let us know that the commandment means that God does not permit violent and premeditated killing of one perceived as an enemy. Exodus 21:12-14 clarifies this. **TO BE CONTINUED ...**