

The Ten Commandments in the 21st Century - 8

Living the Ten Commandments

Over the last few issues we have completed our survey of the Ten Commandments, what they meant when they were given and, in particular, how they apply to us in the 21st Century. We have seen that they are all important, and how they express the behaviour that God expects of us if we are trying to please Him.

Jesus was asked about the commandments:

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”. Jesus said to him, “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 neighbour as yourself” (Matthew 22:36–39).

We could see the first part of Jesus’ answer as a summary of the first of the Ten Commandments.

But for the second part, he chose a tiny commandment tucked away in Leviticus 19:18. If we really treat our neighbour as we would treat our-

selves, we would never steal his cow, because we would hate to be deprived of our milk supply if he did that to us. Instead, if we learned our neighbour has no milk for his children to drink, and for that reason he was tempted to steal our cow, we would give him our own milk, because that is what we would like to happen to us if we were in the same position.

The Apostle Paul sums it up neatly like this:

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law... Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law (Romans 13:8, 10).

If all the nations of the world lived by this commandment, there would be no place for war, no poverty or crime, and everyone would be happy. One day, in the Kingdom of God, Jesus will teach all the nations that this is the way to live.

We have the opportunity, in God’s love, to be there too; even to be amongst the teachers that Jesus will send out to tell the world: *“This is the way, walk in it” (Isaiah 30:21).*

To seize that opportunity, we must believe God’s promises, be baptised and live lives that practise loving God and loving our neighbour NOW.

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(Concluded)

