

## THE NEW COVENANT AND FULFILLMENTS OF THE COMMANDS

### **The Old Covenant Verses The New Covenant: (differences and definitions):**

1. Exodus 19:4-6 *“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”*

God called Israel out of the nations to be his people. Meaning, a people who would not just obey Him, but that would be like Him, a people who lives in “righteousness and true holiness” as Ephesians 5:24 describes it. And of course, He promises to be the God of this kind of people.

This part of the Old and New Covenants are the same and always have been. Peter even quotes Exodus 19 in 1Peter 2:9. The major differences are how the covenants will be fulfilled.

2. Exodus 24:3-8 *“Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the Lord has said we will do.” And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.” And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.”*

As it is written, the people said, “we will do and be obedient”. In the New Covenant God takes our promises and abilities out of the equation and proclaims “I will write the law in their minds and in their hearts”. Hebrews 10:16-18 *“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. This is the New Covenant from Jeremiah 31. God will create in us a new heart.*

3. Matthew 26:27-28 *“Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

The other main difference is that the blood of Jesus Christ was shed for this New Covenant. The promise of God is so sure that He shed his own blood to confirm it. We see many scriptures that speak of these things in Hebrews chapters 6-10.

### **Saved out of Egypt:**

In the book of Exodus it records that God saved Israel out of Egypt. After the baptism at the Red Sea He immediately brought them to Mount Sinai to learn his ways. He gave them the 10 commandments and about 80 other commands and statutes found in Exodus 20 -23. This same pattern should hold true for the new believer who comes to God through Jesus Christ. After all, how is the law to be written in our hearts if we don’t know what it is? Not only does the New Covenant say God will write the law in our hearts, Proverbs 4:1 also tells us we need to “write mercy and truth in our hearts”. Jesus states in John 14:15. *“If you love me keep my commandments”*. We must conclude that God’s commands and ways must be taught to the new believer and not just

salvation and new birth. It is important to note that Moses and the nation of Israel spent about 1 year at Sinai. This is where God gave the instructions for building the Tabernacle and is where it was built. The same pattern is found in the New Testament. Jesus spent 3 years traveling around Israel expounding on the law, laying a foundation for His church which would be revealed in Acts 2. Paul also set forth this pattern for the building of the church in Ephesians chapter 4.

## **Baptism**

We all have been taught and believe that baptism is something we do to show that we have believed in Jesus Christ and repented of our sins, put off the old and put on the new. There is something else God wants us to see. In Colossians 2:10-13 baptism is compared to circumcision. Both of these represent putting off the desires and works of the flesh, (Romans 6, 2, Jeremiah). Circumcision was the act for which a person would enter into covenant with God. Some say if you are a Jew you must get circumcised and keep God's commandments. Circumcision was a new beginning for Jew or Gentile. In Exodus 12:48-49, Leviticus 12:3 instruction was given. The procedure was to be done eight days after the child was born. The eighth day is the start of a new week which represents a new beginning or new birth (Psalm 22:31, Ezekiel 36.25-26, John 3:5). Circumcision was given to Abraham with a covenant of faith. God said He would multiply Abram's seed and give him the land, He only needed to believe. Baptism is also given with a covenant of faith. We need only to believe and God will write the law in our hearts. Baptism is not just showing others, it is showing God. It is a "Hand shake". That is why it is called a sign. A hand shake is a sign that two parties agree. Circumcision was given to the Jews. Baptism is given to all the nations including the Jews. Beware; baptism can be practiced in vain just as circumcision often is without the renewing of the heart, (Galatians 6:15).

## **The Law, Used and Misused:**

1. 1 Timothy 1:10: *"But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane..."* Certainly the law was given to give knowledge of sin and is used to govern the flesh as a deterrent to sin. It must also be used to teach the beginnings of righteousness. Romans 13:8-10 tells us *"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."* So, we are told "love fulfills the law". This means we need to "establish the law" as Paul exhorts us.

2. There is also another side of the law that is commonly over looked. When we talk about the beginnings of righteousness, doing good to your neighbor must be added to the commandments. Jesus said in Matthew 5:20: *"I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."* They were using the law as a religion. They were using the law to make themselves look good. They also were only keeping one side of the law, what we could call the don'ts. God wants us to go farther. He wants us to fulfill the law. He wants us to do things for each other, instead of just not doing things to each other.

3. In other words there is a fulfillment to each individual command. We find Paul teaching this in Ephesians 4:28: *"Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need."* Love does no ill to his neighbor but also does good. God is not just giving us commands to obey. He is teaching a way of life. Even more than that, He is making a new creation so that righteousness and holiness is who we are. Just as God is love. That is who He is.

4. God never wanted anybody to make a religion out of His law. We could make a whole list of do's and don'ts for ourselves to keep in order to please God. But, that would not please Him. He wants to make us like Him, create us in His image. We can make a horse or dog obey our commands. Just obeying is not the answer, becoming a new creation is (Galatians 6:15).

5. The reason why it is so important to go to the law for the new believer is so that person can learn God's way to give, love their spouse, honor their parents, treat other people and ultimately how to love God himself. We all have our own way of doing these things. Some ways are deeply engrained in our minds. Jesus said in Matthew 5:46 *"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.* We need to learn God's way of doing things. If we don't the result is a carnal church without understanding always falling into sin, not being renewed.

### **The New Creation:**

Colossians 3:9,10 *"Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,"* Understanding God and his ways is what has the power to change us. If you put a thief in prison he may still desire to steal. The don'ts of the law cannot change us. Once the thief starts working a respectable job and starts to give, eventually he will learn and understand it is better to give than receive. Then, his heart and ways will change. So, fulfilling the law is the remedy for curing the sinful heart. After all, to fulfill the law is to put on the new man. This is the process God designed for overcoming sin and the flesh. We find in Deuteronomy 8 that God told Israel He was chastising them in the wilderness. He was changing their desires, forming a new heart in them. We must go through the same process. God deals with our carnal desires in the wilderness so that we might go into the Promised Land to bear fruit. Remember the parable of the sower? The ground or land in which we bear fruit is the heart where the word of God is sown. The law has a part in this because it governs the flesh and teaches righteousness. Just as a child must first be taught what no means and later as he grows he is taught the good things he can do instead of all the things he cannot do. The law is called a child guide or teacher in Galatians 3. It says it will bring us to Christ. This is talking about the complete or mature man, the body of Christ. We see this also in Ephesians 4 where after explaining why the gifts of the eldership were given, to promote love, Paul explains the need to teach how to love and overcome sin by fulfilling the law.

### **The Law Fulfilled:**

Ephesians 4 deals with 3 of the 10 commandments; you shall not bear false witness, murder, or steal. *Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and do not sin", do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.* This passage speaks to stealing and bearing false witness directly. The other, you shall not murder is connected indirectly with what Jesus was teaching in Matthew 5:21 *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."* Paul was teaching that giving and speaking truth fulfill one part of the law. Jesus taught that forgiveness and reconciliation fulfill another part of the law.

## **Understanding and Teaching the Commandments:**

1. Since the Holy Spirit chose to reveal these 3 fulfillments. These should be the first that are taught to a new believer. These commands and fulfillments are actually part of the first principles that Hebrews 6:1-3 is referring to. *“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.”*

2. Repentance from dead works and faith towards God is the law and fulfillments. The dead works Hebrews speaks of is when we say we are good or pleasing God because we don't lie or steal or cheat on our wife. These are dead works because we really aren't doing anything when we don't steal. As we know if we withhold the things our neighbor needs like food and clothes the scriptures call this sinful. See 1 John 3:17, James 2:15,16 and James 4:17. These are the filthy rags Isaiah 64:6 was talking about, when we say we are good people because we don't do something. This was our righteousness before we came to God. Until we see God's righteousness we may not see the filth of our own. It is very plain that God wants us to become righteous. This is what the new creation is all about. Jesus taught us in Luke 6:35 *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”* God wants us to be like Him, in the image of Jesus Christ our pattern. 1John 3:7 echoes this along with many other scriptures. *“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.”* We see that we are to repent from the works of the flesh and self righteousness, but also by the love and mercy and righteousness of God we can be conformed to His image. God wants us to do something.

### 3. Faith towards God

What is faith? We know that it is impossible to please God without it. Simply put faith is believing in His word. After all, we would not know Jesus Christ died for us except it is written. But, is that all? The scriptures teach that there is more to faith than just believing. Hebrews 11 sheds much light on the subject. If you look at all the examples of faith in Hebrews 11 you will see there was always some sort of action combined with what they believed. This is why James 2 tells us *“faith without works is dead”*. This is why Jesus said in Matthew 7:24 *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock.”* Many people try to turn from their sins and do nothing or start doing good works without the knowledge of God's ways. My parents taught me to be honest according to their standards. When I learned God's way I found a higher standard, even though I thought my way was good. For example, if we believe that we are to give, we should give mercifully and generously as God does, not just according to scripture but also as we have experienced it. So, if you believe that Jesus died for you and forgave you then you should forgive your neighbor. If you believe He is patient with you, you should be patient others. If you believe He gives to you, you should give to others. This is love, fulfilling the law, doing what you believe. Galatians 5:6 explains *“...but faith which works by love”*. Just keeping the commandments is doing nothing for your neighbor. Giving and forgiving and doing good things for your neighbor is fulfilling what is the love of God. This is faith.

## **The Law of Moses and Fulfilling the Commandments:**

As mentioned before each of the 10 Commandments has a fulfillment of love. Both sides of the law (the do's and the don'ts) have to be understood through God's eyes. For example, it was the right thing for Rahab to lie and conceal the spies as told in the scriptures. Also, it is wrong to keep giving to someone only to be supporting a lazy lifestyle. Paul addresses this in

1Thessalonians 3:10 saying *“if any would not work he should not eat”*, this of course referring to those who are able to work.

## 1. You Shall Not Bear False Witness

A. Ephesians 4:25, *“Therefore put away lying and everyone speak truth with their neighbor, for we are members one of another,”* This command has much more to say than just don't lie but speak the truth. Besides not saying false things about your brother, it also has hypocrisy in mind. How we live our lives can be a lie also. Jesus tells us to speak truth with our brother. Help him get the speck out of his eye but not if you have a beam in your own eye. So, if we judge we are to judge in truth and righteousness not in hypocrisy (John 7:24).

B. We see Peter lying and denying he knew the Lord in Mark 14:66-72. Not only did he say that he did not know the Lord, he tried to prove it by cursing. We can deny the Lord by what we do as well as what we say. This is what was going on in Matthew 7: 15-23, they denied him with their works and He also denied He knew them. Like Paul wrote in 1Corinthians 13, *“without love it profits me nothing”*. We need to do works of love. This is what was lacking with the people in Matthew 7.

C. Paul prayed for the Colossians (1:10) that they would be *“fruitful in every good work”*. We need to add the fruit of the Spirit to good works. This is called walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). If we give without mercy or generosity we might not bear fruit. If we give grudgingly or from necessity we may not bear fruit (2Corinthians 9:6-7). We were created for good works, but they need to be done with the right motives and the right way. If we say we know the Lord we should find out what His ways are and what He is like. If we believe or teach a false testimony or gospel we are bearing false witness against God. This is why Jesus taught that if you believe you are forgiven than you need to forgive others, believe, speak and live truth.

D. Speaking truth must be done in love with the fruit of the Spirit. For example, teaching must be done with patience and kindness. There are many scriptures that speak to the tongue and its motives.

Ephesians 5:3-4 *But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*

James 4:11 *Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.*

Titus 3:2 *to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.*

1Peter 3:8-12 *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For, “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”*

Psalm 34:7-16 *Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*

Isaiah 33:15-16 *He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who despises the gain of oppressions, Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from seeing evil: He will dwell on high; His place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; Bread will be given him, His water will be sure.*

Jeremiah 9:8-9 *Their tongue is an arrow shot out; It speaks deceit; One speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, But in his heart he lies in wait. Shall I not punish them for these things?” says the LORD. “Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?”*

Proverbs 19:5, 9 *A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies will not escape. A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies shall perish.*

Proverbs 26:22-28 *Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body. Fervent lips with a wicked heart Are like earthenware covered with silver dross. He who hates, disguises it with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself; When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart; Though his hatred is covered by deceit, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him. A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.*

Luke 12:1-3 *He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.*

And many more.

## 2. You Shall Not Steal

A. To understand God's way of giving we must first understand His economy which is very different from man's. In 2Corinthians 8:12-15 Paul lays out God's economy through the example of the manna from Exodus 16, *For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have. For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack."* God wants everyone to have enough. As we see He wants us to supply for one another out of our abundance not our lack. John the Baptist illuminates in Luke 3:8-11 *Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance... "What shall we do then?" He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."* So, if you have two shirts you have one extra. God does not expect us to give the shirt off our back. What if you have ten shirts, do you give the other person five so that there is equality? What God has in mind is that everyone has enough, not too much, not too little. The idea is that the person with ten should give the extra nine to nine other people. God wants to use us to show his love and bear fruit if we allow Him. Learning God's way of giving is crucial for a fruitful life walking with God. How can we give without mercy and generosity when we have experienced so much from our heavenly Father. Just think of our Lord Jesus' answer when Peter asked how many times to forgive a brother, 7x70. I would say this is extremely generous in our eyes, but normal for the God of love.

B. There is much to be taught about giving with many different points of view. For example, It is important to be generous since we will "reap what we sow" in 2Corinthians 9:6. Also, if we have not shown mercy to others, mercy may not be shown to us at the judgment seat of Christ, (James 2:13). How can we bear fruit unless we remain in the vine, (John 15: 1-10)? How can we say we remain in the vine if we don't do what He said? How can we do what He said without understanding what He said? Getting knowledge and understanding is imperative, after all, "*we are renewed by the knowledge of Him*", (Colossians 3:10).

C. In Ephesians 4:28 Paul tells the thief to stop stealing, find a respectable job, and start giving. Notice the job cannot be selling drugs or prostitution or some other less than reputable occupation. Also, a good occupation is to be procured for the purpose of giving, not just to provide for our own well being. These echo the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:19, *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* What is to be understood here is that getting and keeping a good job coupled with giving according to knowledge will renew the mind and heart of the sinner. All of these must be done in order for the cure to take effect. The thief

learns to be responsible for himself and others who God brings in his path. This is putting off the old and putting on the new.

### 3. You Shall Not Kill

A. As said before Paul spoke indirectly to this command in Ephesians 4:26-27, *“Be angry, but without sin.”* Jesus took a more direct approach in Matthew 5:21-24, *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.* So, the command had forgiveness and reconciliation in mind besides simply just don’t kill one another.

B. As in all the fulfillments we see the character of God here also. In Ezekiel 18:23, *“Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?”* says the Lord God, *“and not that he should turn from his ways and live?”* God would rather see us repent and be reconciled to Him rather than have us die in our sins. He is so passionate for this that He gave Himself as a payment for sin just as the law requires, a life for a life. Even for His enemies He was willing to do this for, if they would only repent and turn to Him. So, as the scripture tells us we are not to take vengeance, but instead we are to overcome evil with good, see (Exodus 23:4-5, Proverbs 25:21-22, Romans 12:17-21).

### 4. You Shall Honor Your Father and Mother

A. The scriptures spend little time explaining this command compared to the other commands. The fulfillment is simple. When we were young our parents took care of us. When they are old we should take care of them. In many cultures this is a given. In others, it needs to be taught as the way of God.

B. To honor someone is to respect and sometimes fear them. Our parents have wisdom, we should seek it out. This doesn’t mean we need to take their advice. When we leave our parents, (Genesis 2:23-24), we have a new father in heaven to whom we owe fear and obedience.

C. To honor someone is also to honor them with our substance, (Proverbs 3:9). Many cultures do this in giving gifts and awards. This could be a large part of honoring our parents if they are not able to financially provide for themselves, (1 Timothy 5:8, John 19:26-27).

D. Keep in mind, living with your parents at the end of their lives might not be all that bad of an idea by the creator. Their could be much reconciliation and much teaching and revelation for the parent from all the new and better ways you have learned from your heavenly father.

### 5. You Shall Not Covet

A. This command has in mind desiring and wanting and even taking steps to have what does not belong to you. We are to be content with what God has provided for us, *“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 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. I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me”* Philippians 4:11-13. The Apostle Paul teaches on every commandment in one way or another in his epistles. In Philippians he reveals much in teaching us how to have victory over our desires. In chapter 2 we are exhorted to put on the mind of Christ who was a humble servant, (Philippians 2:5-8). A servant takes care of the things of others. So, Paul exhorts, *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others,* Philippians 2:3-4. So, the fulfillment of the command is to desire to take care of our brothers things instead of wanting to have them.

B. This also connects with teachings on giving. The thief desires before he steals so he is told to start giving. When he learns it is better to give than receive, his desires will begin to change. Also, if our mind is on our brothers interests and taking care of his things we will desire to make him equal with ourselves, (to make sure he has enough).

C. In Matthew 5:27 Jesus explains that with our desires we can commit sin, not just with our actions; and of course later in Matthew 15:17-20 He tells His disciples that all these actions of sin come from the heart.

## 6. You Shall Not Commit Adultery

A. The fulfillment of this command is love as is all the commands. To not cheat on your spouse is just the minimum. In Ephesians 5:22-28 we have instruction for both husband and wife, *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.”* So, to understand God’s design of marriage we must find out what it means to submit and how did Christ love the church.

B. It is easy to see the acts of love Jesus did that are written in the gospels. We only need identify them. He spent countless hours teaching, healing the sick and praying for others. It is a profitable study to look at how He did these things as well as understanding unity in a marriage from the passage in Ephesians 5:30-31. Most important is the phrase used in scripture that defines the whole meaning of love. 1John 3:16 *“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”* Faith is to believe this and do it, as is taught in the rest of the passage. To lay down our lives is to put the other person’s needs first, and ours last. Jesus said that He came to serve and not be served. The husband must put himself second and serve his wife. In many cultures the wife serves the husband, not so in God’s design. The husband must be the example for the family, to love and to serve. God has set the example through his own action. As He serves us, we learn to serve Him and each other.

C. Submission as well as service is commanded for all of God’s people (see 1Peter 5:5, Ephesians 5:21, Galatians 5:13). Husbands and wives can learn these attributes from each other. We even see in 1Peter 3 that a disobedient husband learns to submit to the Lord by witnessing his wife’s Godly submission to himself. As taught in the passage, submission and humility are identified by a “meek and quiet spirit”. Submission must be understood in the light of unity. We can submit or obey someone or even God without agreeing with them. For example, we are commanded to give, what if we give grudgingly, not wanting to give. This is not what God wants so He takes the time to teach us and make us understand the hows and whys. Remember, the command is to submit to one another, not make each other submit. The Holy Spirit should be the guide and shepherd of the family, with husband and wife serving in unity under Him. The husband should help shepherd the family with the mind of Christ as described in Philippians 2:1-8.

## 7. You Shall Not Take the Lord’s Name In Vain

A. What does it mean to do something in vain? It means to do for no reason. This is something the world does, those who don’t know God. They use the name above all names to fill in a sentence, as a byword. (Jesus, I can’t believe what a nice day it is). This is a sin easily corrected but is not taught in the churches, which is a real shame because the second part of the commandment says God “will hold no one guiltless who takes the Lord’s name in vain”. Of course, we are not taught to fear God anymore or to sanctify Him in our hearts, (2Corinthians



5:9-11, Proverbs 9:10, Psalms 111:10, 1Peter 3:15). If we set God apart from everyone and everything, (make Him holy), we would never use His name in vain or in anger.

B. His name must only be used in prayer and thanks giving and when we talk about Him. This is the fulfillment of the command and is how we sanctify Him in our hearts. There are many scriptures to incite, with many exhorting us to praise His name. It is sufficient to say, "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*", 1Thessalonians 5:16-18.

## 8. You Shall Have No Other Gods Before Me

A. The first three commands speak of direct offense to God while the other seven are directed toward people who we are in contact with. The fulfillment of this command should be obvious. Deuteronomy 6:4 "*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*" Even though it is the first command, Ephesians does not teach it first of all because of 1John 4:20-21, "*If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*" Loving our neighbor is the first principle to learn. We cannot forget the words of our Lord, "those who are forgiven much, love much." Of course this is true, but we should also endeavor to teach the other great command, to love your neighbor, so that there be no hypocrisy.

B. Ephesians 5:18-20 shows in what way we can show our love to God, "*And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*" Also, in John 14:15 "*if you love me keep my commandments*". In the parable of the sheep and goat the King explains to the sheep "when you have done it to the least of these my brethren you have done it to me" Proverbs 19:17 tells us "*He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.*"

## 9. You Shall Not Make Any Graven Images

A. This command is connected with the first as are all the commandments connected to each other. How can you love God if you are practicing idolatry? Making and worshiping objects made from the earth is an offense to God, but so is the worship of the creation. Saving the earth has been put above the will of God which is to love and save people. Ephesians 5:5-7 tells us "*For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.*" Idolatry also is a matter of the heart, desiring things that don't belong to you. The command says you shall not bow down to them or serve them. We can spend all of our time chasing the things of the world and never learn to serve God. The Lord said you cannot serve two masters, God and money, (Luke 16:13)

B. Jesus also said to store treasure in heaven and to seek the kingdom and its righteousness first, Matthew 6:20, 33. This is how we fulfill the commandment. Colossians 3:1-4 "*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*" Seeking things above is the fulfillment. We are even told in Ephesians 2 that we are seated with Christ in the heavens already.

## 10. You Shall Keep the Sabbath Holy

A. This commandment may be the most misunderstood of all the 10 commandments. On the surface God is simply providing a mandatory day off from everyone's normal work schedule, except the Levites, when is their day of rest? Servants and employees, even animals used for

labor are given a rest. If we dig a little, we will see that God wants some devoted time for Himself, *“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”* Isaiah 58:13-14. If we compare this verse with Exodus 20 it is apparent God is trying to get our eyes off of ourselves and put them on Him and our neighbor. He is saying think about your servants, even your animals, not just yourself, give them a rest. Look at the context of Isaiah 58, the true fast, *Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’* Isaiah 58:5-9. Since all of the law is summed up in love, then they all must be looked at from that point of view. The law of the Sabbath is pointing at loving God and your neighbor.

B. Let us dig a little deeper. In Hebrews 4:10 the commandment is explained, *“For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His”*. God created the heavens and earth in 6 days then He rested. Is He still resting? He is doing a different work. He is creating new hearts in us. Hebrews 4 is telling us to rest from our old works just as God did from His. We are to rest from the works of sin and the flesh and start doing the works of God, works of love. In John 5:17 Jesus said *“My Father works until now and I work.”* He is our pattern and example. Now did Jesus only do good works on the Sabbath? No, He did them every day. Every day was the same for Him, dedicated to God. This is what Romans 14:5-6 speaks to, *“One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it.”* The man or woman of faith must ask themselves, why just keep one day holy, why not every day? In Exodus 12 and 1Corinthians 5:7-8 we see the same pattern with the memorial of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. They were to keep a 7 day feast with no leaven in their houses. The leaven represents sin being clean from our hearts and minds every day of the week. We are created for good works Ephesians 2 tells us. This is the new creation, putting on the new taking off the old.

Teaching God’s people to fulfill the commandments of God will change the hearts and lives of His people. John the Baptist did this, Jesus did this and his disciples did this. Should we do no less for whom the end of days is coming? The way of the Lord must be prepared.