

Seventh Grade Session 15: God's Law January 29, 2024

Goal: To help you understand the importance of God's law, and the role that it plays in our lives, as well as the grace that you are given to help you follow it. When God delivered His people out of Egypt, He gave them laws to follow or "how to's" of being God's people that are best summarized in the Ten Commandments. God has given us the law or instructions on how to follow Him.

- Both the Old Testament and the New Testament Law benefit us by helping us learn how to live well and seek out eternity with Him in heaven.
- The New Law of Jesus fulfills and expands the Old Law (Ten Commandments) by revealing the foundation of love behind God's teachings.
- God gives us grace to help us follow His Law and align ourselves more closely with His will in our lives.

Ten Commandments: The Ten Commandments were given to us so that we could come into a relationship with God to be the best of persons we can be and be the best we can be with each other.



The Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 5:1-21)

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep Holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your Father and your Mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Two Great Commandments: You shall love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and you should love your neighbor as yourself.

The New Law: The Great Commandments

- When Jesus came to the earth, He gave us a New Law.
- Jesus reminds us that He is not getting rid of the Old Law from the Old Testament, but fulfilling it. Letting us see the meaning in a new way.
- The Great Commandments - encompass and explain the totality of the Ten Commandments – a summary of the Ten Commandments.
- The Ten Commandments were a list of don'ts, whereas the New Commandments focused on the reason behind the list, love.

Grace:

- Grace is the free gift given to us by God and cannot be earned
- Grace gives us strength and courage to seek out and follow God's will for our lives.
- Grace is the gift that God gives us to help us to follow His commandments.
- Grace is a participation in the divine life of Jesus.
- Jesus humbled himself to participate in our human life.

Actual Grace:

- Is the grace given to us that allows us to act.
- It allows us to participate in the building of the kingdom through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Sanctifying Grace:

- Is given to us to help us grow in holiness and begins at our Baptism.
- It was first present in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
- God has given us all the tools we need to follow Him, but it is up to us to choose to use the tools, know the law, and follow Him.

Read Matthew 5:17; Matthew 22:37-38

How do you seek God's Law in your Life?

- Which of the Ten Commandments is hardest to follow and why?
- How do you follow the Great Commandments? Can you give some examples?
- How can you become more aware of God's grace in your life?
- How can you get more grace?

Reflection: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

- What does it mean to love with all your heart?
- What does love from the heart look like?
- How do we love the Lord this way?
- What does it mean to love with all your mind?
- How does the mind love?
- What does love from the mind look like?
- How do we love the Lord this way?
- What does it mean to love with all your soul? How does the soul love?
- What does love from the soul look like? How do we love the Lord this way?
- What does it mean to love with all your strength? How do you love with strength? What does that look like? How do we love the Lord this way?