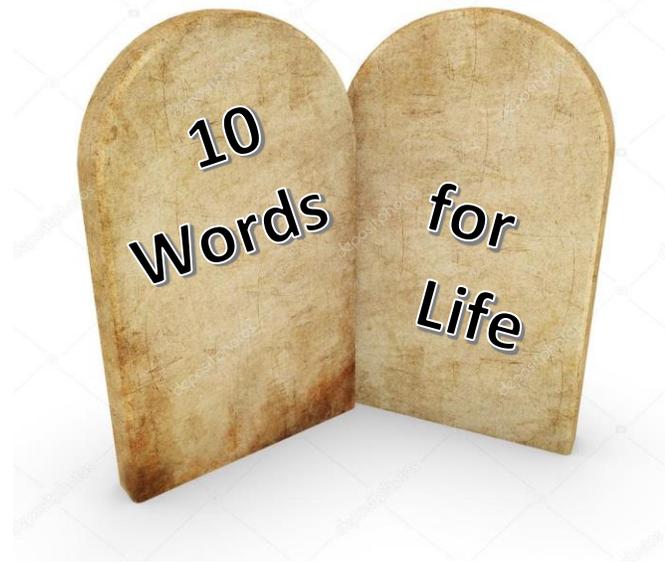


Words and Authority

The beginning of “the words”

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery” – Exodus 20:2



There is an order to God’s Words

Love God, Love people

Matthew 22:37-40 (*paraphrased – Jesus’ paraphrase of Deuteronomy 6*)

The 1st commandment is the foundation

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

What does this mean?

Fear, Love, and Trust in God above all things.

“Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.” Psalm 125:1

The next commandments tell us to honor God and live in relationship with Him by His teaching

“That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.” Psalm 1:3

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. John 14:23

All other relationships are seen in light of our relationship to God

We are not made to be “independent”

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. Genesis 2:18

Two are better than one,

because they have a good return for their labor:

¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls

and has no one to help them up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (7-12)

“Freedom” in Christ does not mean doing what you want,
but following God’s Word without fear of hell.

(Freedom in Christ means living in His forgiveness.)

- † You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. Galatians 5:13
- † ²³ “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴ No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. I Corinthians 10:23-24
- † Romans 6

Living in relationship with others in light of our relationship with God
begins with knowing your place

– knowing the authority you have been given and the authority you are under.

God gives authorities in life. We are to give them respect, obey them...

Eph 6:12, Col 2:10, Romans 13, Titus 3:1, I Peter 2:13, II Peter 2:10

and pray for them.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—
²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. I Tim 2:2

*Honor your father and your mother,
so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.*

Authorities from God include:

Parents, teachers, bosses, police officers, governmental officials, etc.

“What if I don’t like the authority?” / “What if I the authority is a jerk?”

It doesn’t matter. God does not tell you to like them, but to obey them.

We are to honor the position. That does not mean we have to like the person.

“What if the person in authority acts against God?”

God is orderly (read Genesis 1 and 2). Authorities are given in a certain structure.

For example: bosses obey the police, -> police obey political authorities, -> all obey God.

Obey your boss, but not if your boss tells you to do something illegal (laws are higher authority).

We obey the laws of the land, but not if they go against God.

+ Be careful when using this “higher law” idea to disobey an authority. It is easy to hide behind it to justify our own opinions. And there may still be consequences. (Disobeying a boss engaged in illegal activity may still result in losing your job.)

“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:13