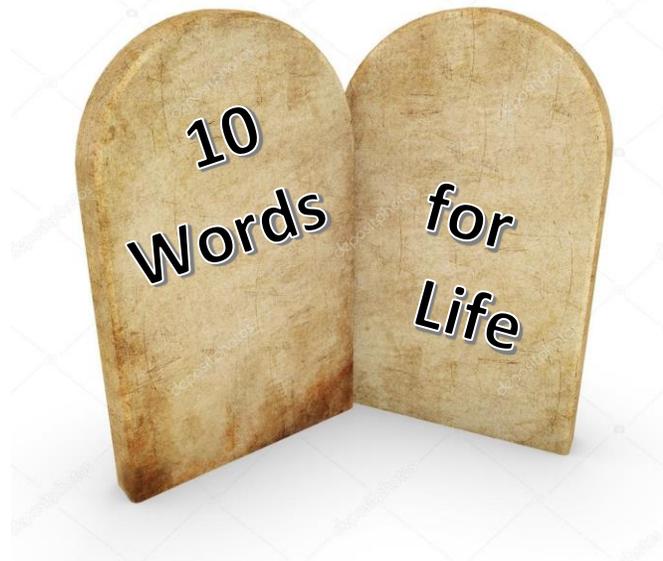


Looking Up and Looking Around

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.”

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

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. John 14:23

God calls us into a new relationship with Him – and with all those around us

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:43-45

Do not murder

Jesus teaches not to “murder in your heart” (Matthew 5)

There are times it is right to be upset, but “in your anger, do not sin” Ephesians 4:26

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

Do not hide your personal feelings behind “righteous anger”.

When God asks Cain where Abel is, Cain replies “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

God’s unstated answer is “YES!”

Every person we meet is someone for whom Christ died.

Do not Murder

Do not Commit Adultery

Do not Steal

Remind us that God is the Creator of all that is: “visible and invisible”

Jesus teaches about the spiritual “heart” aspect of these commands because the religious leaders of the day had made them all about the physical details.

Today, we often separate “religious” spiritual matters from “real life” physical and forget that God is creator of all – physical and spiritual.

We are commanded to not harm others,
but help our neighbors in care for the physical body.

If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? James 2:16

God also commands us to care for our own bodies. It is not up to the creation to decide how to use the gift from the Creator. Specifically, God gives the gift of sex and commands how the gift is to be used. Numerous examples are included in the scriptures about misuse of the gift of sex.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. I Corinthians 6:18

“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” Mark 10:6-9

Sex is only properly used as a gift within the context of the caring, mutual, gift of marriage. Sex is a physical expression of the life-long bond of marriage. Any other use is a sin against the body, the self, others, and our Creator.

God commands us to care for our neighbor’s body, our body, and physical possessions. God is not “only spiritual”. The physical world, although passing away, is still part of God’s creation. On the last day, according to God’s Word, we will still be physical beings. Let us not skip these “later commands” in thinking God only cares about spiritual matters. We are commanded to care for our possessions and help others care for theirs.

All Creation – physical and spiritual, “visible and invisible” belongs to God!