

however, God writes the law on our hearts. The law doesn't keep you in the covenant. God's gracious promise keeps you in the covenant. The precious blood of Christ guarantees you will never be judged for your sins. The law becomes a new part of how you learn to live as a new creation in Christ.

Discussion Questions

- What is the Old Covenant Israelite's relationship to the law? How is this different than the Christian's relationship to the law?
- How do you feel about God's law? Why?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The next few weeks we will be studying the 10 Commandments in detail. It is important that we don't come to the Law like those who were members of the Old Covenant but rather as those in the New Covenant. The Old Covenant says, "do and live." This means you must first keep the law and then you can have the reward of life. The New Covenant says, "live and do." In the New Covenant you are first given new life through believing in Jesus Christ. Once alive in Him you are now able and willing to freely follow the Law. Romans 12:1 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* In these instructions Paul says we are to live holy lives to God, an expression of keeping the law. Why? Because of the 'mercies of God.' Let this way of thinking inform how you think about the law. If you have been saved by Jesus you aren't under the burden of the law. Don't sit there trying to do better and hoping to measure up to God's standard. Rather, remember what Jesus has done for you. Remember how His mercy has been poured out for you on the cross. Remember His great love for you. Pray to your father and then seek to walk as He has called you to!

Discussion Questions

- What's wrong with trying to "do and live?"
- How does "live and do" bring glory to Jesus Christ?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, August 18th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #49

Q: What does the preface to the ten commandments teach us?

A: *The preface to the ten commandments teaches us that because God is the Lord, and our God and redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Jeremiah 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Do you have a favorite fairy-tale? Maybe one in a picture-book that your parents read to you as a child? Stories such as Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the Three Bears are classics. They are enjoyable tales for children but they also teach morals and give insights for how to understand the real world. God is better than any human storyteller. While people make up imaginative tales to teach lessons, God crafts the very shape of history to teach His people. The Bible calls these stories of the past ‘types and shadows’ and through them He teaches us about Jesus and the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 10:11 *Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.* This week we continue to look at the preface to the 10 commandments. God gives the 10 commandments to the physical people of Israel after He has freed them from Egypt and brought them through the desert. What we want to look at this week is how God’s giving of the law is part of the ‘types and shadows’ picture-book that God gives us in the Old Testament. We will see that even the way God gives the 10 Commandments to Israel helps us understand the Law of God and His amazing Gospel.

Discussion Question

- While Jesus did teach through made up stories called parables, why do you think God also used the real events of history to tell His Gospel story?
- What does it teach us about God that He would shape history to tell the Gospel?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When God assembles the people of Israel at Mount Sinai His plan is to give them the Law and make a Covenant with them. Before giving the Law, however, He first reminds them that He saved them out of Egypt. Exodus 20:2 *I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.* This order is very important for us to understand the Gospel story that God is telling us through the ‘types and shadows’ of the Old Testament. God doesn’t give the people His law first and then save them from slavery if they are good enough. No! God saves the people and THEN gives them the Law. Many Christians have noticed this act of grace in the Exodus story. Grace means God saves those who don’t deserve it. God didn’t save Israel because they were so good at keeping His law. He saved them so that they could then be given His law AFTER their salvation. This is critical to help us understand how we are saved in the Gospel. God won’t save you if you try hard enough to keep His laws. You can’t keep His law perfectly! God sent Jesus to die on the cross for guilty sinners. He had to come save you FIRST. Only AFTER you have been saved by Jesus from your sins can you THEN start learning to keep God’s law.

Discussion Questions

- What does Israel’s salvation from Egypt serve as a picture of for us in the New Covenant?
- Why is it important that God gave the law AFTER the Red Sea? What does that mean for your salvation?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Who do you have to obey? If you are a child you are required to obey your parents. If you have a job you must obey your boss. Sometimes you also must obey others, like police officers or judges. Each one has limited but real authority in different areas of your life. When God gives the 10 Commandments to Israel, He first reminds them of who He is. He is God, the one who made them and all things. Because God made all things He is the ultimate authority. For Israel, God’s identity as creator means He has the right to give them the law. He has the right to require complete obedience to His law. He has the right to discipline those who break His law. As we think of how the ‘types and shadows’ of the Old Testament apply to us now, this reality helps us as well. If you are a Christian then you owe God obedience to His law. This requirement isn’t erased by the gospel. Peter tells Christians they should obey God’s law because of who He is. 1 Peter 1:14-16 *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”* Christian, you owe God obedience both because He made you, but also because he re-made you in your new birth. He is your Heavenly Father!

Discussion Questions

- Do you have difficulty obeying the authorities over you? Which ones are you more likely to disobey?
- What are some different reasons you should obey God? Are these reasons different for Christians and non-Christians?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

If you are a child, how do you feel about the rules in your house? Do you sometimes wish you could do whatever you want? Do you ever feel guilty because you broke the rules? The preface to the 10 Commandments teaches Israel, and now us, about our relationship to the law. Though we’ve seen how the picture of the law at Sinai points to the Gospel, don’t forget that the Law was not ultimately a gracious thing for the Old Testament Israelites. Though God had saved them from Egypt, they were still enslaved to sin. Though God gave them the Law, they broke the law and couldn’t reconcile themselves to God. If you have been saved by Jesus, your relationship to the law has been radically changed. Jeremiah 31:33 *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* Old Testament Israel had to keep the law given on tablets of stone to stay in the Old Covenant. In this New Covenant,