

A New Commandment?

How often do we here or think or maybe even talk about the Ten Commandments? They have made movies of it, plays, some churches use it as their number one doctrine as well. Who knows them? Ok, no cheating here, I am going to try and remember them but they won't be in order let's see how I go; Love God, no Idols, no lying, no covetousness, no stealing, no adultery, no murder, honour ya mum and dad..... I think, ok, let's open a bible and get them and see how I done! Problem! I forgot where they are, anyone know?? Ok, it only took me half an hour to find the original writing of the commandments, check it all out in **Exodus Ch20**. Here they are let's see how I done..... Do not worship any other gods; No idols; don't take God's name in vain; Remember the Sabbath; honour ya mum and dad; Don't murder, Don't steal, no Adultery; don't lie; don't covet. Oh well, I didn't do too bad I suppose!! Now read **Mark 12v30-31**.

When Jesus came he said to the disciples I give to you a NEW COMMANDMENT! **John 13:34**. Now why did Jesus do this? Truthfully, I got no idea! But, let's look at it, go and read **John 13v33-35** and have a little think about it. There are many arguments out there of people saying the Old Commandments were done away with, and you could probably find fifty thousand different opinions of it all. Personally I don't believe the old was done away with but rather as Jesus said, he fulfilled it, Jesus was the only one who lived and NEVER broke the commandments, and he made it easier for us so we wouldn't get all legalistic by giving us only 2 Commandments, 2 New Ones! Oh and of course we can't forget God's Grace too!

1. Love God 2. Love ya neighbour. Mark 12v30-31; Luke 10v27; Matt 22v37; Mark 12v30 all make mention of it. Now if you do these two, it is impossible to break any of the other Ten! Think about it, "don't lie", if you were to Lie, would you be loving your neighbour or God - No! If you were to "murder"....the same, "steal".... The same....."worship an idol or a false god", you break one of the two you break one of the ten as well. So if we follow the two, we also obey the ten by doing so, this even includes the Sabbath, God said set aside one day for me, personally I reckon he should have said set aside every day for me! If we Love God in this way, we obey the Sabbath too. Now don't get all legalistic on me and say but it should have been the Saturday.... Quite frankly it WASN'T! The culture of the time was for the Sabbath was from Sunset Friday to Sunset Saturday, so those who argue, what are they doing in Winter at about 4.30pm or 5pm, still at work, they are working on the Sabbath too. Enough of that anyway, I don't want to start an argument here.

Ok, I want to take a look at the word "Love" here in the New Commandment from **John 13v34**. I just learned something new, this particular word Love is rarely used in its Greek form, it is both a verb and a noun at the same time. I have just spent the last hour studying this word and **noone** has a clear explanation for it, they are all assuming its meaning, noone can comprehend this particular word, they guess but they also tell you they are guessing, this particular word is also used in **Lev 19v18; Deut 6v5; John 3v16; Rom 5v8; John 14v21; 1Thess 3v12; 1Cor 16v14 (charity); 2Pet 1v7 (charity) and 1John 4v8**. The best way any scholar can define this one word is God's Characteristics. Have a read of the above verses and have a good think about them, sit and think about people you do know, people you see every day at work maybe, even the ones you don't know, God's Love, this Love we are talking about, goes out of its way to help all. Not just our brothers, or people we know, the old lady trying to walk home on a hot day with the groceries, someone on the side of the road with a flat tyre.

Love, that God has given us **MUST** be working in us, here is a summary..... Where you see a need, meet it! If you don't see someone with a need, go and look for someone with one! Automatically people think of financial help.... Wrong, very wrong! Like I said before help that little old lady across the street, pick up that dummy from the ground that was dropped as the mum tried to hold her baby and get something from a shop shelf, get that item for her. I always check if a lady is by herself when she is broken down on the road, if so I stop and help, guess what. I should also be stopping for that bloke too that is by himself, maybe he hasn't got a mobile and just broke down. How many times do we see people walking to the emergency phone on the freeway when they have broken down, we think poor bloke, stinking hot day to be walking, hope he gets his car going! We just missed the "love" of God!

"For God so **LOVED** us"..... The way we Love God back, is to share his Love with others, tell them about how He loved us, how he loves them. There are a lot of people out there who are just looking to fill a hole in their life and that hole is a love shaped hole, but only the love of God will fill it. To what extent do we love you may ask? OK, look at God, to what extent did he Love? He gave all he had, himself, he gave his only son, he gave his life up for you and for me, to what extent do we "love"

others? Love is not a matter of getting along, or being walked all over, agreeing on doctrine, it is a matter of our attitude.

Yes, there are people out there even Christian brothers that will take advantage of you and I, but there is also a scripture for them too..... **Mat5v44; Luke 6v28**. We don't have to be a door mat! There are many who would try to take advantage of us being a Christian, - pray for them, don't be spitefully used. If we want to fulfil the ten commandments or if you like the two commandments, **we must love!** Our attitude has to change, I will have nothing to do with anyone who causes strife, or gossips, or tries to take people for a ride or just plain dumb uses them for what they got, but, I will pray for them that God will change their heart. I will not associate with people who call themselves a Christian but blatantly live a different life to what they should and they know it too, there is scripture to cover that **2Thess 3v6; 1Cor5v11**.

Think about Jesus, who did he eat with and sit with, tax collectors and sinners! So don't put them in the same category, don't say you can't hang around sinners, they are the ones we are to love and show the love of God and share God's love with, they don't know any better! Recently I went to a rally by myself as a last minute spare of the moment idea. I didn't really intend on camping over but a Ulysses member grabbed me and asked me to camp with them, there was about 5 or 6 of them camped together, a nice spot, so I camped. I had the best time I have ever had at a rally in years and I was not even upset that there was no Gymkhana, usually I love that part of the rally. I camped for 2 nights with them and we all had the best time and conversation, I didn't think it was possible to camp with "Sinners" and have a good time.

Each night I also got to share God with them and from now on, I will be hanging out with "sinners", so watch out for the gossip going around. I think sometimes, we tend to try and separate ourselves from the world in the wrong way, Jesus said we are part of it, but not to partake in it.... We think that it means go and set up "our" group, our church, our bible study and all hang out together and stay away from "sinners", they might rub off on us. Shouldn't we rub off on them? The funny thing was, the guys I camped with tried to tone down their language, I just laughed and said to them, hey I am a biker, it don't bother me mate, they treated me really well all weekend, and at the end of the weekend, the comment was "come camp with us at the next rally, we like you". I doubt it was me they liked, it was God in me.. Loving them!