

Sunday 28th April 2024

10 Commandments: Love others

Welcome

- What are your neighbours like? What have your best (or worst) neighbours been like?
or
- Why do you think people find the subject of murder so fascinating (in novels, TV shows, computer games)?

Word

Read Exodus 20: 13-16

1. Verses 13 – 15 outline 3 of the commandments using very few words – in the Hebrew (the original language of Scripture) this whole section contains only 6 words! What is the general effect of this simplicity?
2. What commandments did Zachaeus break and what did he do after he met with Jesus? Does this teach us something about what we should do when we break the commandments? (Zacchaeus' story can be found in Luke 19: 1-10)

Do not Kill

3. Read Genesis 9:1-6. What does this Bible reading say about the value God places on human life and why?
4. Do you think that human life is respected in society today? Why?
5. On Sunday, Nicola mentioned Matthew 5:21-22 what do you think about what Jesus has to say about this commandment 'Do not kill'?
6. Can we 'kill' in thought and word as well as deed? How?
7. What kind of people do we find it difficult to love? How can we deal with the unloving attitudes that we have towards certain people?

Do not Steal

8. How many different kinds of stealing can you think of?
9. Can we 'steal' in thought and word as well as deed? How?

Do not Lie

10. Little white lies – can lies ever be justified? (think about specific examples)
11. What situations might encourage people to lie?
12. Is it possible to tell the truth in a 'bad' way? How? Take a look at Ephesians 4:15.
13. Can we 'lie' in thought and deed as well as word? How?

Conclusion

14. What practical actions can we take to show our love to others?
15. Read Matthew 7: 12. What do you think about this and how does it relate to the three commandments we have looked at this week?
16. Read 1 John 1: 8-10. What do these verses tell us about keeping the commandments?

Optional Extra

Read Ephesians 4: 22 – 5: 2

17. How do verses 22 to 24 in chapter 4 relate to Zacchaeus' situation?
18. Which of the 10 commandments are suggested in verses 25 to 28?
19. How does your 'attitude of mind' affect the way we behave (verse 23)?
20. In verses 25 to 28 what extra guidance is given that is not included in the 10 commandments in Exodus?
21. In verses 29-32, What other guidance is given about loving others?
22. Which of the commands in verses 25-32 do you have the most difficulty following? Explain.
23. What practical steps could you take this week to improve this?
24. What do verses 1-2 in chapter 5 tell us about loving others?
25. What can we do to 'live a life of love'?
26. Why is Jesus the perfect example of this? (verse 2)
27. Why is Jesus' sacrifice called a fragrant aroma (verse 2)? Who was it fragrant to? Why?

28. How helpful do you find this whole passage in understanding the 10 commandments?

Even more optional material if you have time!

Read Ephesians 5: 3-21

29. What do the instructions in verse 4 tell us about our speech? What kind of speech should we replace it with?
30. What warning does Paul give in verses 5-6?
31. Why do you think Paul calls these people idolaters?
32. In verses 8-14 Paul contrasts light and darkness to say more about holy living. According to these verses, what does it mean to 'live as children of light'?
33. What is the difference between the wise and unwise? How can you live more wisely then?
34. How can we make the most of every opportunity (verse 16)
35. What can we do to 'understand what the Lord's will is (verse 17)?
36. When we are filled with the Spirit does the behaviour outlined in verses 19&20 happen automatically or do we treat them as commands to be followed?

37. Should obeying the 10 commandments come naturally when we are Spirit filled or do we have to 'work' at it?

Worship & Witness

- Read and reflect on Psalm 15
- Confess and ask God for forgiveness for those times we fail to keep his commandments

Simplified 10 Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God, don't worship any other gods.
2. Do not make or worship any idols.
3. Do not misuse God's name.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Respect your parents.
6. Do not kill.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not be envious.