

OFFICER TRAINING
Law, Grace and Sanctification
Lesson 7

Introduction:

Principle: Religion should only exert _____ to the degree that
it has exerted _____ ...

If we try to exert power before we have won influence

...

we will lose both power and influence ...

The Christian Faith can exert **INFLUENCE** only to extent that God has
owned our witness in Gospel persuasion ... Word + Deed ...

The only way we can or will obey _____ is when we have
received (been overwhelmed by) the _____ ...

The 1st giving of the Law in it's codified summary ...
10 commandments ... hinted at this very reality!!

Only then (receive grace) ... become 10 Freedoms rather than 10 Fetters ...

The Law can _____ ... only Love can _____ ...
The Law can _____ ... only Love can _____ ...
The Law can _____ obedience ... only Love can _____ it ...

I sympathize with those ... alarmed ... moral decline of America ...
But legal coercion will only lessen our influence & thus hasten
dwindling of our impact on improving the moral climate.

I. God is "_____ " ... "I am the Lord ... "
Exodus 20

Before God says ... "Do this / that", He says, "I'm God ... I'm in charge."

"It is reasonable / expected that I will set the rules
because I am God and you are not."

It is of the essence of our moral / spiritual fallenness ...
offended by ANYONE ... including God ... being "in charge" ...
We hate the idea of having to answer to anyone!!

Childish definition of _____ = the right to do whatever I want ...
The mantra of our juvenile age: "Nobody tells me what to do!"

But when there is no higher reference point ...
each person becomes their own reference point ...

93% of Americans say they alone decide moral issues ...
basing their decisions on their own experience or whims. ¹

Result: Chaos ... anarchy ...

Only way to maintain order then is for government / someone else to
exert external constraint ... usually of a totalitarian variety ...
Freedom then is over.

Civil liberty is rare in the history of the world largely because it can flourish
only in a context in which most of the citizenry are governing themselves ...

James Madison, 4th President of U. S.: "We stake the future of this country on our
ability to govern ourselves under the principles of the Ten Commandments."

II. God is _____ and In _____ with His People

"I am ... YOUR God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of
slavery."

Deuteronomy 4:12-13 "Then the LORD [Hebrew: Yahweh] spoke to you out of the
fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. He
declared to you HIS COVENANT, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you
to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets."

Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage = a parable of
a greater deliverance from a greater tyrant ... Sin / Satan ...

Malachi 1:6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. *If I am a father,
where is the honor due me?* If I am a master, where is the respect due me?"
says the LORD Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name."

Notice the double reason for respect / obedience ... He is Master ...
now we look at the reason that eclipses that ...

- Duty requires our obedience because of _____ He is ...
- Love moves us to obedience because of _____ He did for us!!

¹ Reported in *The Day America Told the Truth* (Prentice Hall, 1991). "To Verify," Leadership.


His primary appeal is not to His _____ ...
but to His _____ for His people ...
His is our Provider and Protector.

INTIMATED SAME THING IN PREVIOUS CHAPTER ...

Exodus 19:3-6 “Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be **my treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

He puts _____ before _____ ...

For those who want to obey their way into a relationship with God ...

 I have a couple of verses ...

James 2:10 “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking ALL of it.”

Galatians 3:10 “All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do EVERYTHING written in the Book of the Law.” (Deut. 27:26)

We work _____ relationship not _____ relationship!!

Illustration: Imagine a little boy who’s been adopted into a family.

Imagine him constantly worrying ... new adoptive parents ...
send him back to the adoption agency if he doesn’t behave.

Imagine the fear / bondage of not knowing whether ... sent back or not.

But imagine if that little boy is told, “We’re now your parents. We brought you out of the adoption agency, out of your temporary foster home, into our home. You’re now our son, you have our name, and nothing can change that. We’re not going to send you back no matter what you do. But here’s how we want you to live as our son.” ²

Obedience = what we do **BECAUSE** we have a relationship with God ...
NOT IN ORDER TO GET ONE ...

Though the believer is not under the law’s _____ power ...

² SermonCentral.com, “The Manufacturer’s Specifications”, Timothy Peck, on Deut. 4:12-13.

we are under its _____ power.

The law does not _____ us life; but it _____ life.

Principle: RULES without RELATIONSHIP leads to REBELLION!

God's commands are not as much "duties" as privileges ...

We get to obey ... obedience (ultimately) is not the hard way ...

It's the easy way ...

"The way of the transgressor is hard." (Prov. 13:15)

God sets the stage for His commands by reminding them what He had delivered them **FROM** ... *BONDAGE* and **TO FREEDOM** ...

The implication is clear ... the rules are motivated by the same good purposes as the redemption ...

We're not saved _____ our obedience ...

But we have been saved _____ our disobedience ...

And we are saved _____ obedience ...

Leslie Flynn, *Now a word from our Creator*: "The Ten Commandments may seem very narrow, but so does every runway on airports around the world. Yet no passenger wants his pilot to miss the narrow runway and land a few yards off the mark in some field or waterway or row of houses. The narrow ribbon of pavement is really the broad way that leads to a safe, comfortable landing. So the seemingly rigid laws guide to a happy, fulfilled living." ³

Satan wants us to believe, "**God is a prude / a killjoy / a party pooper with a long gray beard & bushy eyebrows who is always scowling at us and doesn't want anyone to ever have any fun.**"

William Bennett, in 1999 version of *The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators*.

Between 1960 and 1997

- Violent crime rose 467%,
- The number of prison inmates increased by 463%
- Out of wedlock births rose 461%.
- The teen suicide rate doubled.
- The divorce rate doubled.
- Couples living together outside of marriage ... 10 fold increase

Since 1979

³ Quoted in a sermon from SermonCentral.com by Chris Talton entitled: "Laying down the law" from Exodus 19, May 21, 2000.

- Illegal drug use has risen 55%.
- Average American consumes 36 gallons of alcohol per year
- The rate of Sexually Transmitted Diseases spreading in America far exceeds any other country in the world.
- Americans spend \$9 million each year on pornography.

Bennett concludes, "During the last half of this American century, we have made extraordinary progress in medicine, science, and technology. We have advanced the cause of civil rights at home and human rights abroad. We have achieved unprecedented levels of wealth and affluence...But we have lost something in the process. The nation we live in today is more violent and vulgar, coarse and cynical, rude and remorseless, deviant and depressed than the one we once inhabited. A popular culture that is often brutal, gruesome, and enamored with death robs many children of their innocence. People kill other people and themselves more easily. Men and women abandon each other and their children more readily. Marriage and the American family are weaker [and] more unstable".

Love is only motivation ... make our obedience TRUE obedience ...

We love (heart of all obedience) only to the degree that we receive /
relish God's love so profoundly that we cannot help but love Him in
return ...

1 John 3:19 "We love because He first loved us."

**The Law = what Love
looks like toward**

This is why _____ never was acceptable to God!!

OLD LATIN PHRASE IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION:

"What the heart does not do, is not done."

Thomas Watson (paraphrase): "God sometimes accepts a willing heart
without the deed, but never the deed without the willing heart."

Not mean that the acts are irrelevant ...

because **it is loves delight to DO for the one loved**

Do you love God??

If so, then you will be willing to suffer loss of anything for Him.

The fact that true obedience is simply "love in shoe leather" is why
obedience is also toward _____ of God's commands ...

Not just the ones we find reasonable / ~~convenient~~ / agreeable ...

True obedience is TOWARD God ...

not toward some grand, higher morality ...

We do not bow before an idol of ethical superiority but before a
_____ who is the object of our deepest loyalty and love!

True obedience is not only an expression of LOVE ...
but it is rooted in FAITH ...

Thomas Watson: "(If) men believed sin were so bitter, that hell followed at the heels of it, would they go on in sin? (If) they believed there was such a reward for the righteous, that godliness was gain, would they not pursue it; but they are atheists, not fully brought into the belief of these things; hence it is that they do not obey. Satan's master-piece, his draw-net by which he drags millions to hell, is to keep them in (unbelief); he knows, if he can but keep them from believing the truth, he is sure to keep them from obeying it."

Romans 10:4 "Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."

But the Law carries enduring _____ ...

If the Law is summed up in commandment to love (Matt. 22:37-40) ...
to deny the ongoing obligation to keep the law is the same thing as
denying our obligation to love God and others.

Matthew 5:17-19

G. I. Williamson: "So long as God is God and man is man, there can be no revocation of the law ..." ⁴

Williamson goes on to point out man's different relationship to the law of God pre-fall and post-fall and there is even a difference post-redemption ...

The law ... _____ = the way to life ...
_____ = the way of death ...
_____ = not PROVIDE life but the PATH of
life.

"They had ceased to live by it and had come to live against it." ⁵

ALL MEN DEMONSTRATE THE CONTINUING RELEVANCE OF THE LAW:

1. All men make moral judgments ... Romans 2:1
2. All men possess a conscience ... though it can be horribly defaced ...
Romans 2:15

⁴ G. I. Williamson, The Westminster Confession of Faith, Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1964, p.137.

⁵ Ibid.

Therefore, though believers are ...

- Not under law as a covenant of salvation or right relationship with God
- We are under law as
 - a. A _____ as to how we should live.
 - b. A _____ of how we sin.
 - c. A _____ of Christ's perfection.
 - d. A _____ toward Christ ... initially for Salvation and continually for Sanctification (Rom. 7:7-13; Gal. 3:24)

For unbelievers ... it is also a _____ against evil ... **1 Tim. 1:8-11**

Matthew Henry: "It is the grace of God that changes men's hearts; but the terrors of the law may be of use to tie their hands and restrain their tongues." ⁶

Samuel Bolton, *True Bounds of Christian Freedom*: "The law is void in respect of its power to condemn us, but it still has power to direct us; we are not under its curse, but yet under its commands."

But there are some aspects of the Law of God that have changed in the nature of their relevance since the finished work of Christ:

When we refer to the law of God we speak of 3 types of law (XIX, 3-5):
_____ – the perfect rule of righteousness that God gave to man
_____ – religious laws that served as types and symbols of Christ's redemptive work (ceremonies & sacrifices)
_____ – the application of the moral laws to Israel as a theocratic nation (a church-state).

AS TO THEIR BINDING NATURE TODAY:

Moral Law – still binding on all as it remains a perfect revelation of the righteousness of God

Ceremonial Law – serving as shadows of Christ's redemptive work, they were fulfilled by Him (Heb.8-10)

Judicial or Civil Law – since the NT Church is no longer tied exclusively to Israel, no longer a theocratic nation, they cease to apply other than the principle of fairness behind them (the moral element).

1st Commandment ... has the others crammed into it

10 Commandments not at first about _____ ... conduct / morality ...
They are about _____ ... preeminently about God ...

Biblical ethics = a subset issue ...

⁶Henry, M. *E4's Matthew Henry's Complete 6 Volume Commentary* (electronic ed.).

From Biblical point of view ethics is an exercise in futility
without a relationship with God ...

We will inevitably become _____!!

Psalms 115:8 “Those who make them (idols) will be like them,
and so will all who trust in them.”

What we think about God / how we relate to God will determine ...
what we think about / how we relate to ourselves, others,
the material universe around us ...

The meaning of the 1st Commandment can be
unpacked by asking a series of heart-searching
questions:

I. WHO / WHAT IS MOST VALUABLE TO YOU?

Among other things, 1st commandment asserts ... only being / entity of any
kind in the universe that has ... “_____” ... is God ...

Everything else ... persons / things (animate/inanimate) derive their value
based on their relationship with the ONE ...

We exist for Him ... He does not exist for us ...

This is why we “worship” HIM ...
“ascribe to Him the worth due His Name” ...

Part of SANITY = being in touch with what is truly valuable / important ...
To know what is ultimately significant ...

Otherwise, we deal with everything based on flawed assessment of reality ...

Thoughts, choices, relationships will be futile / delusional ...
Everything will be skewed toward the bizarre ...

As fallen creatures we lose an accurate sense of ...
what is really valuable / important ...

Ecclesiastes captures the terror and emptiness of that fallen condition ...
“VANITY OF VANITIES ... “

In the 1st commandment God is calling for a “_____”
that goes to “basement of reality” ... Nothing else makes sense without this ...

Illustration: In Shakespeare’s Macbeth ... King hears ... queen is dead ...
part of his expression of despair / grief goes like this ...

Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

II. WHAT PREOCCUPIES YOU?

In those moments when you stop rushing about long enough to just let your
mind drift a little ... What preoccupies your thoughts?? Is there a pattern??

What do you tend to obsess about? We = obsessive / addictive generation ...

Some have wondered why ... very little in Bible about addiction ...
There is ... Bible word for addiction = _____ ...

The object(s) of our obsession(s) = our god(s) ...

Bill Hybels uses the analogy of a *COMPASS* ...
Our “god” is what the north pole is to a compass ...
magnetically draws our thoughts toward it ... ⁷

A job, a relationship, a hobby, an accomplishment, a hoped for acquisition ...
house, car, boat, a certain level of financial independence ...

What must happen to us ... for God to become the
_____ **of our thoughts /**
affections?

Not happen unless ...

- ❖ We see our sin and our just condemnation ...
- ❖ We see our Savior and His infinite love and compassion
demonstrated on the Cross for us ...
- ❖ We are overwhelmed with love and gratitude in return ...

_____ is the result of _____ ...

⁷ Bill Hybels, *Engraved On Your Heart*, Victor, Cook Communications, 1985, 2000, pp.26-27

III. WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPRESS?

Jack Miller talked about a friend ... admitted being ... an “approval suck” ...
Enslaved to what others thought / said about him ...

This is a common “substitute deity” ... almost all of us commit spiritual
adultery with this spiritual “prostitute” at one time or another ...

For some of us ... it is the “mother of all idols” ...
the rest of our little “idolettes” are just offspring from this one ...

When we want people to be impressed with us ...
What are we really wanting?? _____!!

We want people to give **US** what should be giving only to God.

IV. WHERE DO YOUR LOYALTIES LIE?

When various things are competing for your time, life, effort, energy, money,
affection ... What supreme loyalty resolves the conflict??

We will turn to something / someone to be the _____ between
rival forces, factors, persons and causes ...

Whatever that is ... it is **G-O-D** to us!!

Marriage passage in Genesis ... “For this cause a man shall ... “

This relationship ... takes precedence over all other human relationships ...
It is eclipsed only by one’s relationship with God ...

In fact we cannot properly give ourselves to other relationships except to the
degree this ONE is incontestably supreme!

V. WHAT / WHO PURSUING TO GIVE YOU LIFE?

Pleasure? Power?
Position?
Prominence?
People? Peace? ...

Francis Schaeffer yrs ago summarized the god’s of our increasingly secular
age ... **PERSONAL PEACE & AFFLUENCE** ...

<i>Life Only has meaning / I only have worth if...</i>	<i>Idol</i>
I am highly productive and get a lot done.	Work
I am being recognized for my accomplishments / excel in my career	Achievement
I have a certain level of wealth and affluence.	Materialism
I am keeping my religion’s moral codes, and am accomplished in its activities.	Religion
I have a self-made morality and I am independent of organized religion.	Irreligion

A particular person is in my life. I am happy to be with them and they are happy to be with me.	A Person
My race / culture is superior.	Racism / Nationalism
I am in a special social group.	Groupism
My children / parents are happy with me.	Family
My spouse loves me / meets my needs.	Marriage
Because of my suffering I feel noble, worthy of love or able to deal with my guilt.	Suffering
My political party / social cause is making progress and gaining influence and control.	Ideology

Human beings not have to be taught ... (essence of our being) ... to ...

*LONG TO BE CONSUMED BY
SOMETHING ...*

For our lives to be poured out / spent up / utterly given over to something of supreme value ... _____!!

Most people fritter their lives away in little parceled out portions to the insignificant and the inconsequential ... No integrating core ...

J. Ellsworth Kalas: "If life has hundreds of points, it becomes pointless. If our lives are to have a piercing quality, they will need to have a single point. " ⁸

Biblical view of man is so grand ... it portrays us as empty / aimless unless
Infinite One = all consuming
passion ...

Augustine: "Thou hast made us for thyself ... "
No other passion will satisfy!!

Psalms 73:25 "Whom have I in heaven but Thee, and besides Thee, I desire nothing on the earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

What we worship is a measure of _____.

If I worship money ... I view myself as nothing more than a biological bank ...
a warehouse for goods ... a flesh house upon which or in which
to store the all important "thing collection" ...

This is why our culture's philosophical and practical materialism has produced a colossal dehumanization ... life is reduced more and more to an object of economic utility ...

⁸ J. Ellsworth Kalas, *The Ten Commandments from the Backside*, Nashville: Abingdon, 1998, p. 21.

If I give myself to _____ I become _____ ...
I aim below my potential ... I miss my destiny!!

Look at our Creation ... a clay "earth house" filled with the breath of God ...

And the more we give ourselves with such abandon to Him ...
the more we are made like Him ...

The more He has of us ... the more we have of Him ...
and that is ultimate FREEDOM ...

Thus ends a look at the first & most foundational of the 10 Freedoms.