

10 COMMANDMENTS - PART 13

Disposable

Dr. Derek Morris

Preaching passage:	Revelation 14:12
Subject:	How are the saints who endure described
Complement:	those who obey God's commandments and are faithful to Jesus.
Exegetical idea:	The saints who endure obey the commandments of God and are faithful to Jesus
Homiletical idea:	God will have a people in these last days who obey His commandments and are faithful to Jesus.
Purpose:	To prove to my hearers that the 10 commandments are not done away with and to challenge them to be part of the people of God who obey His commandments and are faithful to Jesus

Introduction

Have you noticed that things are becoming more disposable in recent years? When I was a baby, living in England, mothers used nappies for their babies. We call them diapers in America. These nappies were made of cloth. And the nappy was attached with big safety pins! Not attached to the baby! Attached around the baby's bottom.

When the baby made a mess in its nappy, mother would clean whatever was in it...that's a mother's love for you...then she would wash it and use it again! Today, in many parts of the world we have disposable nappies, disposable diapers. And perhaps that's a good thing! Especially for those who used to have to clean them.

We also have disposable syringes. And that's probably a good thing too. It limits the spread of disease. We also have disposable razors and disposable milk cartons and disposable containers. Unfortunately, we take this disposable mentality into other areas of our lives. We now have disposable marriages. And disposable morals.

Today many are suggesting that we should also dispose of the 10 commandments. We have been on an amazing journey over the past 12 weeks taking a fresh look at the 10

commandments. We have discovered that they are not rigid regulations from a demanding Deity but words of blessing from our loving God. But many today are suggesting...or even insisting that we should dispose of the 10 commandments.

Some of those people who are demanding that we dispose of the 10 commandments are critics of Christianity. They view the 10 commandments as archaic regulations, unnecessary restrictions. They encourage us to break free and enjoy life.

Others who are telling us that we are to dispose of the 10 commandments are Christians. They are followers of Jesus, but they are teaching that the 10 commandments are done away with. And they quote some New Testament texts to support their position:

Romans 6:14 “We are no longer under law but under grace.

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

Colossians 2:14 “having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.”

The 10 commandments, we are told by some Christians, were nailed to the cross. They are done away with, and no longer applicable for followers of Jesus.

Well, before we jump to any conclusions, let’s look at the life and teachings of Jesus. If we are followers of Jesus, then we ought to follow Him. What do you say?

As we read the Gospels, we discover that Jesus lived in harmony with the 10 commandments. When tempted to break the 1st commandment and have another god besides the One true God, Jesus said to Satan, “You shall worship the LORD your God and Him only you

shall serve.” Luke tells us that it was Jesus’ custom to remember the Sabbath day, in harmony with the 4th commandment. Luke 4:16. Jesus obeyed the 6th commandment. He did not murder. In fact, He said, “I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly. John 10:10. And Jesus obeyed that 7th commandment. He didn’t steal. He said, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. Matt 22:21. Those are just a few examples to illustrate that Jesus lived in harmony with the 10 commandments. It’s true that he stripped away the man-made laws that were burdens rather than blessings. But Jesus lived in harmony with the 10 commandments.

Not only did Jesus live in harmony with the 10 commandments, but He also amplified the 10 commandments. He showed the deeper meaning of the 10 words of blessing. For example, the 6th word of blessing says “Do not murder” but Jesus said, “Don’t even hate another person or be angry with them.” The 7th word of blessing says “Do not commit adultery” but Jesus said, “Don’t even have lustful thoughts.” Rather, love each other as I have loved you.

So Jesus not only lived in harmony with the 10 commandments but He even amplified them. Raised the standard even higher.

And Jesus says absolutely nothing about doing away with the 10 commandments before or after His death and resurrection. Listen to His words in Matthew 5:17. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” And during the 40 days that Jesus spent with His disciples after His resurrection from the dead, listen to the testimony of Luke in Acts 1:3. “After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.” There is no mention of doing away

with the 10 commandments. Not one word. If you are going to argue that the 10 commandments are done away with, I would like to hear a word of confirmation from the mouth of Jesus. But Jesus says nothing.

Well, you say, what about those texts in Romans and Colossians that seem to suggest that the 10 commandments are done away with? Let's look at those passages more carefully.

Paul's letter to the Romans is a powerful testimony about God's plan of salvation. In Romans chapter 3, Paul argues that there is no-one who is righteous, no not one. He states that point most succinctly in Romans 3:23 where he says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." And later in Romans 6:23, Paul reminds us that "the wages of sin is death." So we are in trouble. We have all sinned, and we all have a death sentence passed against us.

But then comes the good news in Romans 3, beginning with verse 21. "But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law."

Paul states that same idea in Ephesians 2:8-9. We are saved by God's grace, not by the

keeping the Law. And again in Galatians 2:21. "I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" The Law cannot save us. Only Jesus can save us. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior!

Does that mean that the law is done away with? Listen to Paul's own words in Romans 3:31. "Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law."

Now come with me to Romans chapter 6:1-2. "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" And that is the context for Romans 6:14-15. "For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!"

What is Paul saying here? He is saying that we are not under the Law as a means of salvation. We are under grace! That Law can't save us. Only Jesus can save us by His grace.

Now we can understand what Paul is saying in Romans 10:4. "Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes." Christ is the end of the law NKJV says "for righteousness". We don't look to the Law to save us. We look to Jesus. Does that mean that the 10 commandments are done away with? Not at all. Do we then make void the Law through faith? God forbid. We establish the Law.

What about the passage in Colossians chapter 2? Let's look at that passage together. Colossians 2:13-14. "Col. 2:13-14

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the

cross.” What is this written code? The NKJV says “the handwriting of requirements? The literal translation is “the certificate of debt”. Eugene Peterson translates this phrase “the arrest warrant.” What is this certificate of debt? This arrest warrant? It’s not the 10 commandments? The certificate of debt, the arrest warrant, is issued because we have transgressed the 10 commandments. The certificate of debt is the record of our transgression of the 10 commandments. This is what was nailed to the cross. And how was this certificate of debt nailed to the cross? Paul gives us this testimony in 2 Cor 5:21. “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Jesus carried our sins to the cross. He carried our certificate of debt. That is what was nailed to the cross. Our sins. Our shame. Not the 10 commandments! How do I know that this conclusion is correct? That it was our certificate of debt that was nailed to the cross, our arrest warrant, and not the 10 commandments? Listen to the testimony of the apostle Peter. 1 Peter 2:23-24. “When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Many things are viewed as disposable in our society. Some things should be disposed of, like dirty diapers or used syringes. But don’t dispose of marriages. Don’t dispose of morals. And most of all, don’t dispose of the 10 commandments.

Dispose of your opinions if they are based on human wisdom rather than the Word of God. Dispose of your traditions if they are contrary to the teachings of Jesus. But do not dispose of the 10 commandments.

I'm so thankful that in a changing world, some things do not change. God says, "I am the LORD. I do not change." Malachi 3:6. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8. Heaven and earth may pass away, but "the Word of the Lord will stand forever. 1 Peter 1:25.

And in these last days, God will have a people, Revelation 14:12 tells us, who obey His commandments and are faithful to Jesus. By God's grace, I want to be a part of that number. Don't you?

I'm going to ask you to make a special commitment today. Do you want to be a part of God's people who are saved by His grace and who obey the commandments and are faithful to Jesus? If you do, then stand with me as we pray.

Some members of our worship and media team, led by Pastor Patty Hofer, along with some other loving volunteers, have made a special symbol to remind you of your commitment today. It will also remind you of this entire series of sermons. It's a miniature 10 commandments, and it says "Words of Blessing." If you made a commitment today that by God's grace you want to be part of that number that obeys His commandments and is faithful to Jesus, then I want you to come up after the service and get one of these gifts to remind you of your commitment today.