

Law & Order

Lessons in the Commandments.



1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

WRANGLERS

Six Lessons:

#1 Proper Respect

#2 Holy Name

#3 The Promise Commandment

#4 Thou shalt not Kill

#5 That Ain't Yours

#6 Tall Tales

Law & Order

Lessons in the Commandments.



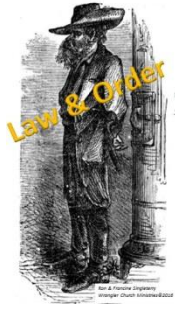
1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

Proper Respect

Lesson #1

WRANGLERS



Wranglers **Proper Respect**

Lesson # 1 Part of Law and Order Series

Exodus 20:3-6

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Illustration:

Have on hand an advertisement for a Ranch Rodeo or other Rodeo event. If the event does not have the “rules” or “parameters” listed on the advertisement get a copy of them. Bring to class. Display the advertisement and have a short open discussion about what happens when there are no rules.

Are people going to naturally be fair? How can you fairly compete if someone is able to interfere with the competition? What if someone is able to run out and MOVE the barrels for their run? What if someone is permitted to sabotage another person’s ride in any way?

If you have the advantage of teaching in an arena setting, setup a scenario where you time a barrel run; then let the next competitor come out and move the barrels for example, to enable a “shorter” run.

Immediately everyone will realize the folly involved as well as the mean-spirited antics that can be displayed in such a “competition.” It would be a free-for-all!

God in His sovereignty saw to it, that there would be “ground rules” in life as well because we have “free-will” and are not robots. We can choose to do right or not do right. So He made sure we had the “ground rules” written out.

Ten Commandments Notes:

The first four Commandments relate to our relationship with God while the other six are about our relationships with mankind.

Jesus said it best:

Matthew 22: 36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Introduction:

When we were children the Ten Commandments were readily posted in school classrooms. It was not that the teachers or school wanted to make people “religious.” It was because these basic ten principles were considered foundational in any civilized society. Children were expected to know these “rules.”

Keeping these “rules” will not get you to Heaven. Let’s be clear about that right up front.

But neither are these Ten Commandments the Ten Suggestions either.

So what is the purpose or reason to study these Old Rules? Don’t we already have civil laws in place to keep our country and our society safe?

Right Respect:

God, the Creator of all, made promises to His people. He will never break His promises.

God commands total respect. He has every right to expect as much. He is perfect. He gave His only Son in advance of our births, in order to provide a way of redemption from our sinful nature. He loves us. God wants the very best for us; He understands that anything less than His way is our way and our way leads to destruction if we reject Him.

Respect amongst people must be earned, however. At our best, we are flawed. Therefore, respect does not come naturally at all to people. We look for attributes, for reasons to trust and respect people.

When God asks us to put Him first in our lives, He is not asking a particularly difficult thing of us.

Whatever, or whomever, as the case may be, that we love above all else will become the most important person or aspect of our lives.

For example, when I fell in love with my wife, Francine, I did not have to get up each day and remind myself to think about her. I didn’t have to determine to spend at least five minutes per day talking to her. She was and is on my mind continually.

In the New Testament Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments into two. [See Ten Commandments Notes.]

If you love God with all of your heart you will put God first in everything in your life. If you put Him first, then all of the other commandments will be pretty easy because you will want to please God.

That’s the way it is with true love. Loving my wife is not a difficult thing; it is a joy. That is how love works.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

King David as a young man depended on God for the little things; he saw God keep His Word. This resulted in David trusting God for bigger things. As a youth he fought off lions and bears to protect his sheep. Ultimately we see a young David most likely as a teen, going to fight a giant that was well trained in battle and covered in armor. David did not fear Goliath because David had a lot of experience in trusting God.

We do not start our Christian life doing great things of faith. We see God keep His promises in our everyday matters and then we learn to respect or trust God for bigger steps of faith.

The difficulty comes when we interrupt this process with our own “desires” and “expectations” and do not trust God, but rather decide that He is a kind of “Santa Claus” that will answer our wants from a list we send Him in a quick prayer.

The first two of the Ten Commandments is really about not putting our own agenda ahead of God’s. That sounds easy, but it is probably the biggest battle you will face in your life. The attitude of “what about me?” is a destroyer of all of your relationships; not just with other people, but first of all with God.

Right Relationship

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Your personal day to day fellowship with God is largely determined by what you spend your time doing or thinking on.

Let’s list a few things that will either develop a proper respect for God or a close fellowship with Him:

Regular Prayer
Bible Reading
Meditation on what God wants in my life.
Let’s list a few more that come to mind.

Let’s list a few things that are not necessarily bad, but can get in the way of putting God first.

Sports
Television
Video Games
Idle/wasted Time
List a few more that come to mind.

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Not all of these things we listed are necessarily sinful. However, they become sin when they take up too much of your time. They become “idols.” They become more important than God.

But your number one idol will be yourself.

That is why the second commandment listed in the first Ten Commandments is there!

Anything that is ahead of God is an idol and becomes what you are worshipping ahead of Him.

SUMMARY

The Ten Commandments begin by pointing to God as the only God and putting Him first.

You can never do that until you are born-again. If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you have no power to keep the very first commandment.

In fact, none of us in our natural state have the power to do right all of the time.

The Bible tells us that if we break ONE rule or law of God, then we are found guilty of ALL His Law. He is perfect, we are not. We needed a Savior.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Present Salvation Here.

Law & Order

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1 Corinthians 14:40

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Holy Name

Lesson #2

WRANGLERS



Wranglers Holy Name

Lesson #2 Part of Law and Order Series

Exodus 20:7 *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

Exodus 20:8-11 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Ephesians 5:4 *Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.*

James 2:10 *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

Matthew 5:17 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

Introduction:

There were Ten Commandments given initially to Moses. The Law itself involved several hundred different specific laws. If you take into account the variations and adaptations then there could be thousands to consider perhaps.

The Third Commandment and the Fourth Commandment, both deal with the holiness of God. One in regards to keeping His Name Holy and the other to keeping the day He set aside as holy.

The Holy Sabbath

Exodus 20:8-11 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Colossians 2:16-17 *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

Ten Commandments Notes:

The first four Commandments relate to our relationship with God while the other six are about our relationships with mankind.

Jesus said it best:

Matthew 22: 36-40 *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:...

Technically speaking the Sabbath is NOT Sunday. Sunday is the first day of the week and Christians, after the resurrection of Christ, have traditionally met for worship on the first day of the week.

It is the traditions and cultures, much of it regional only to the Western Hemisphere, that have come to call Sunday the Sabbath. Traditions and culture are just that, tradition and culture.

The day of the week that we should set aside for worship will most likely continue to be a debate during your lifetime. Many of the startup churches especially the cowboy churches have set aside a weekday evening to meet and worship. This is sometimes because of convenience in finding a facility to gather in or because a Pastor maybe serving in more than one church. On the mission field this is not uncommon. A missionary may have church services at several locations and so many days of the week may be used for worship.

The point is that you do set aside a day to worship with other believers. Sunday is the most practical and sensible since Jesus arose from the dead on a Sunday morning.

Socially and Unsocially Acceptable Words:

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

When I was growing up in the small town of Marlow, Oklahoma I would occasionally hear an old farmer or cowboy let out a string of swear words, or obscene language. He would immediately then say, "I'm Sorry!" if any women or children were present.

Unfortunately it no longer seems to be socially unacceptable for people to use obscene or offensive language in public. We have become a rude, profane, and mean spirited culture. Just one generation ago a person that used swear words would seek forgiveness for the offense so that they would not be a social outcast.

Ephesians 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

2 Timothy 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

It is not only unacceptable to God for us to use His Name in Vain; it is also unacceptable as members of His Family to use profane or filthy or foolish language.

So what falls into that category? Everyone here is old enough to understand without making a list. Barnyard terms, Bathroom terms, talking about parts of the body in a nasty way are **all unacceptable for the mouth of a Child of the King.**

It doesn't matter WHO uses the language, you do NOT HAVE TO !!!!!

In Exodus 20: 7 we have a direct command from God to not take His name in vain and that if we do we will not be held guiltless. Even if we follow it with "Oops, I'm sorry" it is still wrong.

Our Creator is Holy and without sin; He will not tolerate us taking His name in vain. We need to keep in mind that God created all things and we owe Him our respect. That is not too much to ask.

We get really upset if someone defames our family. This is especially true if nothing has been done to deserve this defamation of the family name. So why do so many take God's name in vain?

Just because other people or "everyone else" is using God's name in a vile way, does not even tempt me to use His name in vain. The crowd does not have more influence on my tongue than God does.

God's Holy Name is not a Swear Word:

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

You may hear someone take God's name in vain in a rodeo arena, on a construction site, in a manufacturing plant, in your school hallway, or in your own home.

While it is not your job as a child to correct an adult, you can control your own tongue. As a child, Francine had a Dad who did not control his tongue. She heard that kind of language all the time. It would and still does come into her head because it was programmed in just like the rest of the English language. However, you will NOT hear her use it; nor did she ever use it as a child or young person when it was heard daily. Why? How could she not? Because she loves God and respects His Holy Name! It's that simple. She controls what comes out; now that she is older it is even easier because she does not hear it all the time and rarely do the phrases pop into her head like they once did when she was a child.

When Moses approached the presence of God in the burning bush, he was told to take off his shoes because he was on Holy Ground. The presence of God is so Holy that when He came down to Mount Sinai, He told the people that they couldn't even approach the mountain because just a glimpse of God would be so Holy and pure that it would cause anyone that looked upon Him to die. Anyone that uses God's name in vain does not seem to understand how holy our creator is.

The giant Goliath blasphemed God's name; He died at the hand of a teenaged boy armed with nothing but a slingshot and a rock. God hasn't changed His feelings about the use of His name.

In the Old West if you took a man's name and added ugly words to it, you easily could have had a "SHOWDOWN" in town around high noon on Main Street with a "Shoot out" to see who survives.

You don't see people falling over dead from using bad language immediately today. **We live under grace, but using God's grace as an occasion to willfully sin is not something you want to answer for either.** Remember, everyone will eventually stand before God, the righteous judge.

God's Holy Name is not to be taken Lightly:

James 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

We used to pick up children on our Sunday School bus from a rough area of town. One of the kids had a grandfather that was drunk every time we saw him. He used to tell us that God told him to get drunk. Of course for him to say that was foolishness.

However, I have heard people say that God directed them to change jobs or marry a certain person. If we pray and live a life that is yielded totally to God, then we will be led by him through His Holy Spirit.

However, we need to be careful about getting too comfortable with saying that God told us to do or go a certain way.

We can easily put words in God's mouth. We might be doing something that is OUR will and saying it is God's will.

When we call the actions that are a result of our will to be "God told me" then we are taking His name in vain!

We must always be on guard to know the difference in OUR will and God's will.

SUMMARY

Did you know that the Bible says we can never be "righteous" on our own? The only "righteousness" we can claim is that of Jesus. You don't get that any other way than to accept Him as your Savior.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you have no power to keep the commandments.

In fact, none of us in our natural state have the power to do right all of the time.

The Bible tells us that if we break ONE rule or law of God, then we are found guilty of ALL His Law. He is perfect, we are not. We needed a Savior.

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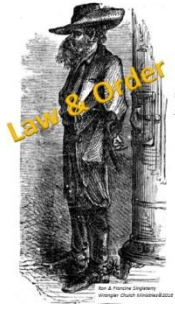
1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

The Promise Commandment

Lesson #3

WRANGLERS



Wranglers

The Promise Commandment

Lesson #3 Part of Law and Order Series

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Ephesians 6:2-4 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Introduction:

There were Ten Commandments given initially to Moses. The Law itself involved several hundred different specific laws. If you take into account the variations and adaptations then there could be thousands to consider perhaps.

This lesson covers what is called The Promise Commandment.

When is it okay to Disobey?

NOTE TO TEACHERS: Undoubtedly this topic gets the teacher and the kids' attention! This is a subject near to my heart. For many years we picked up children on our Sunday School bus in low income housing areas that placed children in precarious settings.

You may think that because you are in a "church" setting that this topic does not apply to you; but unfortunately you may be very mistaken.

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Ten Commandments Notes:

The first four Commandments relate to our relationship with God while the other six are about our relationships with mankind.

Jesus said it best:

Matthew 22: 36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Verse 4 gets left out of the teaching on this subject very easily. When we teach children to obey unequivocally then we can be teaching them subjection instead of submissiveness. Be careful that we are not teaching them to be “used” or “abused.”

So how do we teach that sometimes it is okay to disobey?

A child does not have the maturity or the judgment tools to discern what acceptable behavior is. He determines what is right and wrong by what he is taught either by word or by example.

Keep it as simple as possible.

We have seen kids told to steal at the store; kids told to lie to cover for the parents; kids told to let adults take advantage of them in horrible ways.

Let's give them some tools, not ignore the issues.

- #1 IF SOMEONE TRYS TO FORCE YOU TO DO SOMETHING THAT **YOU KNOW IS WRONG**, THEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FIND ANOTHER ADULT TO TELL.
- #2 If you are not sure if something is right or wrong morally, then you can ask before you act. This does not give you a free pass to disobey; it means it is not disobedience to ask.
- #3 Respect for parental authority is still in effect.

Why Honor Parents:

Honor your parents because it is RIGHT!

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

What happens if you get a horse that has been trained wrong? What if the horse can't follow basic commands? Then you and the horse can get hurt. You don't have any chance to enjoy the horse if the horse is too dangerous to be around. No one likes to be around a disobedient horse.

No one likes to be around disobedient children.

We have a sin nature and sometimes we are going to “get into the moment” and NOT THINK and directly disobey. But to continually disregard parents' instructions is wickedness.

Obedience is essential to life! Disobedience can get you or others hurt or killed!

God set up an order. Getting out of that order is dangerous; not because God is out to get you! It is dangerous outside of His protection! He gave us “rules” and “commandments” to protect us; not to get us.

More than once we can remember a child asking us about obedience and honoring a parent. One girl in particular sticks out in my mind. Her mother had real mental issues. We have witnessed this mother

do bizarre things. She once held a gun to the girl's head [after she was an adult] and demanded money just because the girl had gotten paid at her job.

When the kids were growing up, this mother would yell for the boy in the house to take out the trash and the moment he went to do it, she would scream at him and eat him out for doing just exactly what she asked him to do. We were there and watched this. The kids never knew what they were supposed to do. Obviously, the parent was not acting within the bounds of "*in the Lord.*"

Does this seem confusing? The Bible says that God is not the author of confusion! So let's look at some scenarios and talk about this. Decide whether or not to obey in these issues and you can give some examples yourself and we can discuss. [On a white board list some issues.]

- An adult asks you to pick up something in a store, place it in your pocket so that you can get by the checkout without paying for it.
- Your parent tells you in a straight forward command: STAND STILL!
- The adult in authority tells you to stay out of the mud today.
- You are given a list of "chores" to complete such as Clean your Room; Do your Homework; Brush your Teeth.
- You are asked to "lie" to someone on the phone and say your parent is not home. [NOTE this happens a lot more than you want to know!]

Respect and Honor does NOT include CORRECTING YOUR PARENTS! No one likes to hear that one, but it is still the fact. If you hear your parents tell a lie; this does NOT give you the authority to correct them. That authority is given to God. Don't get things out of order. You do not have the authority to "correct" or "judge" anyone else's mistakes or sins; and your parents are included in the anyone else, as well.

As children you are not in the "position" of being the parent to your parents. The Bible tells the parent that they are responsible to God. Your job is to be the child.

Jesus on earth was still God! Yet as a child, He obeyed His parents. When he was a young man the family went to Jerusalem to worship. He stayed behind to talk with the leaders in the Temple; his parents Mary and Joseph got part of the way back home and realized he wasn't with any of the relatives; they panicked and went back to Jerusalem to find Him. Can you imagine how upset they were? They had LOST the Son of God! But when they found Him, he explained what He had been up to, but He went home with them and subjected himself to their parental authority.

Luke 2: 51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

The Promise God Made:

Ephesians 6:2-3 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

The promise is that things will go well with you and the second part is a long life. Now this does not mean that you get to live to be 102 if you obey your parents. Nor does it mean that because a baby passes away that he was not obedient to his parents. As people we “read” a lot of stuff into scripture that is not there, so we have to be careful that we read scripture correctly, that is, with Holy Spirit discernment.

This does mean exactly what it says: Honor your parents; If you do things will go “well” with you and you won’t be getting into problems with the law, with other people, or with authority in your life that are there to protect you from trouble. If you don’t obey traffic laws, you can get killed or kill others. If you don’t obey civil laws you can get hurt. The list is long.

SUMMARY

Did you know that the Bible says we can never be “righteous” on our own? The only “righteousness” we can claim is that of Jesus. You don’t get that any other way than to accept Him as your Savior.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you have no power to keep the commandments.

In fact, none of us in our natural state have the power to do right all of the time.

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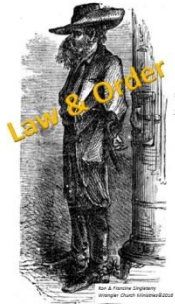
1 Corinthians 14:40

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Thou Shalt Not Kill

Lesson #4

WRANGLERS



Wranglers

Thou Shalt not Kill

Lesson #4 Part of Law and Order Series

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Matthew 5: 21-24 *Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

James 2:10 *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

Matthew 5:17 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

Matthew 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Introduction:

There were Ten Commandments given initially to Moses. The Law itself involved several hundred different specific laws. If you take into account the variations and adaptations then there could be thousands to consider perhaps.

The Sixth Commandment, Thou shalt not Kill, has been misunderstood by people for many generations. Most of the time, we personally do not like many of the newer translations/paraphrases and interpretations of the Bible. However, this word they have gotten this right. The Hebrew word was "Râtsach" which meant to dash in pieces, to murder. Thou shalt not Murder is the intent.

The First Recorded Murder

Genesis 4:8-11 *And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the*

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Matthew 22: 36-40 *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand...

Two brothers, Cain and Abel, were both born to Adam and Eve. This is the first family recorded in the Bible. God already had plans laid out for redemption from the beginning. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God killed animals and clothed them in the skins. Blood was shed. It was a picture of what Jesus would do one day; shed His blood for our sins. Cain and Abel were to practice blood sacrifices as pictures of the coming Messiah.

Cain didn't like that plan. He offered up vegetables on his burnt offerings. He was the first "Doing church my way instead of God's way" person. He offered up the works of his hands from his garden and farming endeavors.

Abel offered animals as per God's instructions.

God accepted Abel's burnt offering; he rejected Cain's. Cain was jealous of Abel. God must love Abel more than me, thought Cain. Cain couldn't make any sense of it all.

Today many people in the world are just like Cain; their interpretation of the Bible does not line up with what God said. If Cain had just obeyed God and stayed with the picture of Jesus' shed Blood then all would have been well. But he didn't. Cain wanted it his way. He wanted all religions and all paths to lead to God. But they don't. Do not be fooled by the Cain philosophies of this world.

But instead of just rebelling against God's way, which was bad enough, he decides to get rid of Abel. Abel didn't do anything to Cain! He didn't do anything except obey God!

Cain was so mad at God and Abel, that he killed Abel! Everyone has seen people get mad at God and then take out their anger and frustration on someone around them.

People today may not be murdering so much by the blade but they are still doing it with the tongue.

You can be minding your own business, not doing anything wrong and all of a sudden; you can get jumped and beat up or worse. Vigilantes in the old western movies were notorious for this kind of thing. Someone would say: HE DID IT and HE DESERVES EVERYTHING HE'S GOT COMING TO HIM. Off the entire crowd, church folks, unchurched folks, everyone together, would head down the street to take on justice themselves.

Instead of thinking for themselves, people tend to run with the crowd.

Kids are very overt in the way they do this. It's like some kid in the crowd is looking to start trouble. They pick on someone else that is not doing anything wrong at all.

In the case of Cain, it was an anger management problem. He would not control his anger.

But I haven't killed anyone:

Proverbs 14:17 He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly; and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

These Bible verses are not hard to understand. Throughout the Bible we see examples of people getting themselves into trouble and even killed because they would not control their temper. The sad part is that there is always someone besides the angry person that is hurt very deeply. In the Old Testament we see that Samson did not control his anger and his parents were crushed. The nation of Israel did not receive deliverance from their bondage because of Samson's anger and sin.

Then in the New Testament we hear Jesus's words.

Matthew 5:21-22 Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Jesus' words are very strong about how we speak to each other, how we feel about each other, and how we react. Jesus' is the Forgiver! When people were asking Him about the Old Testament laws, He reminds them of Cain's problem. He brings them right back to the anger management issue. He calls it what it really is---SIN ! And Sin will always bring judgment.

Unrepentant sinners will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment and be cast into the Lake of Fire. This is what Jesus is referring to.

However, repentant sinners, saved people, will stand before another judgment; the Judgment seat of the Lamb, where we will give an account of everything we do. We are expected to live a godly life.

Controlling Anger:

We must be in control of ourselves or we end up in sin.

Jesus was talking to some of the most religious people in the crowd that day when He talked about anger. Jesus told them it was no different than murder in God's eyes. We take our sin too lightly.

Too many Christians think that since they have accepted Jesus as Savior that other sinful problems in life don't matter now. WRONG!! It really matters more. God wants you to live more Christ-like now that you are saved in order to glorify Him and to have a testimony that will allow you to bring others to Him.

There is no such thing as a "little" sin. Sin is sin. Some sins such as murder have more consequences attached in this life, but all sin is sin.

So next time you are angry, think about it, are you really committing murder in your heart? Get control of your attitude.

SUMMARY

Did you know that the Bible says we can never be “righteous” on our own? The only “righteousness” we can claim is that of Jesus. You don’t get that any other way than to accept Him as your Savior.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you have no power to keep the commandments.

In fact, none of us in our natural state have the power to do right all of the time.

The Bible tells us that if we break ONE rule or law of God, then we are found guilty of ALL His Law. He is perfect, we are not. We needed a Savior.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Present Salvation Here.

Law & Order

Lessons in the Commandments.



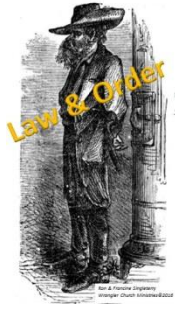
1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

That Ain't Yours

Lesson #5

WRANGLERS



Wranglers *That Ain't Yours*

Lesson #5 Part of Law and Order Series

Exodus 20:14-15, 17.

14-15 Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal.

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his [donkey] ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Introduction:

There were Ten Commandments given initially to Moses. The Law itself involved several hundred different specific laws. If you take into account the variations and adaptations then there could be thousands to consider perhaps.

This lesson is a grouping of three of those first initial Ten Commandments and how they can relate to each other.

Thou shalt Not Commit Adultery:

Note to Teacher: You may be dealing with children varying from age 6 to 12. Take this into consideration. You do not have to skip this commandment because you are uncomfortable with it, but rather you can approach it with where it applies to this age group.

We have often called this the "Family Values" Commandment. This is a vital commandment to the understanding of who we are in Christ Jesus.

Your approach can be this:

Once you are a born-again child of the King, then the Bible, God's Word says that you are part of the BRIDE OF CHRIST. The Bible God's Word, says that Jesus is the BRIDEGROOM.

Ten Commandments Notes:

The first four Commandments relate to our relationship with God while the other six are about our relationships with mankind.

Jesus said it best:

Matthew 22: 36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

This is a PICTURE of what God's relationship is to the born-again [saved] people.

Have you ever been to a wedding? The Bible says that one day we that are saved, are going to a wedding in Heaven. The Bride of Christ and Christ will be united forever in Heaven.

This is why this commandment is so important. Marriage is a PICTURE of God's Plan for eternity. We are not to do anything that would mess up that picture.

Revelation 19:9a

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Thou shalt not Steal

Joshua 7: 20-21 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

The Children of Israel had just witnessed God fighting for them to give them victory over the mighty fortress City of Jericho. The walls were tall and thick. Jericho had enough food and water to last a long time. They could outlast any enemy who besieged them. It was impossible for Israel to conquer this city, but God had made a promise to Joshua. God also told Joshua that all of the stuff in Jericho was to be left alone. It was a statement from God that the first fruits belong to Him. If anyone stole any stuff from Jericho then God said they were accursed.

As we read, Achan disobeyed God and stole some stuff. It wasn't a lot! It was just one fancy garment and it was just a little money. But look at the trouble it caused.

Thirty six men died because of Achan's sin of stealing. Achan's family wound up dying because of Achan's sin. Was this little bit [or any amount for that matter] of stuff worth dying for?

Would you be willing to let other people, including your family die because of a little bit of stuff? Of course not!

Achan may have thought it was so insignificant that he could get away with it. It's like a cattle rustler or a horse thief. He can justify WHY he took someone else's property. Just because a man has 100 head of cattle does not make it "right" for you to take one of them. Just because your buddy has several nice lariats doesn't make it right for you to throw one of them in your truck to take home, either. It's not right to take anything that is not yours!

Do you think you are not stealing if you only take a "little bit"? What if you steal a candy bar from someone? Is it worth God's judgment in your life now or in the life to come over stealing a dollar? If Achan could come back from the dead, he would tell you "Don't do it!" Achan would say: "I was selfish, I coveted and stole a little thing, but it cost too much! Others including my wife and children were victims of MY sin.

As it turns out there is no such thing as a “little” sin. Sin is sin.

Back when our son was in college, he borrowed an expensive bike [he had permission]. While he had it borrowed, it was stolen. We could have said “too bad, you should not have loaned a bike to our son.” If we had done this, we would have been guilty of stealing as well. We could have stepped out of God’s will over a few hundred dollars. How foolish to throw away the blessing of God for such a small thing. We had been scrimping and saving to help David pay his college bill. Someone stealing the bike affected the bike owner, our son, and us. We never knew who stole the bike, but I can guarantee that it also cost the thief.

God covered our needs. I have watched the lives of many people that will cheat and steal over little things. They will steal when they think that they can get away with it, but these people never get ahead in life. They are always struggling with not having enough.

It all comes down to each of you deciding who you want to serve. God says follow Me and do what I tell you in the Bible.

You can be exceptional and trust God at His Word or you can be average and just do what comes naturally.

Thou Shalt Not Covet

Coveting is a sin done in the mind and heart. Sometimes it is never seen by anyone except God.

Coveting is when I want something you have. It is one thing to like your new boots. It is another thing to like them enough that I want a pair LIKE them. It is yet another thing that I want the pair on your feet!

Coveting is when I want something you have. It is one thing to like your family’s new truck. It is another thing to like it enough that I go find a way to buy one just like it. It is yet another thing that I want that truck so much that I take it away from you.

Coveting does not even have to act itself out. It just has to happen in the mind or in the heart.

Coveting can also mean that I want lots or large amounts of material possessions so that I feel “superior” to you. This way I have “more” than you have. Coveting can take on several forms. But no matter how you package it, it is sin.

SUMMARY

We have talked about three of the Ten Commandments in this lesson.

Did you know that the Bible says we can never be “righteous” on our own? The only “righteousness” we can claim is that of Jesus. You don’t get that any other way than to accept Him as your Savior.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you have no power to keep the commandments.

In fact, none of us in our natural state have the power to do right all of the time.

The Bible tells us that if we break ONE rule or law of God, then we are found guilty of ALL His Law. He is perfect, we are not. We needed a Savior.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

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Law & Order

Lessons in the Commandments.



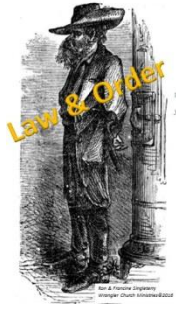
1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

Tall Tales

Lesson #6

WRANGLERS



Wranglers Tall Tales

Lesson #6 Part of Law and Order Series

Exodus 20:16 *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*

James 2:10 *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

Matthew 5:17 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

Illustration:

Play the game called "Telephone or Gossip." It is a game that demonstrates how difficult it is to keep the facts straight.

Assemble about 6 to 9 people in front of the class. Whisper into one person's ear a statement. Only say it once. Tell them to repeat it to the next person. Again, each person can only say it once [no repeats.] The last person in the row must say out loud what they THINK they have heard.

Did the story change from the first person's statement?
This is a fun game that illustrates how easily false information gets spread around.

One of the basic ground rules that God gave His people is "No lies allowed."

Introduction:

When we were children the Ten Commandments were readily posted in school classrooms. It was not that the teachers or school wanted to make people "religious." It was because these basic ten principles were considered foundational in any civilized society. Children were expected to know these "rules."

Keeping these "rules" will not get you to Heaven. Let's be clear about that right up front.

But neither are these Ten Commandments the Ten Suggestions either.

So what is the purpose or reason to study these Old Rules? Don't we already have civil laws in place to keep our country and our society safe?

Ten Commandments Notes:

The first four Commandments relate to our relationship with God while the other six are about our relationships with mankind.

Jesus said it best:

Matthew 22: 36-40 *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

Accidental Lies & Little White Lies:

Most people have heard the story of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* by Aesop. A shepherd-boy, who watched a flock of sheep near a village, brought out the villagers three or four times by crying out, "Wolf! Wolf!" and when his neighbors came to help him, laughed at them for their pains. The Wolf, however, did truly come at last. It had a tragic ending.

Sometimes, people can honestly not remember facts or words or how something took place. They may have an idea or partial remembrance and convey the facts wrongly. This is not a deliberate lie. People can be mistaken. An accidental mistake is not the subject of this commandment. Here we are talking about a deliberate, calculated falsehood.

You can even be a liar by NOT telling anything sometimes.

Not everything has to be told about everybody either. But leaving out information in order to convey a different "lean" on a story is a lie. If you ever watch movies where the lawyers are trying to persuade a jury of someone's guilt or innocence then you have wanted to stand up during the movie and shout: Tell the rest of the story; you aren't telling the whole truth!

There are no such things as little white lies and bigger lies. A lie is a lie.

Children resort to lies in order to cover up disobedience or to accuse someone else and shift the blame elsewhere. It is the natural thing to do. The natural thing to do is still the wrong thing to do. This behavior has to be corrected when detected.

Lies uncorrected lead to reinforcement of the idea that you can get by with lying in order to get out of trouble.

So when you feel your parents have come down hard on lying you should know that some sins lead to bigger consequences in life and they are attempting to obey God in correcting this behavior in you. They are attempting to save you a ton of heartache in the long run.

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Big Lies, Whoppers, & Tragedy

1 Samuel 15: 1-23 Samuel also said unto Saul, The Lord sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the Lord.

2 Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

4 And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

10 Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying,

11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.

12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord.

14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the Lord hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

17 And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel?

18 And the Lord sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the Lord, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the Lord?

20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and have gone the way which the Lord sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God in Gilgal.

22 And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

The prophet Samuel relays a message to King Saul. He gave specific instructions. He said to destroy everything, including the livestock. It was a clear message.

But look at verses 8 and 9. Saul and his soldiers disobeyed God's command. Then in verse 13 Saul begins to lie to Samuel. But verse 14 clearly shows that Samuel already knows the truth. How is it that Samuel knew?

In verse 10 God informs Samuel. **We need to remember that God is aware of each lie we tell. He notices and no matter how small we think it is, God still hates lies.**

Saul goes on to tell even bigger lies in verse 15. Now he says he disobeyed God so he could please God with a sacrifice. This is really dumb!

Samuel tells Saul in verse 22 that it is better to obey than to sacrifice!

Then Saul in verse 20 says: It's not my fault! He blames the people under his command saying they are the ones that did it. **See how one lie leads to another and how distorted reasoning becomes!**

If you look back at verse 11, God tells how Saul's days are numbered. God would not let him continue his whole life as king and pass his kingship over to his son, Jonathan. Jonathan was a good God fearing son, but the sins of his father affected him.

Your lies will have serious impact on your life and will get you into a lot of trouble. It will also hurt others.

Why go down this path with your life? God has given so many examples in the Bible to show us where sin ends up. Why won't you believe God? If you do believe God and you love Him above all else, if you don't lie because you want to please God, then you will benefit in this life and for all eternity. You will have a testimony that will allow you to be a good influence on others.

If you choose to go down the path of liars, then you will suffer and others will suffer because of you.

SUMMARY

Do not Lie is listed as the ninth of the Ten Commandments. But that does not make it less important.

Psalm 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Did you know that a baby is a born liar? Do you have a baby brother or sister? Think about it, a baby is all sweet and nice; then the parents put him in the bed for his nap. When they walk out of the room that baby can throw a crying fit so bad that you think it is caught in the bed slats and is dying. When the parent walks into the room, that little one is all smiles again. He was lying! He wasn't hurting or dying, he wanted his way so he pretended to be dying!

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Did you know that the Devil is the Father of Lies?

Did you know that the Bible says we can never be "righteous" on our own? The only "righteousness" we can claim is that of Jesus. You don't get that any other way than to accept Him as your Savior.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you have no power to keep the commandments.

In fact, none of us in our natural state have the power to do right all of the time.

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