

10 Commandments Outdated?

Have you ever told one of your kids to apologize to another child? I am quickly reminded how I have been that kid being forced to apologize, usually to my brother. I remember the feeling I would have for being forced to do or say something that I never meant. Not only was I still mad at my brother, but now I was mad at my parents for making me say sorry for something I wasn't sorry for at all. I would take satisfaction in knowing that they could force me to say "I'm sorry", but they couldn't make me mean it on the inside.

The fear of the consequences I would face controlled my behaviour, but it could not change my heart. As a parent I know that the same principle is true in my own children. I can teach them how to behave through consequences, but consequences will not change their hearts.

Would you stop reading this if I told you that teaching the 10 Commandments leaves us with the same problem? What if I told you that the 10 Commandments can control behaviour, but they have no power to change a heart? This is the reason the Bible says, "God found fault with the Law."

Let me give you an example. One of the commandments is, "You shall not murder." While that law can keep you from murder, it does not give you the power to overcome hate. The very next law is, "You shall not commit adultery." This law can command you not to commit adultery, but it fails in its ability to make you love your spouse. Do you see how the law has the ability to control behaviour, but it is not capable of changing a heart?

That's why I am so thankful for the cross of Jesus. Through Jesus we have a new covenant that is able to transform hearts. The book of Romans tells us that what the law could not do because it was weak, Jesus did. The best news is that this covenant is not based on your actions; it is solely based on what Jesus has done for you. There's even more good news. The Bible tells us that when God gave us our new covenant that the old covenant, the 10 Commandments were made obsolete. An obsolete item is no longer used or needed.

Teaching people to embrace the 10 Commandments will not change lives, will not change our city, and will not change our nation. Obeying the 10 Commandments will not bring a transformation to your life. However, teaching people to embrace Jesus will bring transformation to our lives, our city, and our nation. Let's celebrate that God does not require obedience to the 10 commandments, but only place faith in His Son, Christ Jesus.

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