



## Introduction

"Humans are such able creatures that they have made 32,647,389 laws and still haven't been able to improve on the Ten Commandments." The Ten commandments are the synopsis of the Law of Moses, which Paul declared was nailed to the cross of Christ and subsequently no longer binding. Yet, from both the biblical account and simple common sense we understand these TEN principles as the backbone of any law in just about every generation. In one sense they were removed as part of an old system of law, but in another sense they are timeless and universal, revealing to us the heart of God and the obligations of man that are at the core of existence.

It is very much like the statement we often make with regard to America's system of law and the fact that it is based on "Judeo-Christian" law. We don't mean that someone picked up the Bible and said, "Hey, let this be our law." Rather, it is a recognition of the fact that God has placed within His law and scripture a set of core values that lie at the heart of the reality

of man that are universally true. Similarly, the TEN are always true.

The Ten Commandments occur in two places in the Bible - Exodus 20 at the giving of the law on Sinai and in Deuteronomy 5 where they act as an introduction to the Jewish laws. They were given to the Lord's people on their way of Egypt and slavery around 1450 B.C.

Of the TEN the first four deal with our behavior toward God. Five through nine deal with our behaviors toward others. The final command is all about our thoughts. As you may see readily, every law that God has ever given is seemingly divided into these categories.

### **Questions for consideration - On the back or separate sheet of paper answer the following**

1. What purpose does the law serve - to the Christian, to man and to him who even rejects God?
2. What do you think Paul means when he says that the law was nailed to the cross? Does that include the Ten Commandments? (Col. 2:1-14)
3. Are we any longer saved by works of the Law? (Gal. 2:15-16)
4. Do the "works" of the law include the Ten Commandments? If so then how so?
5. What is the basis for the Ten Commandments - what concept(s) lie at the heart of them as a whole? Hope? Faith? Grace? etc. and how so?
6. What is the purpose of God's law? (See Psalm 19:1-11)
7. How the the Ten Commandments universal (for all men) in nature?
8. The phrase "thou shalt not" often takes a beaten in our culture. Why do you think that is and what does the phrase imply about God, man and the idea of law?
9. These commands being universal in nature, what does the society look like that has rejected these as foundational? How does it affect the family and other vital social structures?
10. How do the Ten commandments personally affect you and your understanding of who God is and what you obligations are toward Him?

In our study we will begin with command #10 and work our way backward, from the inside out.

