

Answers to Sermon Notes

The Ten Words: The Fifth Word

Deuteronomy 5:16

7/17/22

1. Today we begin the second table of content of the Ten Commandments with those commandments that comprehensively **govern** our relationships with **others** in this world.
 - a. More specifically, however, they govern our relationship to **human life**.
 - b. You could say, upon further reflection, that the first table governs our relationship to the **God** of **Life** and the second table governs our relationship to the **gift** of **life**.
 - i. As individuals, each of us is a recipient of the **individual** aspects of that gift, and together, we are fellow recipients of the corporate or **communal** aspects of that gift.
 - ii. The gift of human life is not simply something we hold **individually**, it is also something we hold **together**.
 - iii. These commandments, then, foster **human flourishing** in this world.
 - iv. To be truly **concerned** about these commandments, then, we need not only to see them as part of what it means to live righteously as **believers**, but also what it means to contribute to the overall **flourishing** of all human life.
 - a. It is not simply part of what it means for us to live out God's **saving** grace in our lives, it is part of our embracing God's **common** grace to all. (Love your **neighbor**...) (Mt. 5:43-48)
 - b. **Why** do we seek to follow these commandments?
 1. Not just because God **said so**, or it pleases him..
 2. But, because it **facilitates** the flourishing of human life.
 - c. As those to whom God's wisdom and truth have been **revealed**, we proclaim the first table of the law as our work of **evangelism** and we proclaim the second table of the law as our work of **cultural** engagement (contributing to the flourishing of human life). (Acts 14:15-17, Deut. 4:5-8))
 2. These 6 commandments cover our relationship to **human life** under these headings:
 - a. The **Structures** of Human Life. "Honor your father and mother."
 - b. The **Value** of Human Life. "You shall not murder."
 - c. The **Furtherance** of Human Life. "You shall not commit adultery."
 - d. The **Sustaining** of Human Life. "You shall not steal."
 - e. The **Language** of Human Life. "You shall not bear false witness."
 - f. The **Enjoyment** of Human Life. "You shall not covet."
 3. As we begin to unpack the first of these commandments, dealing with the **structures** of human life, we need to begin by reminding ourselves that God is a God of **order**.
 - a. In the **design** of creation. (Genesis 1:14-18)
 - b. In the **cycles** of creation. (Genesis 8:20-22)
 - c. In the **worship** of the church. (I Cor. 14:33)
 - d. In the dispersement of **mankind**. (Acts 17:24-27)
 - e. In the unfolding and securing of our **salvation**. (Ephesians 1:3-14)
 - i. It is only because God is a God of **order** that we have **life**, either physical or spiritual.
 - a. **Order** = **Life** (James 3:13-16)
 4. As a part of God's ordered **design** for human life he has ordained several **structured** relationships.
 - a. Structured in that they involve **authority**/responsibility of one over **another**.
 - b. And require us to **submit** ourselves appropriately.

- c. None of these authorities have **absolute** power/authority, but they are entrusted by God with **real** power/authority.
 - i. To facilitate **human flourishing**.
 - 5. The most important of these structured relationships, and the **chief** example that God gives in the commandment, is the structured relationship between **parents** and **children**.
 - a. Parents **are given** authority over, and responsibility for, their children.
 - i. This is the case because human beings need to be **raised**.
 - a. Loved, nurtured, **taught**, disciplined, trained, **entrusted** with responsibility.
 - b. Prepared for **mature**, adult human **living** and flourishing. (Proverbs 29:15-17)
 - 1. "...that it may **go well** with you..."
 - c. **Refusal** to discipline brings death. (Proverbs 19:18)
 - d. Refusal to **submit** to this brings death. (Proverbs 30:11-17)
 - ii. Since this authority has a **purpose**, it has **boundaries**. (Ephesians 6:1-4)
 - a. **Abuse** leads to the **opposite** of human flourishing. (Colossians 3:21)
 - iii. To **honor** them means to obey them, but it also means to recognize just how **important** they are in the life you will live.
 - a. Every child should **pray** that their parents are **faithful** to this calling.
 - b. But, parents must be faithful even when their children do not **understand**.
 - c. You must **love** them more than you want/need them to **love** you.
 - d. **Appreciation** often requires time and maturity.
 - b. The current state of this structured relationship is **disarray**, and the results are felt by **all**.
 - i. The authority of parents is being **denied** by the state and its schools.
 - a. The need for parental **notification** or approval is denied.
 - b. Parental **control** of curriculum is denied.
 - c. This is a course of **death** for our children and all children.
 - 1. It must be **opposed**.
 - ii. Parents are **failing**.
 - a. Fathers are often **absent**.
 - b. There is often a **failure** to discipline.
 - c. There is very little **respect** for any authority figures.
 - d. Parents are not doing enough to **secure** this God-ordained role.
6. We often ask, "Why?" – Why is there such destruction and **violence** and abuse in our society?
 - a. Let's **start** here. This is where **God** starts.
 - b. "If you want human flourishing, you must **secure** the **structured** relationship between parents and their children."
7. But, while this is the **chief** example of the structured relationships God has given for our good, there are **others**.
 - a. **Husband** and **Wife**. (Colossians 3:18-19)
 - b. **Master** and **Servant**. (Colossians 3:22 – 4:1)
 - c. **Civil Magistrate** and **Citizen**. (Romans 13:1-7)
 - d. **Church** and **Believer**. (Hebrews 13:17)
8. Every one of these relationships is **ordained** by God to increase our flourishing and the flourishing of human **community**.
 - a. And each of them is in a state of **disrepair**.
 - b. And it isn't enough for us to say, "Well, of course they are; this is a **fallen** world." For, these were designed **for** this fallen world – to keep it from descending **unhindered** into darkness and suffering.
 - i. And to point all to the God of **life** and **salvation**.
 - c. As those to whom these things have been **revealed**, we must be active in their **defense**, strengthening and proper **use**.