

Sermon Notes

The Ten Words: The Ninth Word

Deuteronomy 5:20

8/14/22

1. Today we arrive at the 5th of the 6 commandments that God wrote with his own _____ in stone as a comprehensive _____ of his will for us regarding our relationships to one another (that is, his _____ of human life), “You shall not bear _____ against your neighbor.”
2. First, let us remember that these 6 commandments comprehensively cover that relationship in this way:
 - a. (5th) The **Structures** of Human Life. “Honor your father and mother.”
 - b. (6th) The **Value** of Human Life. “You shall not murder.”
 - c. (7th) The **Furtherance** of Human Life. “You shall not commit adultery.”
 - d. (8th) The **Sustaining** of Human Life. “You shall not steal.”
 - e. (9th) The **Language** of Human Life. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”
 - f. (10th) The **Enjoyment** of Human Life. “You shall not covet.”
3. As we live this way as human beings, human life and culture experiences the greatest possible level of _____ in this fallen world, by God’s common grace.
 - a. These commandments were _____ for _____ in this fallen world.
 - b. They are the definition of what it means to, “_____ your _____ as yourself.”
4. As we examine this commandment, we see that it relates to three important concepts of life in this world: _____, _____, and _____.
 - a. The first two for _____ people; the third specifically for _____ people.
5. _____: The immediate context of this commandment is that of a _____.
 - a. This underscores that these commandments are indeed _____ for _____ in this world.
 - b. _____ things need to be made _____, as much as that is possible.
 - i. God is a God of _____.
 - a. _____ the wrongdoer and _____ the innocent. (Rom. 13)
 - b. He is _____ concerned about both. (Prov. 17:15)
 - c. It is impossible for _____ to _____ when either is not happening.
 - ii. So, he gave strict _____ regarding the testimony of _____. (Deut. 19:15)
 - a. And firm _____ for malicious ones. (19:16-21)
 - iii. This is also the reason for his warnings against _____. (Ex. 23:6-8)
 - a. People’s testimony is often determined by their _____.
 - b. Even the interest of being _____ in the right _____ (Ex. 23:1-3)
 - iv. But, this same dynamic exists in _____ courts.
 - a. In the _____, at _____, at _____, at _____, etc.
 1. Where wrong things are attempting to be _____.
 - b. To speak _____ here, too, is just as important.
 1. For this is the _____ of the community.
 2. Lies do not _____ a child of God. (John 8:42-44)
 - c. No matter how _____ the outcome, it is a central aspect of _____ your neighbor as yourself to be a truthful witness.
6. _____: The broader context of this commandment is the court of _____ opinion.
 - a. One need not be convicted of _____ conduct in a court to be effectively convicted through _____.
 - i. The formal name for this in journalism is _____.

- ii. “Libel is a method of defamation expressed by print, writing, pictures, signs... that is _____ to a person's _____, exposes a person to public hatred, contempt or ridicule, or injures a person in his/her business or profession.” (Legal Information Institute)
 - a. But, it happens all around us in both formal and _____ ways.
 - b. And God _____ it.
 - b. _____ appears in many of the vice lists in the New Testament. (Rom. 1:28-32, Col. 3:5-10)
 - i. And is closely connected to _____.
 - a. An informal journalist, who is usually not _____.
 - ii. _____ is a hidden method of _____. (Prov. 10:18, Psalm 31:11-13)
 - a. and is very _____. (Prov. 18:8, 16:28)
 - c. So, _____ has made it very _____ what he will do to slanderers. (Rom. 1:32, Col. 3:6, Prov. 19:5)
 - i. As did _____, the man after God’s own heart. (Psalm 101:5)
 - d. And while one may _____ that what one is doing is _____ or gossip, if it is:
 - i. _____ or accusatory, (James 4:11)
 - ii. Not objectively _____, (II Cor. 13:1)
 - iii. Not intended to build _____ but rather to tear _____, (Eph. 4:29)
 - iv. it _____ slanderous gossip,
 - v. It _____ deadly to that person, and
 - vi. It _____ deadly to that community. (Prov. 16:28)
 - vii. _____ are the language of death; the _____ is the language of life.
 - viii. It was this way from the _____ (Gen. 3:4-5) and will be this way to the _____.
 - e. The only righteous _____ for righteous people is to _____ to participate.
 - i. Only then, will the broader _____ of this kind of hateful activity _____. (Prov. 26:20)
 - f. The _____ summarizes it this way. (HC, Q&A 112)
7. _____: Having _____ spoken of you for the sake of Christ is the _____ sign of your salvation.
 - a. It is what was done to _____.
 - b. It is what is done to those who are ______. (Mt. 5:11-12)
 - c. So, though experiencing this kind of slander is a kind of ongoing _____, it evidences a genuine and eternal _____.
8. Let us determine from this moment never to have anything to do with bearing _____ witness, and to consciously allow the experience of such things for the sake of Christ to create in us a _____ that far exceeds the _____.