

Freedom To Do Rightly

Long Beach Alliance Church • February 26th, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***It was for freedom that Christ set us free;
therefore keep standing firm and do not
be subject again to a yoke of slavery.***

~Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

1) The Adventure Of Slavery To Freedom

- A) The first 20 chapters of Exodus are an extraordinary story beginning with blessing which results in slavery, slavery with leads to a savior, a savior who brings freedom from slavery, and freedom which provides intimacy with God.

- B) As part of this incredible adventure, God engages His chosen people by giving them special commandments which lay a foundation for loving God and loving others.

- C) These ten foundational commandments are:
 - 1) No other gods (Exodus 20:3).
 - 2) No worship of any idol of any kind (20:4-6).
 - 3) No misuse of God's name (20:7).
 - 4) Remember Sabbath rest (20:8-11).
 - 5) Honor your parents (20:12).
 - 6) Do not murder people (20:13).
 - 7) Do not sleep with anyone else's spouse (20:14).
 - 8) Do not take what is not yours (20:15).
 - 9) Do not give false testimony about others (20:16).
 - 10) Do not desire the possessions of others (20:17).

2) The Book Of The Covenant

- A) The next section of Exodus (21:1-23:33) is known as the “book of the covenant” (24:7), and serves as a long list of rules for everyday life for God’s people.
- B) The rules which the book of the covenant stipulate cover things like retribution for personal actions (21:24, “eye for an eye”), to social directives (22:22, “you shall not afflict any widow or orphan”), to business dealings (22:25, “if you lend money...”).
- C) These laws served as a foundational guide for how God’s chosen people were to relate to God and one another. They fleshed out the ten foundational commandments, giving greater depth and clarity for everyday living.

3) The Purpose Of The Law

- A) The purpose of the Jewish Law, much like the laws of our own modern society, are to give us the boundaries for behavior. Laws tell us what to avoid, and sometimes even why we should avoid certain actions.
- B) God’s law is holy, righteous, and good (Romans 7:12). But since we sin (we are lawbreakers), the law is a burden for us, revealing our total incapability to be righteous (7:13).

4) Christ’s Fulfillment Brings A Deeper Life

- A) Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled every aspect of the Law, even providing a perfect blood sacrifice for God’s chosen people, providing forgiveness for sin. Through trusting in the life and work of Jesus Christ, we no longer are held to the standard of the Law, true freedom (Romans 8:1-11).
- B) Rather than following God “according to the rules,” we are able to follow the true Spirit of God, not limited by the Law.
- C) Our lives are no longer bound to the letter of laws, but to the Spirit of God, which extends to the deeper truths of God’s character of love and compassion (Matthew 5:21-48).