

# Perspectives

## I Command You!

Most, if not all of us, do not like to be told what to do. When we hear, “Do this!” or “Don’t do that!” it can make our blood boil. Obviously, each day we are told what to do by someone or something. The red light means, “Stop.” Your boss gives you a task to do before the end of the day. Your 13-year-old has to be driven to soccer practice by 4 PM. Each April the government requires you to pay your fair share of taxes. If you think about it, life has many commands that are continuously thrown our way.

The truth is, we have the choice to ignore or disobey the commands we are given. However, there are consequences. For example, ignoring the red light could result in a serious accident. Shrugging off the commands of your supervisor could end your employment. Refusing to pay your taxes can lead to financial penalties. We have the freedom to say yes or no, but we must also realize there might be a price to pay for saying no.

God gave the people 10 commands. But these were not “Do it, or else” type commands. They were given in love in order to help the people live in right relationship with God and with others. God did not give these commandments as a way to make people toe the line or set unrealistic expectations that no one could live up to. Rather, the people needed to understand what a healthy relationship with God and with others was all about.

In looking closer, we see that God’s commands look upward and outward. The first four (Exodus 20:3-11) focus up, on God. God is the God of the universe, and He alone is to be served and worshiped. The next six (Exodus 20:12-17) focus out, toward others. These are commands to help us know how to live in healthy and godly relationship with those around us.

In recent years, there has been controversy regarding the displaying of the Ten Commandments on or in public buildings and property. However, turn on the evening news and it doesn’t take long to see what happens when society lives by their own rules and guidelines, ignoring or refusing to obey the ones God set forth in His Word.

In these commandments, God identifies himself, and keeping His commands is our faith response to God. God does not force us to obey. However, living in obedience to the instruction God gives shows our love for God and our love for others.

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

MIKE WONCH

Editor