

Dgroup Discussion Guide for February 19, 2017

THE PERFECT “10”

Scripture: **EXODUS 20**

In Exodus 20, the Lord gives the Israelites--through Moses--the Ten Commandments. As a chosen people set apart by God, they were expected to follow all of them to live holy lives. Christians, in the same way, are to abide by all the commandments. We only need to commit one sin to be considered a sinner. James 2:10 says, ***For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.*** Additionally, Matthew 5:48 says that, ***You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*** As humans, however, it is impossible for us to completely follow all ten commandments.

If we already know that we cannot obey the law perfectly, then why even bother obeying it? There are three reasons:

1. *We distinguish ourselves as God’s people.*

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 says, ***“See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandment of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known.”*** God is a jealous god; it’s either Him or “other gods.” If we believe--and acknowledge--that He is the one true god, then we consecrate ourselves from this world.

2. *We prove we love God.*

1 John 5:3 says, ***For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*** Contrary to popular belief, His commands are not meant to shackle or restrict us; they’re actually put in place for our benefit. John 15:10-11 also says, ***“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*** There is not only blessing in obedience, but also joy. However, true obedience only comes with having a relationship with the rule-maker, which in this case is God. Rules without relationship will only lead to rebellion.

3. *We become effective witnesses for Jesus.*

1 Peter 2:11-12 says, ***Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*** Actions speak louder than words, and the way we live our our Christianity is a magnet for those who do not know Christ for themselves.

It's important to note that the commandments are not in place for us to work *for* our salvation, but are a means for us to work *out* our salvation. Romans 8:1-4 says, ***There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*** Rather than to abolish the law, Jesus came to fulfill it.

If we have Jesus, why, then do we need the commandments? According to Romans 3:19-20, ***Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*** Basically, because of the law, we become conscious of sin. We also realize how much we need Jesus in our lives, because we are forced to face the fact that we on our own strength cannot obey the law perfectly.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, ***For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*** We are only then acceptable to God because of the shedding of Jesus' blood, and it is only through Him that we will be able to enter heaven.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

Points to reflect on:

- In what areas of my life do I still continue to struggle with my obedience to God's commandments.
- What hinders me from completely obeying God's commandments whole heartedly and intentionally?
- Have I consecrated myself to God? Am I set apart for Him?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.