



Dgroup Discussion Guide for April 2, 2017

Fulfill the Law of Love

Scripture: *Exodus 20:13-17*

Matthew 22:37-39 says, ***And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*** The second half of the Ten Commandments deals with our relationship with other people, specifically how we are supposed to demonstrate love toward them.

1. "You shall not murder." (Exodus 20:13)

Matthew 5:21-22 says, ***"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."*** We might think of murder exclusively as taking another person's life, but according to the Bible, even a negative thought that stems out of anger is considered murder in the eyes of the Lord.

2. "You shall not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14)

Adultery is "to have carnal knowledge with someone that is not your spouse." For singles, this is called fornication. The Bible tells us that sexual relations are meant to be done in the context of marriage. Matthew 5:28 says, ***"But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*** One does not need to actually do something physically to commit the sin of adultery, as merely thinking lustfully breaks this commandment.

3. "You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15)

Stealing means "taking and carrying away, feloniously." While we normally associate this with literally taking possession of something that isn't yours, this actually also includes acts like not giving our tithes. Malachi 3:8 says, ***"Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions."*** Paying lip service to God is also stealing, as it robs God of His rightful glory.

4. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)

A lie is "a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive or mislead, causing someone to believe error." Deceit, on the other hand, is the "act or practice intended to mislead by false appearance or statement." Lying isn't just outright falsehood; it is also false promises, flattery, false doctrine, hypocrisy, self-deception and half-truths. We have to be careful with our words. With God, all sin is sin. We are the ones that change the standard for ourselves.

5. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

(Exodus 20:17)

To covet is to “indulge inordinate desire” for something. Desire is dangerous, because it can lead to sin. James 1:14-15 says, ***But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*** The solution against such sin is to simply be content with what you have and to focus on the blessings that God has given you.

Jesus says in Matthew 5:17, ***“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”*** Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, we do not need to follow the law to get to heaven; by faith in Jesus and through God’s grace, we are able to have a relationship with our Creator. So why, then, do we have the law? The law gives us knowledge of sin. It was put in place to show us our sinful nature and our need for a savior in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:19 says, ***It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.***

If we do not need the law to be saved, then why should we in turn obey? Jesus says in John 14:15, ***“If you love me, you will keep my commands.”*** Our motivation of obedience should stem from a heart of gratitude and love toward God, because it is how we demonstrate our love for Him.

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:

1. How are we unable to fulfill/ obey God’s laws of love?
2. What is it that hinders us or makes it difficult for us to obey?
3. What are some things we can do to intentionally break the chain of disobedience to God’s law of love?

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.