

Sermon Outline

BAPTIZED NATION

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD: THE CODE OF THE BAPTIZED I (EXODUS 20:1-11)

I. The Gifts of Our Baptism

Because baptism initiates us into the Kingdom of God, baptism also gives us a new code of conduct, a new Law for life. This Law is the Ten Commandments.

II. Some Principles for Reading the Ten Commandments

- A. There are *two sections* to the Ten Commandments
 - 1. Commandments 1-4 relate directly to God.
 - 2. Commandments 5-10 relate directly to our fellow human beings.
- B. Use the *inside/outside rule*: God requires both external conformity and inward delight in order for true obedience to his commandments to occur.
- C. Use the *two-sided rule*: God requires the opposite of all that he prohibits.
 - 1. God forbids adultery—but requires love and delight between spouses.
 - 2. God forbids theft—but requires generosity with our resources.
- D. Use the *rule of categories*:
—Each commandment condemns a whole category of sins, not just the most destructive forms.

III. The Lord YHWH Introduces Himself to Israel (Exodus 20:2)

IV. The First: YHWH Alone Is God (Exodus 20:3)

- A. The First Commandment requires monotheism, **the worship of YHWH alone.**
- B. Negatively, this commandment forbids us from committing idolatry.
 - 1. We may not worship other gods next to YHWH because...
 - a. YHWH alone created the universe.
 - b. YHWH alone is the Definer of right and wrong.
 - c. YHWH alone is our Savior and Divine Patron.
- C. Positively, this commandment requires us to...
 - 1. Worship YHWH alone.
 - 2. Entrust our future and salvation to YHWH alone.
 - 3. Derive our purpose from YHWH alone.
 - 4. Make YHWH our supreme delight and happiness.

V. The Second: Worship YHWH His Way (Exodus 20:4)

- A. The Second Commandment requires **the proper worship of God.**
- B. Negatively, this commandment forbids us to worship YHWH by means of images and other superstitious practices.
- C. Positively, this commandment requires us to...
 - 1. Worship God in the way that he wants, using all the actions that he has invested with significance for his service.
 - 2. Love God's right to decide what kind of worship he wants to receive.

VI. The Third: Revere YHWH's Name (Exodus 20:7)

- A. The Third Commandment requires **the reverencing of God's Name.**
- B. How do we misuse God's Name? We do so when we...
 - 1. Blaspheme the Name of God.
 - 2. Make promises to God but fail to keep them (Jdg 13:7).
 - 3. Make sinful promises and expect God to endorse them (Jdg 11).

4. Misread providence (e.g. “Christchurch was struck by an earthquake. Therefore, God must be punishing Christchurch.”)
 5. Misapply God’s Word and teach false doctrine.
 6. Fail to proclaim God’s Word when we have the opportunity to do so.
 7. Fail to represent God well in our conduct.
- C. Positively, this commandment requires us to...
1. Reverently use all the means by which God makes himself known.
 2. Be proud of the Name of God our Father (1 Cor 1:31).

VII. The Fourth: Remember YHWH’s Sabbath Day (Exodus 20:8-11)

- A. The Fourth Commandment requires **the honoring of God’s day of rest.**
- B. We misuse God’s day when we go back to our regular work on the Sabbath.
1. This is a sign of not wanting to follow God’s example.
 2. This is a sign of not trusting in God for our needs.
 3. This is a sign of boredom with God.
- C. Positively, this commandment requires us to...
1. Devote the Sabbath day, to the fullest extent that we are able, to the worship of God.
 2. Grant rest to others so that they too are able to worship the Lord.

VI. Love the Lord Your God

Now that God has accepted us into his Kingdom, we must joyfully embrace the holy and royal Law of God’s Realm. The Law of the Kingdom reveals what it means to be truly human. We must worship YHWH alone and in the way that pleases him. We must revere YHWH’s holy Name. And we must observe YHWH’s Sabbath day. At the heart of these commandments is one simple rule: We must love the Lord our God and delight in his reign over our lives!