

Sermon Outline

BAPTIZED NATION

LOVE YOUR FELLOW MAN: THE CODE OF THE BAPTIZED II (EXODUS 20:12-17)

- I. **The Ten Commandments as the Code of Royalty**

- II. **The Fifth: Revere Your Parents (Exodus 20:12)**
 - A. The Fifth Commandment requires **the honoring of one's parents**.

 - B. Using the *inside/outside rule*, God calls us to honor our parents by...
 1. Revering them in our hearts.
 2. Recognizing that God is the authority behind them.
 3. Imitating what is good in our parents.
 4. Defend and maintain them in their old age.

 - C. Using the *two-sided rule*, God calls us to honor our parents by avoiding everything that dishonors them.

- III. **The Sixth: Love Life (Exodus 20:13)**
 - A. This is the most basic rule regarding human behavior.

 - B. Negatively, “You shall not murder” means...
 1. Refraining from unjust removal of human life.
 2. Refraining from attitudes that lead to murder—anger, vengefulness, hatred (Mt 5:21-22).
 3. Refraining from hurting our fellow humans through “character assassination.”

 - C. Positively, “You shall not murder” means...
 1. Doing what we can to preserve life.
 2. Resisting all inner attitudes that lead to murderous hatred.
 3. Developing virtues such as gentleness, kindness, patience, and forbearance—the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).

 - D. In the Sixth Commandment, God is calling us to **love life**.

IV. The Seventh: Uphold Marriage and Sexual Purity (Exodus 20:14)

- A. The Seventh Commandment addresses the institution in which life and parenthood begins: Marriage.
- B. Negatively, the Seventh Command calls us to refrain from...
 - 1. Adultery
 - 2. All other kinds of sexual sin
 - a. Fornication: Sexual relations between unmarried persons.
 - b. Incest: Sexual relations amongst close family members (Lev 18).
 - c. Homosexuality: Sexual relations between people of the same gender (Lev 20:13).
 - d. Lust—"adultery in the heart" (Mt 5:26-27)
- C. Positively, the Seventh Command calls us to **highly esteem marriage and sexual purity.**

V. The Eighth: Give Others Their Dues (Exodus 20:15)

- A. Negatively, the Eighth Command calls us to refrain from...
 - 1. Theft (1 Cor 6:10)
 - 2. Robbery and extortion (1 Cor 5:10)
 - 3. Kidnapping (Ex 21:16)
 - 4. Deceptive merchandising (Ps 15:5)
 - 5. Greed (1 Cor 6:10): "nor thieves, nor the greedy..."
- B. Positively, the Eighth Command calls us **to give our neighbors their dues.**
 - 1. If we have stolen any goods, we must make restitution wherever possible.
 - 2. If we have not given our best at work, we must work harder to redeem the time (Eph 4:28).
 - 3. If we have been withholding ourselves from those who have a right to us, we must give ourselves in renewed service to them.

VI. The Ninth: Love the Truth and Your Neighbor's Reputation (Exodus 20:16)

- A. Lying is closely connected to theft, adultery, and murder (Lev 19:11).
- B. God hates lying because it destroys the foundations of human community.

- C. Negatively, the Ninth Command forbids us from...
1. Fabricating facts
 2. Flattery
 3. Exaggerating our accomplishments
 4. Withholding information from those who need to know
 5. Slandering our fellowmen
- D. Positively, the Ninth Command requires us to **love the truth** and **preserve our neighbor's reputation**.

VII. The Tenth: Seek the Wholeness of Your Neighbor (Exodus 20:17; Colossians 3:5)

VIII. Love Your Fellow Man

Now that we have been saved from our sins, God calls us to live as his new humanity. God is teaching us what it means to be truly human. The heart of the second section of the Ten Commandments is love for our fellow man. But this love is not a mere sentimental feeling of "niceness." It is nothing less than a zealous devotion to the total good of another human being. It is reverence for our parents; a love for life; a deep respect for marriage and sexual purity; a determination to give others their due; a passion for the truth and our neighbor's reputation, and an active pursuit of the wholeness of our neighbor. We can love because Christ has loved us and continues to love us (1 Jn 4:19). We must love because God is love (1 Jn 4:8).