

How to Present Gods Law (10 Commandments)

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ, MY ARTICLE; "THE LAW- TO PREACH OR NOT TO PREACH" BEFORE YOU TEACH THIS MATERIAL

- This teaching is not supposed to be a comprehensive presentation on God's Law. It is intended to give the basics and offer a few insights to get you started. Let's look first at...

What the Law is Not.

It is not a means of Salvation.

- *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9)...*
- Neither is it the most important message Christians have to share- the Gospel is!!!
- Whilst all true Christian's would agree with that last statement, many preachers of God's Law leave you thinking otherwise. Whilst their presentation of the law is polished their Gospel presentation is often much shorter, lacking detail (important information) and often not followed by an opportunity to forsake all and follow Jesus. Please consider what I've just said and...
- Take to heart the words of Paul, *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:5*

It is not a baseball bat to beat people up with

- Some preachers present God's Law in an arrogant mocking way and appear more intent on "paying back the world" than seeing it won to Christ.
- People like this have issues with low self- esteem, issues with control and unforgiveness; they should not use such a powerful witnessing "tool" till they've dealt with these issues.
- They need to remember to, that it is not their Law, it is God's Law. We will be held accountable for how we use even the Law.
- The law- was (is) a *"schoolmaster to bring us to Christ" (Galatians 3:24)* not a softball bat to beat people with.
- In Galatians 3:19- the picture presented of God's Law is that of a guardian of the people of God (the Jews) to keep them from sin until the one who was to deal with sin (Jesus) was revealed, and Galatians 4:4-5 NLT says, *"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children"...* So the idea that some present of the Law as cranky schoolmaster whipping people along is not an accurate one.

What the Law is and what it does

- The Law is one of four "tools" every serious soul-winner should have in their spiritual arsenal; the others are, a prepared testimony (1 Chronicles 16:8, 9; 1 Peter 3:15; Revelations 12:11), a prepared Gospel presentation (Matthew 28:18-20) and a strategy (Luke 10:1-9)
- A "schoolmaster to bring us to Christ" (Galatians 3:24)

- The law gives the Holy Spirit the grounds to convict the sinner of sin, righteousness and judgement to come and show them their need for a saviour.
- It is described in Gods Law as...Pure- Psalms 91:8,9; Spiritual- Romans 7:14; Holy, just and good –Romans 7:12; Perfect-Psalm 19:7; Truth- Psalm 119:142; Not grievous- 1 John 1:9

So what does the Law do?

- The law exposes the deeper problem man has- that he is separated from God.
- The sins we commit are the evidence that we are sinners at heart. We are born sinners and are under the wrath of God until we are saved. God's wrath remains on the whole human race, if it wasn't for His mercy standing between us and His wrath, we would be instantly destroyed.
- We know a lemon tree is a lemon tree by its fruit, because eventually it produces lemons. Picking the lemons off the tree will not stop it from eventually producing more lemons. If we want to stop a lemon tree from producing lemons we need to cut it down- The cuts us down to size when we "see our sin"
- The Law reveals our sin to us. *Romans 3:20. "Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."*

Should we share the law with everyone?

- You might as well ask, "Should we share our testimony with those same people?" or "should we share the Gospel with everyone we share the Law with?" -The answer is NO, evangelism is not a "one size fits all affair"
- We are also warned not to throw pearls to swine, yet many carelessly throw the pearls of the Law to those who trample them- again it is important to be led by the Spirit not locked into legalism.
- Some people don't need to hear a "packaged presentation" of the Law. They are already aware of their sin and sick of it. Some live with guilt and shame and need only be told the way out.
- When presented to people with a "non-religious" background a "full" Gospel presentation often has more convicting power than a "packaged presentation" of the Law
- That does not mean we should not use it, just that there a times when another approach is better.
- The truth is, the law is most powerful when shared in a background of "CHRISTIAN/Religious CONTEXT." According to the Oxford Dictionary *Context* is the circumstance that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.
- In evangelism, this context has more to do with goodwill garnered through good-works, positive community involvement as well as faith sharing. In short the law is best received in a community that has a positive view of the Church.

The Law must be presented in (Agape) Love

- How we say something can be the difference between it being accepted or rejected; received well and not received well.
- We've all heard stories of people who have had news of the death of a loved one "dumped" on them- this only added to the pain.
- In contrast; others have heard the same kind of news from a compassionate stranger (a policeman or a doctor perhaps), they remark, often years later how considerate and caring that person was, and they remember every word the person said to them.
- When we present the Law we are not always talking to hardened junkies, drug dealers, gang members or criminals. Often-times we are talking to genuine, caring and compassionate people.
- We need to be aware we are in essence telling these people they have failed. Their good works (some done for the right reasons) are as filthy rags to God, and worse - they're going to hell.
- Because the message is a strong one, the non-verbal communication (body language) needs to be conveying concern for the person.
- Please understand I am not talking about "faking it," if you don't have a genuine love for the lost then don't use the law, because after all love sums up the law
 - ✓ *Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus said to him, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*
Matthew 22:37-40,
 - ✓ *Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.*
Romans 10:13

How to present the Law One-to-One

Two Approach Questions

- When using the Law in personal work you will need one or two approach questions. After introducing yourself ask ...
 1. Are you into spiritual things?
 2. If you died today where would you go?
- After hearing their answers ask, Are you sure about that; would you like to know for certain?
- Have you heard of the Ten Commandments they are Gods rules or laws and show us what His standards are.
- The 10th Commandment says "*You shall not Covet.*" Coveting is desiring what others have. God said we are not to covet someone else's wife or husband, house, vehicle (donkey) or anything else that belongs to them; have you ever done that? (When you ask a question always wait for the answer) So in Gods eyes what does that make you?
- The 9th Commandment says, "*You shall not lie.*" This includes what we call white lies- because the truth is not the whole truth and nothing but the truth it is just a lie. Have you ever told a lie? So when you tell a lie what does that make you?

- The 8th Commandment says, “You shall not steal.” Have ever stolen something even something small, a pen, a pencil, or a piece of fruit or some candy maybe? So in Gods eyes, what does that make you? That’s right it makes you a thief.
- The 7th commandment says, “Do not commit adultery”. Most say they have never done that before. But Jesus said, “if you even look at a woman (or man for that matter) with lust in your heart you have already done it in your heart”. Have you ever looked at a woman with lust in your heart? In God’s eyes what does that make you?
- Okay we have only done 4 of the Ten Commandments –there is still six we haven’t done. But you have already admitted that you are a coveter, a liar, a thief and an adulterer at heart. The Bible says the person who breaks just one of Gods laws is guilty of breaking all of them. So If God were to judge you by His Ten Commandments would you be guilty or innocent? (Listen to their admission of guilt) and agree with them. Say, “this is the Bad News now I want to tell you the Good News”.
- At stage you need to decide whether to share your testimony or go straight to the Gospel.
- If it’s your testimony ask, “CAN I TELL YOU HOW I CAME TO KNOW JESUS”? If it’s the Gospel ask, “CAN I SHOW YOU FROM GODS WORD HOW I CAME TO KNOW JESUS”
- Explain the Gospel to them. If they know nothing of God the Father or Christ then you will need to start the Gospel from Creation. Refer to -Gospel workshop #1 & #2

WORKSHOP

- **Role-play a presentation 2 or 3 times for your students.**
- **Pair them up so they can practise.**
- **Role-play one last time.**
- **Pair the students up to practise again.**
- **As a finale perhaps you can have one or two students role-play a presentation in front of everyone.**