

There are twenty thousand laws on the books regulating gun ownership alone. In 2010 an estimated forty thousand new laws were added at various levels throughout the country. The United States Code, which is just one accounting of federal laws and does not include regulatory statutes, has more than fifty volumes. In 2008 a House committee asked the Congressional Research Service to calculate the number of criminal offenses in federal law. They responded, five years later, that they lacked the manpower and resources to answer such a question.

- K. DeYoung

# Why Study the 10

## I. All Scripture is profitable.

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

– Romans 15:4

# Why Study the 10

## II) Central to the Mosaic Covenant.

“The events which occurred in this wilderness area represent one of the high points of Hebrew history. The exodus from Egypt constituted only the first phase of the creation of a nation. The completion of that image and establishment of a particular religious identity took place here at Sinai. It was here that they received the law and the tabernacle. The law provided the way to life; the tabernacle demonstrated the way to worship.”

- J. Davis

# Why Study the 10

III) The Law is foundational to our moral ethics.

## Matthew 5:17

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.”



## Matthew 22:37 - 40

<sup>37</sup> 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.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

“The Hebrew expression, which occurs three times in the Old Testament (Ex. 34:28; Deut. 4:13; 10:4) literally means “ten words.” This is why Exodus 20 is often referred to as the Decalogue, *deka* being the Greek word for “ten” and *logos* meaning “word.” These are the Ten Words that God gave the Israelites at Mount Sinai.”

- K. DeYoung







## Deuteronomy 4:7-10

<sup>7</sup> For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him? <sup>8</sup> Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup> “Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. <sup>10</sup> *Remember* the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, ‘Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’

## Deuteronomy 4:33-36

<sup>33</sup> Has *any* people heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire, as you have heard *it*, and survived? <sup>34</sup> Or has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within *another* nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? <sup>35</sup> To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him. <sup>36</sup> Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you; and on earth He let you see His great fire, and you heard His words from the midst of the fire.

## Romans 3:28

<sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

# The Purpose of the Ten

I) Set Israel apart as belonging to God.

<sup>6</sup>and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

- Exodus 19:6



# The Purpose of the Ten

## II) Reveal God's holiness.

<sup>44</sup> For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.

- Leviticus 11:44a

# The Purpose of the Ten

## III) Regulate Israel's lives together.

<sup>44</sup> Then Moses came and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he, with Joshua the son of Nun. <sup>45</sup> When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, <sup>46</sup> he said to them, "Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, *even* all the words of this law. <sup>47</sup> For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you will prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess."

- Deuteronomy 32:44-47

# The Purpose of the Ten

## IV)Reveal Man's Condition

What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

- Romans 7:7

# The Purpose of the Ten

## V) Restrain Man's Wrong Behavior.

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; <sup>4</sup> for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

- Romans 13:1-4



# The Purpose of the Ten

## VI) Point us to Christ.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

-Galatians 3:24

“As you consider the Ten Words, consider the Holy God who spoke them. God is awesome in holiness yet amazing in His mercy. The God who was ablaze on Sinai is also the God who as rescued us like an eagle. He is to be loved and feared. His commandments are a divine gift from a gracious God who saves and divine truth from an awesome God who calls us to holiness.”

- Exposition Commentary p. 123

# First Command as Foremost

- By Asserting Monotheism.
- By Asserting Exclusivity.

“It’s possible to be full of sincere worship and worship the wrong God. That’s the reason for the first commandment. The God of the Bible is not simply interested in being recognized as a strong and mighty deity. That would not have been a controversial claim in the ancient world. Lots of peoples had lots of impressive gods and goddesses. What was controversial, and what set the Israelites apart from the other nations, was that their God demanded to be worshiped alone, as the *only* God, to the *exclusion* of all others.”

- K. DeYoung



# First Command As Foremost

- By Asserting Monotheism.
- By Asserting Exclusivity.
- By Demanding Supreme Allegiance.

“To live in this day is to live in an antinomian age, an age that is “against all law.” Western society is addicted to minimal law and maximum flexibility. The God who spoke is now dismissed by the millions, by the “enlightened” ones, by the intellectual elite, as a sky god of ancient and now overcome superstition. Antinomian to the core, modern society resists the very notion of a binding authority. After all, who can tell *us* what we must and must do? Who can tell us how to live? Who can tell us whom we are to serve?”

- A. Mohler