

Introduction

Thank you for joining us today in our study of the Ten Commandments, a study which has so far concentrated on the relationship of men with God. For the first four commandments the Lord informed His people of the importance of honoring the Person, Worship, Name and Day of God. The concept was that a nation of priests would need a holy association with the God they served. We observe that while the law honored God, it also demonstrated what was best for His people. Our observation is that we are at our best when we are loving the Lord and occupied with His will. The commands thus far move us in that direction.

However with the fifth commandment there is a change in emphasis from thinking about God to thinking about others. We refer to this as the second table of the law. The first directs man to a right relationship with God while the second orders his affairs with other men. Some persons make slight differences in the arrangement of the tables but this does not affect the point of the law which eventually comes to the direct point of honoring God and man. Most scholars feel the fifth command is a turning point where God, having spoken of Himself, now says.. "Honor thy Father and thy Mother.." and from that point reaches out to help us live with all others.

I personally do not think the transition is that abrupt. The nature of the command and the reasons attached to it suggest a movement that is more gradual. Having honored God in His Person we move to honor Him in His order. God is supreme and is worshipped as the wise Creator by all but He has ordered the world in wisdom and established guidelines that direct our lives with one another. The honoring of those guidelines enables us to respect one another, to be free from violent aggression and its results and to