

The Ten Commandments # 7

Introduction

Welcome again to our continuing discussion of the Ten Commandments. We appreciate your time with us and trust that our thinking about the law of God will be profitable to you. But before continuing in our study, let us review the progress in the revelation of the law thus far.

We have seen that God gave the law to allow the people of Israel to live as the children of God. The law had a protective effect as well as a prohibitive value. In the case of the first, the law protected the people of God from the evil of the things that displeased God as well as from those social acts that ruin lives. In the second, it prohibited participation in the self-will practices of those who do not live in honor of God. As such the law was not a burden but a light. It becomes burdensome as it is disobeyed but in its primary role the law served as a teacher to lead men to trust God. Basically it instructed men how to honor God and how to live with others. Therefore under the law Israel could honor God and man and so show the goodness and justice of the Lord.

The second portion of the law honors man whom God created. WE are taught to respect the divine order as if thereby to insure greater peace and continuance for ourselves in the will of God. With the Divine order thus established we are instructed to withdraw ourselves from all the acts and attitudes that ~~lead~~ lead up to aggressive and vicious behaviour. And then we are told... "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14).

The Seventh Commandment: Meaning

Adultery is easily defined. Succinctly Webster says: "Voluntary sexual intercourse by a married man with another than his wife or by a married woman with another than her husband." The definition is explicit