

## ***Devotion from the past ... 2003***

Read [Exodus 20:1-17](#)

### **Perfect 10**

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today; tomorrow there may be a law against it! If you lived during the compilation of Leviticus, you might have adopted that attitude! On the other hand, there's the story of a critically ill lawyer seen frantically flipping through the pages of a Bible. He was looking for loopholes!

Laws intended to bring out the best of people seem just as likely to bring out the worst. We could dismiss that truism with a ho-hum "Well, that's just human nature" were we not aware of another truism. God demands good behavior. Good? More like perfect.

Human nature, originally sinful, tends to rebel against laws. "The speed limit is 35? I'm late for worship! Who cares if I'm doing 82? (Or 36?)" If we don't want to test our own attitude about laws, we can examine Adam and Eve's. They had only one law. It wasn't very popular and didn't make much sense when subjected to human reason. Soooo, as they say, the rest is history.

God's law is especially hard to take when people don't like anyone telling them what to do. Restrictions! Limitations! Not the stuff of modern living. Not even in 1400 BC! Ever since the beginning of law, law has had a bad name, mostly among law-breakers.

God's law, given to Moses & Company, was perfect. His people needed to know how to live, and He had every right to tell them. God's Seventh Commandment could have been "Thou shalt not eat pizza on Thursdays." Or His Second Commandment could have been "Thou shalt not use lemons to make lemonade." In other words, God could have made random laws just for the fun of telling someone what to do. But it's not God's nature to act that way.

Consider this: Life would be heaven on Earth if all us obeyed God's Perfect 10. God loved His people so much, that He shared His wisdom—and His demands. Think what it would mean if we could perfectly fulfill the Ten Commandments. Our students and their families would always have God first in their lives. (No hockey practice as an excuse for missing worship; no BMW to substitute for first-fruits stewardship.)

Next, when Mrs. Kratchet had a complaint (as if there were reason for one), her conversation with you would be in language flowered with fragrant perfumes instead of smoldering fumes. You would have one day of complete rest from lesson plans, telephone calls, and bulletin boards. Students would always treat

you with respect. Playground duty wouldn't involve bloodshed. Counsel with that attractive parent would be free of distractions. The congregation clusters would all be talking about the great thing you did this week. Get the picture?

We like that picture when we're the center of the benefits. Truth is, the same behavior is expected of us and would have a wonderful effect on others. Truth is, God demands Perfect 10 behavior from us. Truth is hard to take.

Thank God for coming to us as Jesus Christ. Thank Him for obeying the law that's impossible for us. Not only that! Thank Him for suffering the consequences of our misbehavior. Truth is, Jesus is the only Perfect 10. Truth is sweet!

Prayer Thought: Thank God for His law. Ask Him to make His will your will. Ask forgiveness with humble confidence.

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*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24–25)*