

## **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS - Introduction**

The Ten Commandments are also referred to as the 'Decalogue'

Today, in many parts of the world (including India), many believe that there are no "moral absolutes." How many times have we heard statements like these: "What's right for you may not be right for me."; "If it feels good do it."; "Anything goes."; " Nothing is right or wrong, there are just different opinions?"

### **THE REASONS FOR THE LAW**

- ⇒ To reveal His glory and Holiness – Deuteronomy 5:22-28
- ⇒ To mark Israel as His chosen and to separate them from the heathen – Psalm 147:19-20;
- ⇒ To give Israel a standard for godly living – Deuteronomy 4:1; 5:29

### **The Law is:**

- ⇒ A Mirror – James 1:22-25 – It reveals man's sins
- ⇒ A Schoolmaster – Points men to Jesus – Gal. 3:23-4:7

With all this in mind, some Christians might be prone to think that the Law therefore has no impact on us today. That there is no reason for us to even think about the Law or the Ten Commandments. That is a false assumption! When we get to the place where we need no guidelines, then we have entered lawlessness and we are in trouble and in sin.

Read Matthew 5:17-18. Jesus did not come to abolish or to do away with the Law or Ten Commandments. He came to fulfill them. When we are in Christ, the Ten Commandments become more relevant than ever.

Read Matthew 22:35-40 – Jesus summed up all the Law of God into two commandments. If I love God as I should, I will always keep Commandments 1-4. If I love my neighbor as I should, I will always keep Commandments 5-10. Augustine put it this way, "Love God and do as you please." That works, because when you love God, you will always seek to do those things that please Him! Our society finds truth too strong a medicine to digest undiluted. What Moses brought down from Mt. Sinai were not the "10 Suggestions." They are Commandments

### **Can we keep these rules for life?**

Not in ourselves, but it is possible in Jesus – Philippians 4:13. The Reason? We operate with a different motive and power as believers in Jesus. Far too many have tried to keep the 10 Commandments from the outside in. They have tried to do good to change their heart. As Christians, we come at the things from the opposite direction. Because our hearts have been changed, we are able to live the Ten Commandments from the inside out and it works just fine! Yes, they are relevant! And, we shall see that as this series unfolds.