

“The Role of Rules”

THE ROLE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Foundational Premise: Rules always assume a relationship.

- Family Model of Rules
- Club/Employee Model of Rules

How does the role of rules apply to a relationship with God?

- Theological response
- Emotional response

The oldest and best documented set of laws: 10 Commandments, 1446 BC (Exodus 20)

- Nation of Israel is a slave nation (400 years)
- Delivered by God through Moses
- Mt. Sinai

*And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. (Exodus 20:1-2)
“Trust Me!” (Passover, Exodus 12)*

First Commandment

“You shall have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20:3)

- The Ten Commandments were a *confirmation* of, not a *condition* of, Israel’s relationship with God. *“Trust Me!”*
- The Prophets are evidence that God wasn’t going to give up on His children.
- God would discipline His children not to *pay them* back but to *bring them* back.
- The Commandments serve as a “mirror” to show us our sin, to show us God’s kindness that leads to repentance, and to show us our Savior.
- With God, relationship precedes rules. God opts for the family model over the club model.
- The role of rules is confirmation of, not a condition of, a relationship with God.
- The Commandments are evidence of God’s motivational love and provision for His children and are a “curb” that keeps order in our lives and society.
- The Commandments are a “guide” to show us what we should and should not do in order to have healthy, happy, protected, God-pleasing relationships with Him and others, to have a better life and to be better at life.

Jesus, “Trust Me!”

*But to all who did receive him, who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become **children** of God. (John 1:12)*

Next week: “What am I supposed to believe as a Christian?”

