

Presence// #4 – “Holiness”// Exodus 20:18–26

- Exodus 20 is one of the most famous chapters of the Bible: it is the 10 commandments we believe God gave through Moses.
- Saw an article in *USA Today* this week that suggested that Moses was even more influential in America than Jesus. Won't dispute that one way or another, but just make the point that this chapter, Moses' most famous chapter, has had a huge impact on all of us.
- There are so many things I could say about the 10 commandments... a lot of people in our culture now resist any sense of moral laws, b/c laws mean restriction; and restriction means loss of freedom and thus things like the 10 commandments are seen as the enemy of individuality and true self-expression.
- I've tried to show you before that many laws, however, and many authorities, we don't resist...
 - I usually don't resist my doctor's authority because he generally knows my body best works... and I want it to work well for a long time to come, so I follow his guidelines
 - Or, when my computer acts up, I get a guy on our staff who is an authority on Microsoft Windows, and I do exactly what he tells me, because he knows the complexity that is Microsoft Windows. (I don't know about you, but when my computer starts to go crazy I'm not one of those "let me try and fix it myself guys... because inevitably I answer yes to some question like "Are you sure you want to reformat your harddrive?" Sure... sounds great! Who wouldn't want a new format?) I don't mind submitting, prostrate and humble, before our computer authority to do his bidding.
- In the same way, because God is the Creator I believe He knows what things work best for me.
 - Some of you resist God's rules because you don't trust God. (If I didn't trust our computer guy... if I thought he was secretly a Satan worshipper who wanted to ruin our harddrives and sabotage my email account: "Dear big donor to the Summit Church. This is Pastor J.D. God told me he hates you and your money and wants you to leave our church immediately," if I thought he was like that I wouldn't obey our computer guy's instructions either.
 - But I do trust our computer guy, so I obey what he tells me). If you ever saw how good God was, you would have *no problem* trusting Him or His laws.
- But... all that said, that is not the part of this chapter we're going to focus on this morning. We're going to look at the end of the chapter because it shows you, more than any other place in the Old Testament, how you are supposed to understand the 10 Commandments.

Let's begin in vs. 18, **18** Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet

and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

Now, again, (like we saw a couple weeks ago when we studied chp 19), what you see is that as God gives these commandments there is fear in His presence, and the people drew back from God and called out for a mediator:

- Here's what has happened... in God's giving of the law, the people are confronted with the holiness of God; and in the lightning and thunder and the earthquake they see His awesome size; and suddenly in the light of that revelation they see themselves as God sees them... they see how big God is and how small they are; they see God as perfectly holy and themselves as entirely sinful... and in the light of this revelation they feel completely exposed and are afraid.
- As I explained a few weeks ago, when the Bible talks about what we feel like in the presence of God, it uses the analogy of nakedness (or exposure). You saw it in Genesis 3 (when man and woman realized their sin, they felt naked)... also, if you look down in vs. 26 of this chapter you see references to nakedness and exposure there, too.
- So what do we do when we feel naked? We try and hide. We cover ourselves.
 - Adam and Eve covered themselves and hid from God.
 - That's what you do... Imagine that you were having one of those dreams where you show up somewhere naked. And then you wake up and realize it's not a dream. You don't stop and explain to everyone what just happened... "Guys, funny story... I was dreaming I was naked... and here I am." No, you run for cover!**If the sense of being naked before other humans is terrifying, what is it like to be completely exposed in the presence of the awesome holiness of God?** (nakedness is a symbol of that)
- **Illus. Clayton and the 1-900 #'s...**
- I say this somewhat humorously, but if you by the Holy Spirit ever really see yourself in the light of the holiness of God, you are so overwhelmed with feelings of ruin and self-disdain that words can scarcely describe it.
- Listen, your first experience with God is not one of buoyant self-confidence, but overwhelming dread and feelings of ruin and conviction... (no matter what the guys on TV tell you) and, that's *the* mark, btw, that you've really begun to see God.
- There's this famous scene in OT where **Isaiah** sees God lifted up, and smoke and lightning in His presence, and the ground beneath Him shaking, and the flaming angels flying around God saying continually, *Holy, Holy, Holy...* and Isaiah, the prophet of God, says, "Woe is me, for I am ruined and undone." When **Peter** finally understood who Jesus was, He said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." When the Apostle **John** saw Jesus in Revelation 1, He fell at Jesus' feet as though *dead*.

That's what this law does to us... if we see it correctly. These laws are a reflection of the goodness and holiness and purity of God... and when we look into it through the illumination of the Spirit we see the holiness and awesomeness of the God behind them, and we have overwhelming feelings of fear and exposure and dread... this is the mark that you've seen God. And, if you've never been through this... if God is only a kindly old grandfather figure in the sky who tells you everything is ok... I would tell you that you've probably never really seen God. Amazing Grace... *"Tis grace that taught my heart to fear..."* (which we'll get to in a minute)

Now, only the Holy Spirit can give you that kind of insight into your own heart. I can't replicate it through a feat of rhetoric or even a logical case I can lay out... only the Spirit of God can do it... but I can at least walk you up to the mirror and to give the Holy Spirit a chance to do His work.

Take out your worship guide. There you'll see a list of the commandments with a little blank beside them and little blank for yes, or no. I'll read it, and give you a short explanation, and if you feel like you pretty consistently keep this commandment, check yes. If not, check no.

DO YOU KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

1. You shall have no other gods before Me: I have never put anything before God in my life. I have never loved or trusted or obeyed anything more than God. God and God alone has always been pre-eminent in my thoughts, affections, and actions. I did not get upset this morning when I arrived late and the coffee bar was closed because I was more excited about worshipping God than drinking coffee. YES____ NO____

2. You shall make no graven images of Me: I have never had any wrong conceptions about God and always rejected wrong images of Him. I have refused to redefine God according to my liking, assuming that He likes what I like or hates what I hate. YES____ NO____

3. You shall not take My name in vain: I have always held the name of God, which signifies His character, in highest respect,

invoking His name only with thoughtfulness and reverence. I have never used His name as a swear word. I have never been lethargic or apathetic during worship. I have never desecrated God's name by calling myself His follower but not representing Him well. The way I talk, act, spend money, and drive give honor to the God whose name I attach to my life and whose bumper sticker I display on my car. YES ___ NO ___

4. 6 days you shall do all your work... and remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy: I have always worked diligently and willingly at whatever task is set before me, seeing it as my God-given service each day, and making the most out of the time God has given me. In the 6 days of the workweek, I work hard, am not lazy, and don't procrastinate. And I consistently remember to set apart one day weekly to worship God with others. YES ___ NO ___

5. Honor your parents: I have never disobeyed nor dishonored my parents or any others in authority over me. I have always respected the authorities in my life, and given them honor and willing obedience, whether they were watching or not. This includes my parents, my teachers, traffic cops, the IRS, and my president. YES ___ NO ___

6. You shall not kill: I have never murdered anyone...* nor had hateful thoughts nor have taken the slightest pleasure in seeing harm done to another human being. I have never fantasized about the premature death of my spouse nor wished harm on my spouse. I have always held the highest regard for any human life, and cared as much about the pain of others as I have my own. YES ___ NO ___

7. You shall not commit adultery:* I have never practiced sexual impurity, neither physically having sex with someone outside the bonds of marriage nor having impure thoughts about someone I'm not married to.* If married, I have never flirted with or fantasized about someone who is not my spouse. YES ___ NO ___

8. You shall not steal: I have never taken anything that doesn't belong to me. This includes taking credit that didn't belong to me, downloading illegal music, or cheating in school or on my taxes. *I have never taken extra Chic-Fil-A sauce to stock my shelves at home. I do not waste my company's time internet surfing, twittering or facebooking. I have always respected the belongings, rights and creations of others and been completely truthful and fair. I have always been willing to take only what I've earned. YES___ NO___

9. You shall not lie: I have never lied nor slandered another person. I have always told the truth in every situation regarding every person I have ever known. I have never exaggerated the truth and I have kept all my covenants and agreements, whether verbal and written. YES___ NO___

10. You shall not covet: I have never been greedy for something that wasn't mine, nor jealous of the abilities, looks, position or possessions of others. I have rejoiced with others in what they have, glad that they have it even when I don't. I have never complained about what God has provided for me (your car; your job; your pay), always been thankful and fully content with what I have and where I am in life, willing to share what I have with others who have less than me. YES___ NO___*

***OK, let's all trade with our neighbors to see how we did**

I sort of do this lightly... but there is nothing light about this. This law is the face of God. And there is lightning and thunder that surround it.

- I told you the first week that God had given instructions that a perimeter was set up around this mountain where God was and if someone so much as stepped foot on the other side of the perimeter they were to be killed. I asked you what that must have been like as you stood before that mountain, which as consumed in flame; there were earthquakes and a trumpet blast... your kids are scared and you want to comfort them but you are scared and you're trying to hold them close because if they wander across that line they are to be killed.
- What is being communicated? God's holiness is no joke and is nothing to be taken lightly.
- Again, when Isaiah sees God and sees the angels covering their face in His presence, he, the prophet of God, falls

down on His face in fear and says, "Woe is me, I am completely ruined..."

- Most of us live with the illusion that we are a "pretty good person." Were you paying attention? Pretty good compared to whom? Look back at that list. You probably checked no on almost every one. You're saying, "I'm a pretty good person except for the fact that I'm a blaspheming, lying, murderous, disrespectful, greedy, adulterating idol worshipper." Can you not see how saturated we are with sin?
- Most of us feel pretty good because we're in church right now. **'I got out of bed;** came to church; you notice, God?"

Do you realize what we look like to God in worship? We are so saturated with sin that God can't even look at us directly. Puritans: Even our tears of repentance must be washed in the blood of the lamb before they are acceptable to God...

- I compared it to how you would feel if in the middle of nice cold glass of milk the waiter told you it was 10% human urine. 9/10 of this is good!
- Or how about this... when we served you guys communion last week, there was a little vile of H1N1 that got mixed into the communion juice. Don't worry about it, it was only like an ounce and there were several gallons of grape juice we used. The smallest amount of that virus saturates and contaminates the whole thing.
- *"The slightest sin has an infinite hatefulness in it so that even the smallest sin outweighs the greatest loveliness in the creature."* - Jonathan Edwards
- And in our case, we're not even talking about **slight amounts** of sin... we're talking about something that is present in almost every thought and dominates almost every decision.
- So, the right response to God is *fear*, hide me...
 - It's what these people did;
 - It's what Adam and Eve did when they were exposed;
 - And I submit that if you've never felt hopelessly guilty and exposed before God and felt yourself recoil from God's presence, then, based on what the Bible says experiencing God is like, you've never experienced God. And, the only reason some of you feel ok in church, is because you have no sense of the holiness of the God you stand before.

This is not really seeker friendly preaching, is it?

But look at Moses' response: **20** Moses said to the people, "**Do not fear**, for God has come to test you, that **the fear of him** may be before you, that you may not sin."

- Catch that? Contradiction? Do not fear... but do fear
- Why not fear?
 - Remember, last week, how I showed you how the 10 commandments started: **Exodus 20:1**, "And God spoke all these

words, saying, **2** “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery...” In other words, I’ve already saved you. I’ve already made you My treasured possession; I’ve already forgiven your sins and purchased your freedom. It’s not that you have to keep these commandments to earn my affection... I am assuring you of My affection and love before I give them to you. You don’t have to be afraid... do not fear.

- But then He says do fear... What does that mean?
- **In the Bible, there are two kinds of fear: There is a fear that is afraid of God and runs from His presence; and then there is a fear that recognizes His awesomeness, believes in His love and forgiveness, and draws close to God (vv. 18-19).** (clings to Him). There is a fear that flees from Him and one that flees to Him.
- **This is the kind of fear you give to something valuable.** For example, it’s the kind of fear you ladies give to your wedding ring. None of you is really afraid of her wedding ring in the sense that you think it’s going to attack you (you’re not looking at it...) It’s just so beautiful and valuable and it means so much to you that you don’t treat it casually, throw it around or work on the car with it on; it is precious, you treat it with respect.
- This is the kind of relationship you have with your passport when you are travelling... ever been with those people that are psycho about their passport? Strap that hangs around navel... ***laced into their underwear... as annoying as those people are, that’s better than the guy who takes no regard for it. “I don’t know...” There is a proper fear you should have of your passport:*** it’s not you are afraid of your passport, that it’s going to attack you; it’s that you realize how important it is and keep it near you.
- This is the kind of fear you see David talk about in **Psalm 130:4**: “With you there is forgiveness with you, that you might be feared.” If I’ve been forgiven, I have no more reason to fear.
- This is the kind of fear God is talking about.
- In Deut 5 God is talking about this very experience here in chapter 20 and God says, **Deuteronomy 5:29** “*Oh that they had such a mind as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!*” (vs. 32 says “and not turn aside to the right hand or the left”).
- Church we are not supposed to stand in fear of God. **Jesus has taken the full penalty for our sin**; He has absorbed every ounce of the judgment due unto us; there is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus);
- **When Jesus died the situation was** the same: the sky was covered by a thick cloud of darkness. The thunder of God’s judgment and the lightning of His wrath tore through Jesus’ body as the fire of His holiness consumed the body of Christ.
- And we stand on this mountain, like them, completely safe... having been rescued, we know we are His precious possession, purchased at the infinitely high cost of the blood of His Son... nothing left to accuse me.

- **So, there is no condemnation to those of us in Christ; we have no reason to fear...** but having experienced that salvation, we are supposed to stand in utter awe of Him; dumbstruck, adoring worship and awe at the greatness of God's mercy and love.
- **And so listen: If you are here, and you know what a mess you have made of your life... I can say, on the authority of Jesus, do not be afraid.** The one safe place for you to be exposed in all of your sin is in the presence of Jesus. He died to take every ounce of the shame and penalty of your sin away from you. He knows your wickedness even more than you, and loves you more than you realize! He has removed all condemnation from you, if you'll receive it! **Martin Luther: *The Gospel is that though we are more wicked than we ever imagined, in Christ we are more loved than we ever dreamed or dared hope for.***
- Jesus knows you entirely... He knows all your secrets, yet His love for you is not daunted.

Couple other things about this chapter... in vs. 25–26, God teaches us two things about our salvation: (in vv. 25–26, he's talking about the kinds of altars they will make in worship of Him.)

- **25** Make an altar of dirt for me... and if you make me an altar of stone, do not build it with carved stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it.
 - Make me an altar of dirt... don't make it pretty. Odd... isn't it? Doesn't God want nice, pretty things? No, that's not the point. I mean, **I've read Revelation, and Heaven is pretty pimped out.**
 - Well, doesn't He deserve our best? That's not the issue either here... You see, the issue is that if we had a pretty altar, we would be tempted to think that God hears us, or hears us better, because of the prettiness of our altar. (God likes mine because it's prettier)
 - The message God is trying to get across is that you and I *cannot* save ourselves; we are too utterly saturated by sin. And God doesn't want us thinking that the prettiness of our religion is what saves us.

(1) Salvation cannot be accomplished by human power; only by the power of God(v. 25)

- **26** And you shall not go up by steps to my altar, that your nakedness be not exposed on it.'
 - Somewhat humorous... you see the religious man going up high, above everyone to make his offering to God. Remember, back then they wore robes and dresses. And so, if a guy went up high, his nakedness could be exposed from below. Everybody's down below watching the religious guy ascend the altar to offer sacrifice and they're like, "Look how awesome our religious leader...oooouu... that's not helpful... Junior, hide your eyes."
 - The point is: at the end of the day, even the greatest people, as high as they go... are still naked and depraved in God's sight.

- Sinners. Idolaters. Us religious leaders who are lifted up... (Billy Graham, Mother Theresa) I am up here, preaching the word of God, up higher... in some ways *representing* God to you... but I'm just like you... all of us, including me, have dark places; secret places; shameful places.
- Around here we say... Everybody seems normal... until you get to know them.
- **I get letters from people from time to time and who tell me how awesome they are..** they've heard me preach... and I say... "Aww... is that how I look from a distance? That's cute. Please don't get to know me. Or talk to my wife."

(2) Salvation is not earned by human goodness, but is a gift of the free, undeserved grace of God (v. 26).

Here's something really important what I need you to know... when it comes to salvation, we are all in the exact same place. Regardless of your past, whether it is righteous or not. Whether you have religious upbringing or not...

- Song we used to sing as a kid... The ground is level...
- Jesus taught that religious and sinner alike had to be saved alike. Jesus taught this revolutionary thing that religious people were not any better off than non-religious people, because religious people had simply covered up their sin with religion... in fact, in some ways religious were worse off than non-religious because at least the non-religious people had no pretensions or self-delusions about what they're heart was like. Religious people just covered up their hearts and then felt proud about the cover-up. Jesus had pet names for religious people: "fake," "hypocrite," brood of vipers; whitewashed tombs...
- This ticked off the religious right so bad that they killed him.
- The crucifixion of Jesus was one of the few times that the conservative religious right and the big government left agreed on something. They both hated Jesus. The religious right hated Jesus because He attacked their pride and told them they were no better off for all their religion; and the secular left hated Him because He had the audacity to say that He was Lord of all.
- So they both conspired to crucify Him for different reasons; but He died as the substitute for both of them, too.
- And that's good news... because, again, some of you feel like you have totally screwed up your life. Beyond saving.
- But I can tell you, with no hesitation, by the authority of GOD, that God could not love you any more than he does right now... and Jesus is no less able to save you than He is anybody else.
- And for those of you who feel like you're pretty well, off... snap out of the delusion. You need a Savior every bit as desperately as the criminal dying beside Jesus on the cross. Others need to be saved from their sin; you need to be saved from your religion. From thinking that you were ok and better than everyone else because you believed true love waits, didn't drink beer and voted Republican.
- 2 reasons people don't come to Jesus: secular left... to rebellious to admit his lordship; conservative right... to proud

to admit they're just like everybody else and need a Savior.

Here's what separates Jesus and Moses from every other religion in the world.

- Other religions give you laws to keep (the 10 commandments are not unique to Christianity); but Jesus was not primarily a lawgiver, He was a Savior: **Jesus' main ministry to us was not teaching; it was living the life we were supposed to have lived; then dying the death we had been condemned to die, in our place.** He was our substitute, and He now stands as our representative, able to plead effectively our case to God for all who come to Him.
- Here's why other religions don't work: they can't deal with your sin. Some guy shows up and tells you that if you will keep these laws then God will bless you and things will go well with you... but as you get lifted up in religion it doesn't deal with your nakedness. In fact, the leaders of those religions need a Savior themselves.
Savior/Savee: those who would do the saving cannot have the same problem as those who need to be saved.
- That's the reason that Mo, Bud... because they needed to be saved themselves.
- So listen... If you're looking for a religious teacher, to give you suggestions and tips for how to improve your life, become a better person, better than the average person, lift you up on a pedestal, Jesus is not for you.
- But if you realize that you are hopelessly guilty, saturated with sin, and in desperate need of the power of new life inside of you... Jesus can help you.
- The Gospel is not about what you should go and do for God; the Gospel is about what He has done for you.
- **The Gospel is not good advice; the Gospel is good news.**
- Most people spell religion D-O; (a bunch of religious rituals that you have to do to earn God's favor); others spell it D-O-N-T; (a bunch of commandments you can't break, otherwise God will be mad at you) the Gospel is spelled D-O-N-E. (the work of Christ has been done; you have only to believe and receive it as the free gift that it is). From there, you obey the 10 comm not to be saved, but because you are saved and out of love for God. I'm faithful to my wife because I love her, not because I'm trying to earn her hand in marriage.

Do you know for certain that Jesus has forgiven you of your sin? Do you know that you belong to God, that He is yours and you are fully His, and that if you died right now, you would go to heaven? Have you ever received His offer to save you? The work has been done, you just have to receive it. Repent of running of your own life and acknowledge Him as Lord, and believe in the free offer of Jesus Christ to save you.

If you'd like to, pray this with me (from your heart; these are not magic words):

“Lord Jesus, I know that I’m a sinner and need your salvation. I believe you have died to purchase my salvation and can fully forgive me and save me. I surrender control of my life to you right now in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Bullpen:

- (Awe: greatness of sin, God's salvation); C Section; the English call it football
 -
 - He was the substitute for all people. All who come to forgiveness, whether they are repenting of their sin or their arrogant self-righteousness, can find forgiveness.
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 - And, if you've done well, feel good about yourself. Your righteousness does not make any difference to God!
- You can be saved, forgiven...
- The size of the God we saw in chapter 19... what would you suppose about the size of His grace? If he is as big in His grace as He is in His power. don't you think He would have mercy on you! And don't you think you should trust His lovingkindness rather than your own goodness?

God's way of salvation elevates neither human power (no stones on it) nor human goodness (your nakedness is lifted up).

- Our religion can become an idol
-
- (feces in deep fried reeces)
- DEUT 5:23–33 And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders.²⁴ And you said, 'Behold, the Lord our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man and man still live...²⁷ Go near and hear all that the Lord our God will say and speak to us all that the Lord our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.'²⁸ "...And the Lord said to me, 'I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken.²⁹ Oh that they had such a mind as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!³² ...Be careful therefore to do as the Lord your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.³³ You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded

you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

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- RELIGIONS THAT ASSUME THAT God can just let people in without the work of Christ underestimate the holiness of God and the love of God. In an attempt to make God look “better,” they actually blasphemously insult him on two accounts.
- **32** ...Be careful therefore to do as the Lord your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. **33** You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

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Jonathan Edwards: “The slightest sin has an infinite hatefulness in it so that the smallest sin outweighs the greatest loveliness in the creature.”

Zechariah 3:1–5:

Zechariah had a vision of a priest he calls Joshua standing before God in the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. It only happened once a year and it was an extensive process that included him sequestering himself at his home alone for a week to make sure that no defilement came on him. He stayed up all night the night before praying and purifying his heart. Then he would go and bathe, be clothed in white linen. He would then go in and offer a sacrifice for himself, come out, bathe, re-dress, go back in to offer the sacrifice for the people. Everyone stood around cheering because this was their representative.

(Zechariah 3:3) The account says that Zechariah was amazed because Joshua stood covered in filthy garments—literally, in the Hebrew, covered with human excrement. He was totally defiled. How did this happen? The meaning: It is how we look to God. All of our effort looks disgusting before Him. The adversary (Satan) accused him.

But the real shock is that, rather than being angry about the impurity, God says, “Take the garment off of the High Priest and give him new garments, white and clean.” And then, in vv. 8–9, God says, behold I will send my servant and he will cleanse the sins for this land.

The Aramaic word for “Joshua” is “Jesus.” His experience would be the total opposite of the story. He would stand before God clean, but God would strip Him of His white garments and put on Him my filthy garments—the garments of unrighteous. He would not be surrounded by His friends who were cheering him on; it would be his enemies who were scorning him. Bathing? He would be bathed in human spit. We traded places, and God made him sin who knew no sin.

There are so many things to say about the 10 commandments...

Natural order: First 4 are about our relationship to God; last 6 our relationship to man

- They are for our good: We don't break God's laws, we demonstrate them; go step off your balcony, and you won't break the law of gravity, you'll demonstrate it! Same with God's laws. (Adrian Rogers);
- **Yancey:** "Every parent knows the difference between rules designed primarily for the benefit of the parent ('Don't talk while I'm on the telephone); and those designed for the benefit of the child ('Wear mittens and a hat—it's below freezing outside. . .')
- **There are times I gladly submit to authority.** When my computer software acts up, I call technical support and scrupulously follow the technician's orders. When I want to master a difficult sport, such as golf, I pay for lessons. And when I get hurt or sick, I see a doctor."

20: 1 And God spoke all these words, saying, **2** "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **3** "You shall have no other gods before me. **4** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **5** You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, **6** but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. **8** "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. **11** For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. **13** "You shall not murder. **14** "You shall not commit adultery. **15** "You shall not steal. **16** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **17** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

- Exodus 20:5 says that God will punish sin the sins on the 3rd and 4th generation; Ezekiel 18:20 says that each will bear the results of his own sin, not his fathers. Contradiction? The context of each demonstrates the harmony. For Ezekiel, the sons are not walking in the sins of the father; for Exodus, the sons are walking in the disobedience of the father. It's like a disease. My son will not suffer from the symptoms of my disease; but he can *catch* the disease from me, and then suffer his own symptoms.
- Like piano lessons as a kid...
 - I hated it.
 - At "recital..." I had played Fur Elise 1000's of times. Did my parents want to hear it again? No... the only difference was they were there to see if I could play it PERFECTLY.
 - Later, I learned to love to play. I learned there's a reason for chords... before I thought the chord charts were burdensome tasks to intensify enslave me. Now I realized they were exercises that would grant me life and freedom to play!