

Do We Need the Ten Commandments?

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 7.

B. If you want to raise controversy in a group, ask whether we still need to obey the Ten Commandments.

II. We cannot go unchanged after belief in Christ because our life is regenerated. (Romans 6:3)

A. The whole of the old life is gone in the Christian life.

B. As long as we excuse any old behavior, we are bound by it.

III. We have died to the law because we are under grace and not the law.

A. The illustration that clarifies. (Romans 7:1-3)

1. Our old “husband” was the law.

2. Being released from our “old husband” we are freed to our “new husband”—grace.

3. The beauty of holiness draws us to Christ, but all our efforts only brand us as hypocrites.

4. Christ died in our place as sin and we are freed from sin and freed for Christ.

B. The explanation that verifies. (Romans 7:4-6)

1. Through the body of Christ, we died to sin.

2. This happened so that we would bear fruit for God.

3. The only life that God says is fruitful and acceptable in His sight is the risen life of Christ in us.

4. If we operate under the life of Jesus, we no longer need the written code, which are the Ten Commandments.

C. The application that glorifies. (Romans 7:7-13)

1. If it had not been for the law, there would not have been a nature of sin known to us.

2. An inability to complete the law reveals that the law is good and the man is bad.

3. The Christian struggling in sin still needs the law, but the one who is living in liberty and love has no need for it.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone asking whether we need to obey the Ten Commandments? Defend your answer.

2. How does bearing fruit relate to the resurrection life of Christ? What is the fruit that we bear?

3. When does the law help the Christian and when does it not? What area of your life might you need to place boundaries and restrictions? Explain.
