

Study Notes on the Decalogue

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1. Original intent takes us to a consideration of origins. (Compare Gen 2:1-4/Exod 20:2-17.)
 - a. Compare Gen 2:1-4 and Exod 20:8-11.
 - b. The law is about giving, not demanding.
 - i. The Sabbath and marriage were both gifts. No restrictions mentioned.
 - ii. The only limitation, apart from the tree, was God's gift of fruits, nuts, and grains, because of what that gift did not include.
 - c. The law is about relationships.
 - i. The Sabbath is a pattern for the entire first table.
 1. Between God and mankind primarily.
 2. Among people also.
 3. This is the commandment that brings us closest to a horizontal, or peer-based, relationship with God.
 - ii. Marriage is a pattern for the entire second table.
 1. Among people primarily.
 2. Between God and mankind also. (See 1 Cor 6:16-17.)
 - d. Summary.
 - i. Our need not to be alone is undiminished by the fall. (See Gen 1:29-30.)
 - ii. This is the basis for the gospel's primordial appeal.
2. How to divide the commandments?
 - a. Commandments.
 - i. What is the first commandment? (Vss. 2-3.)
 - ii. What is the last commandment? (Vs. 17.)
 - b. Tables.
 - i. Where does the first table begin? (Vs. 2.)
 - ii. Where does the second table begin? (Vs. 13.)
 - c. The text of the law clarifies the structure of the law.
 - i. Explanation clauses (first five commandments).
 - ii. Hierarchy of physicality (last five commandments).
 - iii. Symmetry (1 2 3 4 5 | 6 7 8 9 10). (See Rom 13:9.)
3. The broader context. (Compare Exod 20:2-17/Matt 5:17-48.)
 - a. Jesus comments on commandments 6 7 9 8 10.
 - b. The explanations resume where they had broken off previously.
4. Other points.
 - a. What is the significance of entering a relationship of rest with the Creator?
 - i. To know the significance we must know the Creator.
 - ii. See Mark 2:28; John 1:1-3; Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:1-3.
 - b. What is the significance of not entering a relationship of rest with the Creator?
 - i. The weekly cycle has not been merely altered, but reversed.