

Those who Love Jesus

- *If you love Me, keep My commandments. Jn 14:15*
- *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. Jn. 15:10*
- What do we do when commandments overlap?
- An accident on the way to the assembly
- *Don't forsake the assembling of yourselves*
- *love your neighbor as yourself*

At different times: Fulfill Both

Not
Forsaking

Love your
neighbor as
yourself

Jesus gave the Guidelines

- *Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? Mt 12:5;*
- *If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, **so that the law of Moses should not be broken** Jn 7:23*
- God made the choices for them:
- He commanded them to sacrifice and circumcise (“**profane the Sabbath,**”) so “**the Law of Moses should not be broken.**”
- Jesus showed that under such circumstances a choice must be made. If God did not make it for us:
- “*if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.*” (Mt. 12:7). Mercy becomes the key

Profane the Sabbath – Blameless

Circumcise
on the
eighth day

Keep
Sabbath
Holy

Priests offer
Sacrifices

To Keep from “*breaking the Law*”

Jephthah's Dangerous Vow

- **Emotionally charged choice**
- *“Whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, ... I will offer it up as a burnt offering.”* (Judg. 11:31-40). It was his daughter.
- *“You shall not murder”* (Ex 20:13),
- *“If a man makes a vow ... he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.”* (Num. 30:2).
- Did he made the right decision?
- *“he carried out his vow with her.”*

A Vow or the 6th Commandment?

Keep the
vow – don't
Break your
Word

You shall
not murder

Jephthah Could not Keep Both

A Vow and the 5th Commandment

- *He said to them, "All too well **you reject the commandment of God**, that you may **keep your tradition**. 10 For Moses said, '**Honor your father and your mother**'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' 11 But **you say**, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "**Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban**" — ' (that is, **a gift to God – a Vow**), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition Mk 7:9-13*

A Vow or the 6th Commandment?

Corban /
Vow

Honor your
father and
mother

Pharisee Tradition: Can't Keep Both

A Vow and the 5th Commandment

- Pharisees tradition:
- Keep vow and set aside the 6th commandment.
- Hebrew word gift ‘*Corban!*’ is simply an exclamation and thus a vow that dedicates the money or the goods involved to God.” (Lenski). Whether in greed, anger, or as a result of God’s blessings, if the word “*corban*” or “*gift*” came out of their mouth, it was a binding vow to God.
- *If they had known what this means*

Vow and 5th Commandment

- If later, they sought to repent and fulfill the 5th commandment their tradition prohibited it.
- This tradition justified those children who didn't want to help:
- “he need not honor his parents” (Mt. 15:6)
- It also hindered those children who wanted to honor father and mother:
- “you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother.” (Mk. 7:5-13).

Jesus Revealed God's Will

- They had “*made void and nullified the Law*” (Lou & Nida NT:208).
- When a vow and 5th commandment conflicted if they had known “*I desire mercy and not sacrifice*” they would never have done this.
- Jesus concluded: “*Many such things you do,*”
- Not an isolated incident:
- Sabbath, Jesus' eating with sinners (Mt. 9:10-13), and honoring parents a few examples.
- A prevalent problem without mercy were making many traditions that violated the Law.

Church Discipline

- All sin that is not repented /confessed Mt. 18:15-17
- Go alone, take one or two, tell it to the entire church.
- If “*they refuse to hear,*” they become to us “*like a heathen and a tax collector.*”
- The Holy Spirit gave two more:
- *withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly*
- “*not to keep company with anyone named a brother,*” if they refuse to repent of their sin.
- “*withdraw*” is “*to avoid, shrink back, shy away from, and abstain from familiar contact,*”
- “*keep company*” is “*associate with one, normally involving closeness, joint activity, and some kind of reciprocal involvement.*”

All Forms of Association Must Cease

- *Withdraw - avoid, and abstain from familiar contact*
- *“not keep company” – No longer associate, no closeness, joint activities, or reciprocal involvement*
- *Whatever activities done formerly with them must stop, including eating.*
- *As a single command, it is painful, but not difficult to understand or fulfill.*
- *If we **only** knew them through the church, and they have been withdrawn from, we cease all the activities we formerly did with them.*
- *Yet “do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”*

Withdraw and Don't Keep Company

- *Withdraw -avoid, abstain from familiar contact*
- *keep no company*
- *No association*
- *No closeness,*
- *No joint activities,*

Commands Come into Conflict

- Relationship is within the church. No Conflict
- (1) Not only a brother/sister in Christ, but also have a master/slave relationship (Eph. 6:5-9)
- Two commands conflict.
- shared ties of brotherhood (1Tim. 6:1-2).
- Master is withdrawn from, how can that imprisoned slave “*avoid and have no contact?*”
Commanded to serve him as Jesus. 1Pet. 2:18-21
- How can he “*not associate or jointly work with*” this master?
- He is now caught between two commands

Withdraw and Don't Keep Company

- *Withdraw -avoid, abstain from familiar contact*
- *keep no company*
- *No association*
- *No closeness,*
- *No joint activities,*

Servants
obey your
masters in
everything

Church Discipline and 5th Commandment

- Choice between church discipline and the 5th commandment just as complicated as the vow
- 5th commandment. placed in the gospel (Eph. 6:1-3) and elaborated:
- *if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (1Tim. 5:8).*
- When 5th commandment conflicts command to “*withdraw*” and “*do not associate*” with every brother walking disorderly (2Th. 3:6; 3:14-15)?

Withdraw and Don't Keep Company

- *Withdraw -avoid, abstain from familiar contact*
- *keep no company*
- *No association*
- *No closeness,*
- *No joint activities,*

Honor you
father and
mother

Even More Complicated

- **The marriage bond.**
- Jesus commanded “*what God has joined together let not man separate.*”
- Does the command to withdraw from every brother allow a wife to separate?
- Jesus only gave adultery as the cause.
- Thus a husband or wife must still cleave and be one flesh after withdrawel (Eph. 5:22-31).
- No need to submit to husband / husband love wife?

Withdraw and Don't Keep Company

- *Withdraw -avoid, abstain from familiar contact*
- *keep no company*
- *No association*
- *No closeness,*
- *No joint activities,*

What God
joins
together let
not man
separate

Other Commands

- Neither has “*power over their own body*”
- each “*must render the affection due.*”
- Clearly having “*no association*” and “*keeping no company*” is going to be a challenge.
- Those who proclaim if they don’t eat with them they somehow fulfill the command do not understand the concept of not keeping company.
- If the wife buys, cooks, and sets the table, and has all other relations with him as commanded how will not eating make this all ok?
- Just a human sophistry
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Conflicts and Solutions

- withdraw from EVERY BROTHER against
- commands of a husband and wife, a servant and master, parents and children
- Confronted with same dilemma as Pharisees.
- Have we created similar traditions?
- Told children don't need to honor father / mother
- We must help these Christians with their terrible burdens agonizing choices with mercy.
- We can't set aside either command.
- We allow them to move boundaries as they see fit.
- How far, what way left to their own conscience.
- Never forget: Mercy triumphs over judgment.

A complicated and difficult conflict

Withdraw
from every
brother

5th Command
Parent/Child
Husband/Wife
Slave/Master

Spouses of the Withdrawn

- Walk between the lines of these two commands.
- God did not reveal one command more binding.
- Wife in submission might appear to some in the church as a violation of withdrawing.
- But who can condemn her for being submissive.
- It is a command of God!
- In her own way and to the best of her ability she strives to keep both commands.
- How she does is left to her discretion not us.
- We must use mercy!
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Complicated and Difficult Conflict

Withdraw
from every
brother

Wives be in
submission in
everything as
unto the Lord

Some will Abuse This

- Some will use withdrawal to completely violate the commands of a husband or wife.
- Some will use the relationship commands to violate the command for discipline.
- But since we have no guidance, we must use mercy and compassion.
- Sometimes we must leave the hard cases to God.

Final Thoughts

- God's word is perfect.
- *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Heb 4:12-13*
- When commands conflict and overlap, God sees the true intents and thoughts of the heart.
- He doesn't need our help to dictate and demand our own convictions. He only needs us to be merciful and allow them to choose and by their choice allow God to discern.." (Jas. 2:13).

Final Thoughts

- *the heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, Jer. 17:9-10*
- When one command conflicts with another, the heart of the person seeking to fulfill it is tested.
- The hearts of those who are judging, assessing and advising are also being tested.
- In both cases, judgment is being judged.
- If it is not done in mercy, then “*judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*” (Jas. 2:13).