

If it be answered to both of these questions: "The eternal moral law can be preached and taught and applied by omitting the penalties connected with violation of the Ten Commandments, by teaching the principles of conduct of the Ten Commandments apart from the demanding and condemnatory aspects of the Law, by making sure that no one receives the false impression that merit with God can be earned by keeping the Law, and by stressing the grace of God in providing the inner dynamic of the work of the Holy Spirit"; then that is all that is being contended for in these notes! But this answer is a far cry from asserting that the Ten Commandments have no relevance for the New Testament believer living in this age of grace!

If one prefers to assert the relevance of the "eternal moral law of God" as binding in every dispensation and age, rather than the Ten Commandments and their implications or the moral aspect of the Mosaic Law, then let him seek ways and means of preaching and teaching and applying the principles of that eternal moral law, so that the three functions of law (restraint of external expression of depravity, communication of a knowledge of sin, and provision of an objective and absolute standard of righteous conduct) may be retained in our society and remain in our culture, in order that our civil laws will incorporate righteousness, our citizenry will be externally law-abiding, we may live quiet, peaceable lives in an orderly setting, and the people may be informed what God requires and what sin is, may be led to see their need of God's mercy and deliverance, and may thus be prepared for the proclamation of the gospel of God's grace through Christ!

### c. The Mosaic Law and Its Values

Earlier in these notes we noted the distinction between values, norms, and laws. We saw that laws incorporate norms and norms express values.

At the heart of the Mosaic Law, and particularly at the heart of each of the Ten Commandments, we discover values. If we attempt to state these values, we arrive at something like the following:

- First Commandment -- the value of the sacredness and uniqueness of God's Person
- Second Commandment -- the value of the sacredness of God's worship
- Third Commandment -- the value of the sacredness of God's Name
- Fourth Commandment -- the value of the sacredness of God's Day
- Fifth Commandment -- the value of respect of and submission to authority
- Sixth Commandment -- the value of the sacredness of human life
- Seventh Commandment -- the value of purity in relationships between the sexes
- Eighth Commandment -- the value of the right of ownership
- Ninth Commandment -- the value of truthfulness