

Lecture 16 – First Principles

“And God spoke all these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” Exodus 20:1-10 (NIV)

Key Terms

Singleness of heart, regulative principle, idolatry, purity, integrity, Sabbath, relationships, creation, redemption, third day

Objectives

- *List and explain the first principles given in Scripture for approaching ethical issues.
- *Describe the role(s) that the Ten Commandments have in contemporary societies.
- *Express the role of the Sabbath day in modern life.

First Principles

Prologue: God identifies Himself as....

Ten Commandments: Ten principles of....

I. First Command: “No other gods”

A. Concerned with singleness of heart

1. Exclusive loyalty and devotion
2. Trust in God alone
3. We must not worship the creation over the Creator.
4. We must not worship mammon.

II. Second Command: “No idols”

A. Concerned with purity of worship

1. Tendency to self-willed worship
2. Regulative principle of worship

III. Third Command: “The Lord’s name”

A. Concerned with: Integrity of life in word and deed

1. Numbers 6:27
2. Romans 2:23-24
3. James 1:27

IV. The Weekly Sabbath

A. Introduction

1. Exodus 16: First mention
2. Genesis 2:2-3: No connection with us
3. New Testament: Not specifically mentioned
4. The Sabbath in the early church: not until 321 AD

B. The place of the Fourth Commandment

1. Transitional

2. Both vertical and horizontal directions
- C. The Sabbath in the Old Testament
 1. Grounded in creation: Exodus 20:11; Exodus 31:17; (Isaiah 58:13-14)
 2. Grounded in redemption: Deuteronomy 5:15
- D. The Sabbath in the Intertestamental Period
 1. Synagogue – holy convocation
 2. Oral tradition – *mishna*
- E. The weekly Sabbath in the New Testament
 1. Continuance
 - a. Mark 2:27
 - b. Mark 2:28
 2. Change
 - a. Jesus resurrection and Pentecost
 - b. Apostolic practice
 - c. Symbolic weight
 - d. Religious obligation
 - e. Counter texts
 - f. Romans 14:5
 - g. Galatians 4:10
 - h. Colossians 2:16-17
- F. The weekly Sabbath in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*
 1. Entirely in terms of public/private worship
 2. Leviticus 23:3 – Rest is primary