

Final Reflection

Ten Commandments

What is the purpose of the Law?

Part II

The purpose of the Law is to unmask sin, to bring it to light, and to reveal it. Through the law, we become aware of sin, as mentioned in Romans 3:20: “... *for by the law is the knowledge of sin*”.

We become aware because God has deeply engraved it in every single man and woman, which allows us to discern between good and evil and impels us to choose between one or the other. The Bible teaches that conscience operates in our whole being in relation to matters of moral character. Conscience is one aspect of our Godlikeness and demonstrates our accountability before the Creator’s judgement. In a sense, the voice of our conscience



reflects God's will, and it is our duty to observe it and obey it.

“Conscience is the presence of God in man,” Victor Hugo said.

Conscience is closely related to the Ten Commandments because, in some way, it dictates and teaches us that inner law, that moral law that is written and imprinted in the hearts of all of us “...*I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them...*” (Hebrews 10:16)

If it were not for the Law, we would neither know how to behave nor know what transgression we would be committing. The Law is necessary, since it warns about the fault, showing how severe the transgression is and, therefore, the corresponding punishment.

To give a present day example, if it were not for the fact that laws warn us that crossing a red light or talking on the phone while driving is a crime, we would go through life ignoring these regulations without worrying about their consequences.

But since there is a law that indicates that an infringement has been committed and because we are aware of it, we know that every time we break the law, we are committing a crime and therefore, a penalty will correspond.

If it weren't for the fact that the Tenth Commandment (Exodus 20:17) forbids covetousness, we would never know about it if the Law didn't spell it out.

Therefore, the Law unmasks transgression by exposing it as a rebellion against God.

The Law warns and may not be appealed.

To be continue...

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