

The Word of God: Living God's Way

Reflect

1. What are some of the rules/expectations you live by in your house?
2. How do you tend to respond personally to rules and authority?
3. Who sets the rules in your life? Who or what do you take direction from? What has the authority in your life to determine what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is off limits?

Read Your Bible

- Exodus 20:1-21
- Mark 12:29-31

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Why do you think God is asking His people to obey His rules? Does the Exodus passage say anything about this?
2. What is scary in the passage from Exodus? Is there a way in which you think reverence and the "fear of God" can be helpful?
3. What do you think of the people's response to God in vs. 19-20? What did God want them to know? Do you think they were hearing Him clearly?
4. From the Mark reading, how do you think the "teachers of the law" lost perspective so terribly? What had become the true authority/law in their life?
5. How do you respond to Exodus 20:5-6? God promised He would punish sin to the third and fourth generation, but would bless those who love Him, to the thousandth generation. Sin's punishment is drastic, but His love is even more so!
6. How does Jesus Christ affect your response to God's rules? What assurance do His death and resurrection give you as you learn to live God's way?

God is surprising. We know that He asks for whole-hearted obedience. God gives us rules—like the Ten Commandments—that call us to live differently than the world. He is our ultimate authority and does not ignore the breaking of His commandments. Yet, we also know that He is strong in love and ready to forgive. When we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us completely (1 John 1:9)! What then do we do with His commandments? We find delight in them as gifts to us! They show His desire for us as we walk in His presence, knowing plainly what He expects of us in the way we live our lives. We do not keep the Ten Commandments, in order to earn our salvation—His love can only be received as a gift. But, we acknowledge that God is God and find that our way aligns with His. His commandments bring us new hope, showing us how to walk in right relationships, loving God and loving others.

Pray

Father in heaven, Your ways are higher than our ways. Your rules are good. Forgive us for seeking to rule ourselves. Your love is better. Write Your law upon our hearts and give us delight in seeking You. Yours be the kingdom, the power, and the glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.