

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE COMMANDMENTS



CHRISTIAN #1: “WE DON’T HAVE COMMANDMENTS IN THE NT BECAUSE WE HAVE GRACE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. COMMANDMENTS WERE A BURDEN BUT WE HAVE FREEDOM NOW.”

NAZARENE TRUTH: THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS AND HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT BURDENSOME (1 JOHN 5:3). AND I SHALL WALK IN FREEDOM, FOR I SEEK YOUR COMMANDS (PSALM 119:45).

CHRISTIAN #2: “THE ONLY COMMANDMENT WE HAVE NOW IN THE NT IS TO LOVE.”

NAZARENE TRUTH: WHOEVER SAYS, ‘I KNOW HIM’ BUT DOES NOT KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS IS A LIAR, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM (1 JOHN 2:4). NOTICE IN THIS AND MANY OTHER VERSES, THE SAINTS ARE TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS, PLURAL (GREEK WORD ‘ENTOIAS’). “TO LOVE” IS TO SUMMARIZE THE LAW OF GOD.

CHRISTIAN #3: “WE ONLY HAVE TWO COMMANDMENTS IN THE NT, LOVE GOD AND LOVE THY NEIGHBOR.”

NAZARENE TRUTH: Y’SHUA REFERENCED DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5 AND LEVITICUS 19:18 WHEN HE SAID ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS HANG ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS (MARK 12:30-31, MATTHEW 22:40). THAT DOESN’T NEGATE THE OTHER COMMANDMENTS IN THE LAW AND PROPHETS, IT PUTS THEM IN PERSPECTIVE. IF YOU ARE NOT LIVING YOUR LIFE IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD, HOW CAN YOU CLAIM TO LOVE HIM?

CHRISTIAN #4: “WE ONLY HAVE 9 COMMANDMENTS BECAUSE 9 ARE GIVEN IN THE NT BUT THE 4TH COMMAND ABOUT THE SABBATH ISN’T REPEATED.” “JESUS TAUGHT AGAINST THE SABBATH AND EVEN BROKE IT HIMSELF.”

NAZARENE TRUTH: THERE IS NO COMMANDMENT IN THE NT TO STOP REMEMBERING THE SABBATH OF THE LORD AND STOP KEEPING IT HOLY (EXODUS 20:8). THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO RE-COMMAND THIS COMMANDMENT. IN THE FIRST CENTURY, BOTH JEW AND GOD-FEARING GENTILE WERE ALREADY OBSERVING THIS COMMAND (ACTS 15:21,16:12-15, 18:1-11). OBEYING THE 4TH COMMAND IS A STARTING POINT IN OBEDIENCE FOR SET-APART PEOPLE (EXODUS 16:4-5). FROM THE SABBATH COMES MATURITY AND HEALTHY REST FOR MAN AND ANIMAL (EXODUS 16:23, 20:10). ONLY THE ADVERSARY WOULD WANT TO TAKE THAT AWAY (JOHN 10:10). Y’SHUA ONLY TAUGHT AGAINST FALSE TRADITIONS OF THE ELDERS (ORAL TORAH, MATTHEW 15, MARK 7) IN REGARDS TO THE SABBATH. IT WAS HIS CUSTOM TO KEEP THE SABBATH (LUKE 4:16, MARK 1:21) AND HE EVEN SAID HE IS THE LORD OF THE SABBATH (MATTHEW 12:8). THE MISGUIDED PHARISEES ACCUSED HIM OF BREAKING THE SABBATH BUT HE USED SCRIPTURE TO SHOW THAT HE IN FACT WAS NOT BREAKING THE SABBATH.

CHRISTIAN #5: “WE ARE ONLY TO OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS THAT ARE LISTED IN THE NT. THESE LISTS ARE THE ONES BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES WILL BE JUDGED BY.”

NAZARENE TRUTH: THERE ARE MANY LISTS OF COMMANDMENT BREAKERS IN THE NT BUT YOU WILL NOTICE THAT NONE OF THEM ARE THE EXACT SAME LIST (1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-10, GALATIANS 5:19-21, EPHESIANS 5:4-5, REVELATION 21:8, 22:15). THIS TELLS US THAT THE AUTHOR WAS NOT GIVING AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST. ADDITIONALLY, MANY GENERAL WORDS ARE USED IN THOSE LISTS SUCH AS “IMMORALITY”, “WRONG DOERS”, “EVIL”, “BLASPHEMERS”, “COVETOUS”, “IDOLATERS”, AND “UNRIGHTEOUS” WHICH ARE WORDS DEFINED BY THE OLD TESTAMENT AND WHICH DESCRIBE THOSE IN DISOBEDIENCE. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 SAYS ALL SCRIPTURE IS FOR DOCTRINE, REPROOF, CORRECTION AND TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. THERE WAS NO NEED TO RE-COMMAND EVERY COMMAND GIVEN FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT WHEN WE CAN SEE THAT THE NT WRITERS PULLED FROM IT AS NEEDED IN THEIR TEACHINGS.