



WHY SHOULD I CARE?

In His wisdom and love, God has given us some instructions for living that allow us freedom to experience the good and fulfilling life He designed for us. Though we have an inclination to go our own way a lot of the time, we nevertheless agree that we function best when we follow some sort of guidelines. God didn't give Moses the Ten Commandments as a way of controlling His people, but as a way for us to flourish in relation to Him and one another. They're an awesome gift!

Have you ever tried to do something new (e.g., put together furniture, change the oil in your car, etc.) without following directions? Did you accomplish your mission? Do you have a funny (or not-so-funny) experience to share as a result?

Do you consider yourself a direction follower? If you're married, is one spouse a direction follower and the other not? Does this cause tension?

Before the message, what was your background with the Ten Commandments? What did or do you typically associate with the Ten Commandments?

Read Exodus 20:3-4; 7-8; 12-17

You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 12 "Honor your father and your mother.13 "You shall not murder.14 "You shall not commit adultery. 15 "You shall not steal. 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Do any of those commandments stick out to you? Why? What does it reveal to you about God's heart? Why?

Do you personally feel like the Ten Commandments are an added pressure or do you feel like they help you? Why?

How do you think God feels when He sees His people breaking the commandments? Why do you think that?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9

Since no one can earn salvation, why would anyone care to follow the Ten Commandments? Pastor Schlie describes the Ten Commandments as a "curb to keep us on the right path." Have you ever heard anyone explain the commandments this way? How can this truth help in your daily life?

