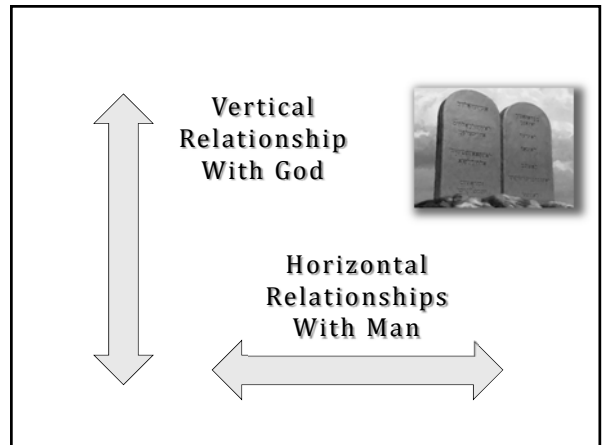






"Love Thy Neighbor-Pt. 1"

- Change in Focus**
1. So far we have looked at the first 4 commandments that deal with our relationship with God.
- 1) You shall have no other Gods before Me.
 - 2) You shall not make nor worship idols.
 - 3) You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.
 - 4) Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.



Matthew 22:37 NKJV 

Jesus said to him,
 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:38 NKJV 

"This is *the* first and great commandment."

Which word did Jesus use for love here?

1. He used the Greek word *agapao* (ἀγαπάω) which means "to love in way that is based on evaluation and choice".
2. In other words Jesus is telling us here that in order to be in harmony with the second portion of God's commandments we must choose to love our neighbors just as much as we love ourselves.

Is there any portion of the text that says we have like our neighbor?


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So regardless of whether we like someone or not we have a command to love them.


So who is my neighbor?
So who is your neighbor?

Exodus 20:12 

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

Exodus 20:13 

"You shall not murder."

Exodus 20:14 

"You shall not commit adultery."

Three of Our Neighbors

1. Our parents.
2. Any living person with whom we come in contact.
3. Our spouses.

What does it mean to honor our parents?

Does it mean that we always agree with our parents?

Does it mean that we always follow their counsel?

1. In Exodus the Hebrew word translated honor (*kabed*) means to feel heavy or weighted down.
2. Could it mean that God wants us to feel the burden of caring for and nurturing our parents just as they cared for and nurtured us in our youth?

What are some other ways we honor our parents

1. Show them respect.
 - In how we talk to them.
 - In how we talk about them to others.
 - By following their rules under their roof.
2. Care for them in their twilight years.
3. Learn from their wisdom and experience.
4. Share Jesus with them if they are unbelievers.

Three of Our Neighbors

1. Our parents are our neighbors and we must choose to love them.

What some ways that we can kill someone?

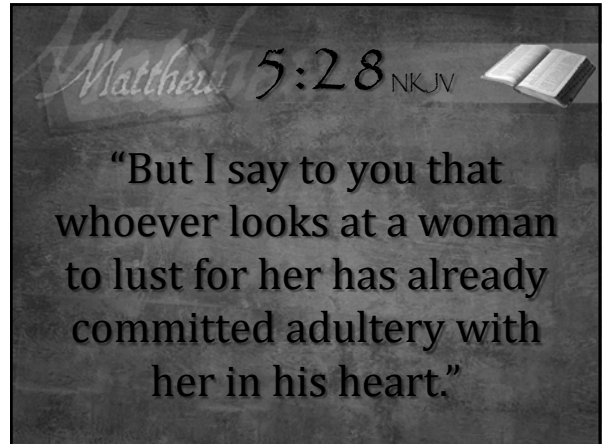
1. There is the obvious way of taking their life.
2. We can also kill someone without taking their life.
 - We can kill them emotionally.
 - We can kill them spiritually.
 - We can kill someone's reputation.

Three of Our Neighbors

1. Our parents are our neighbors and we must choose to love them.
2. Any person with whom we come in contact with is our neighbor and we must choose to love them.

What about adultery?

1. Most of the time we associate adultery with our spouse having sexual relations with someone outside of the marriage.
2. Is sexual unfaithfulness the only act that constitutes adultery? Jesus gives us the answer.



What about adultery?

1. Most of the time we associate adultery with our spouse having sexual relations with someone outside of the marriage.
2. Is sexual unfaithfulness the only act that constitutes adultery? Jesus gives us the answer.
3. It becomes quite clear that Jesus teaches us that adultery is first committed in the heart.
 - That means that pornography is a form of adultery.
 - When we ogle at someone we can sow seeds for adultery.
 - When we look with lustful intentions upon someone.
 - By Jesus' standard, adultery can be one-sided.

Three of Our Neighbors

1. Our parents are our neighbors and we must choose to love them.
2. Any person with whom we come in contact with is our neighbor and we must choose to love them.
3. Our spouses are our neighbors and we must choose to love them too.

Placing love in the proper context..

1. Choosing to love people does not mean that we will automatically click with them and be best friends.
2. Choosing to love someone as we love ourselves means that just as we want to be saved and live eternally with Christ we love someone else enough to share Jesus with them.
3. With our parents it means choosing to love them even when they drive us crazy. God has promised to bless us with longevity when we honor our parents.
4. With our spouse it means choosing to love them even when they drive us crazy.

How do these 3 Commandments show us God's Character?

1. Jesus knows that if we learn to honor our earthly parents then we can catch a glimpse of how to honor God.
2. If we learn to not kill one another physically or otherwise then maybe we won't assassinate the character of Christ by the way we live.
3. If learn to be faithful within our marital relationships then perhaps we can learn to be faithful to our God and not commit spiritual adultery against Him.
4. These commandments teach us that God wants to save us and those around us.