

The Kingdom Handbook

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 2

The Handbook

- We believe the Bible is the only inspired, infallible and authoritative written Word of God
- Bible is our handbook, which explains how God operates his kingdom & how we're to function in it
- Some resources about the kingdom use the 10 commandments as guidelines for kingdom living; I suggest that's unnecessary & even inappropriate
- Heb 10:1, "The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming – not the realities themselves."
 - "shadow" (Heb, n, *skia*): an example that prefigures or foreshadows what is to come
 - The old covenant is based on works – human effort – not grace & faith

The Law of Moses

- The Law – the Law of Moses – defined the terms or requirements of the old covenant
 - Ro 7:12, "So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good."
 - Law was totally effective for what God intended it to do
- The law had three basic purposes:
 - (1) to make people aware of sin by identifying what is sinful
 - Ro 7:7, "... I would not have known what sin was except through the law."
 - (2) to mandate punishment for sin
 - Ro 4:15(a), "... law brings wrath."
 - Ro 8:2, "... through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."
 - Law of Moses (terms of old covenant) was the "law of sin & death"
 - (3) to prove that people need a savior because they can't keep the law to avoid sin and its punishment.
 - Ro 8:3, "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering."
 - Jas 2:10, "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."
- Mt 7:12, " So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."
- So if we're not obligated to keep the 10 commandments or other parts of the Law of Moses, then how can we know how to live?

- Our love for him & appreciation for his grace should motivate us to obey him
- Jn 14:15, “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

Jesus’ Commands

- Commands are “imperative” statements that express a command, intention or exhortation; sometimes a polite request
- It’s the blood of Jesus that qualifies us for God’s grace, not our obedience to rules
- Repent & believe
 - Mt 4:17, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”
 - Jn 6:29, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”
- Make God’s kingdom & his righteousness your top priorities
 - Mt 6:33, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
 - “kingdom” is the application of his will; “righteousness” involves becoming like him
- Love
 - Mt 22:37-39, ³⁷ “‘Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
 - Jn 13:34(b), “As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”
 - Mt 5:44, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
- Forgive
 - Mt 6:14, “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”
 - Mt 18:21-22, ²¹ “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘LORD, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ ²² Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”
- Take Communion
 - Mt 26:26-28, ²⁶ “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ ²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”
 - Taking communion celebrates & honors our covenant relationship with God

- Pray
 - Mt 6:6(a), “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.”
 - He taught his disciples a representative prayer: “this is how you should pray”
- Give
 - Mt 5:42, “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”
 - Lk 12:33, “Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.”
- Make disciples
 - Mt 28:19-20(a), ¹⁹ “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
- Be baptized in water
 - Mt 28:19, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
 - Mt 3:13, “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.”

The Ten Commandments and the New Covenant

- #1 “You shall have no other gods before me.”
- 1 Jn 2:15, “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
 - 2 Co 4:4, “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- #2 “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God”
- Rev 21:8, “But ... the idolaters ... will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”
- #3 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”
- Lk 1:49, “... for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name.”
 - “holy”: sacred, devoted to God; not to be profaned by ordinary use

- #4 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy”
 - Heb 4:9-10,⁹ “There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.”
- #5 “Honor your father and your mother”
 - Col 3:20, “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the LORD.”
- #6 “You shall not murder.”
 - 1 Jn 3:15, “Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.”
 - Rev 21:8, “But ... the murderers ... will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”
- #7 “You shall not commit adultery”
 - Mt 5:27-28, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
 - Rev 21:8, “But ... the sexually immoral ... will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”
- #8 “You shall not steal”
 - Eph 4:28, “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.”
 - Not just abstaining from theft, but sharing what one has with those less fortunate
- #9 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”
 - Lk 3:14(b), ““Don’t ... accuse people falsely ...”
 - 1 Tim 5:13(b), “And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.”
 - Rev 21:8, “But ... all liars ... will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”
- #10 “You shall not covet”
 - Lk 3:14(b), “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.”
 - Heb 13:5, “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have”
 - The new covenant standards equal or far exceed the commandments of the Law
 - We operate under an entirely different covenant & enjoy benefits & opportunities not even available under the old covenant
 - The Bible is the kingdom handbook, but we learn different things from different parts of it