

March 7, 2021

Question for Reflection

The third Sunday of Lent focuses on the gift of God's law (Exod. 20:1–17). John Calvin (1509–1564) described three uses for the Ten Commandments: First, they show us how to live before God and neighbor, and expose our sins in failing to live as God intends. Second, they instruct our civic or common life, showing us how to live responsibly in the freedom God gives. Third, rather than show us what we must do in order to *receive* God's grace and love, the commandments show us how we should live *because* we are a people who have already received God's grace and love in Jesus Christ. Does God's law restrict or enhance our freedom as human beings?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of heaven and earth,
I listen this morning for the sound of your glory:
in the songs of birds,
in quiet conversations that begin the day,
in easy laughter among friends,
in sunlight's warmth,
pattering rain, or silent snowfall.
Give me ears to hear your glory in its many forms.
Give me eyes to see your glory in its many guises.
Throughout this day, I, too, will proclaim your glory,
your grace, and your love
so that I may be a part of the chorus of praise
that stretches to the ends of the earth.
In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of freedom,
I thank you for claiming me as your own
and for setting me in the midst of the community of faith.
Today the news was filled with stories of people
who do not live according to your commandments,
with grievous results.
Lives are shattered
as your ancient tablets of stone are broken again and again.
And I struggle, too, in my own ways,
to live before you and my neighbors
in faithfulness, generosity, and love.
As the day comes to an end,
I pray for forgiveness for myself
and for this weary world,
confident of your grace and mercy.
Send your gift of Sabbath rest,
and let me sleep in peace as, over and around me,
night declares to night your power and glory.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.