



ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE "Social Values" Deuteronomy 5:1-15

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Life was never intended to be lived in isolation. God created society as surely as He created individuality. The good life, therefore, requires correct social attitudes and behavior. These are outlined in the second part of the Decalogue and summarized in the statement, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

I. Social Values—Learned in the Family. v. 16

- A. Economic survival—"That you may live long."
- B. Emotional stability—"May go well with you."
- C. Educational structure. v. 9; 6:7
 - 1. Self-consciousness.
 - 2. Self-interest.
 - 3. Self-gratification.
 - 4. Self-denial.

II. Social Values—Lived Out in the World. vv. 17-20

- A. The sanctity of life. v. 17
 - 1. Not a blanket prohibition—war, capital punishment.
 - 2. Prohibition against taking human life for personal reasons.
 - a. Man is made in divine image.
 - b. Man participates in divine purpose.
 - c. To destroy man is to abrogate divine authority.
 - d. To do it for personal reasons is to elevate man over God.
 - 3. Application in modern life—abortion.
- B. The exclusiveness of marriage. v. 18
 - 1. Marriage designed by God to be exclusive. Genesis 2:24
 - 2. Marriage is a commitment to faithfulness. Proverbs 2:16-17
 - 3. Adultery is the essence of unfaithfulness.
 - 4. Unfaithfulness is abhorrent to a covenant God.
- C. The respect of the other person. v. 19
 - 1. Stealing—depriving God of his honor. Malachi 3:8-10
 - 2. Stealing—depriving man of:
 - a. Liberty. Deuteronomy 24:7
 - b. Opportunity.
 - c. Dignity. Isaiah 10:1-3
 - d. Property. Deuteronomy 24:6-13
- D. The commitment to integrity. v. 20
 - 1. Society's need for structures.
 - 2. Structures' need for integrity.
 - 3. Man's propensity to cheat.
 - 4. Man's cheating serves his own ends.

III. Society Values—Lodged in the Heart. v. 21

- A. The root of action is attitude.
- B. Covetousness (strong desire) is root of bitter fruit.
- C. Therefore, attitude and action to be disciplined.