

Imagine a World...

The world we live in is filled with sadness. Many are distraught, overly stressed, dealing with unhappy relationships and depression is an epidemic problem. Is this what the Creator God intended when He made man? What kind of world does the Creator really want for his children?

He allowed them free choice in the Garden of Eden, but Adam and Eve chose for themselves and their descendants the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil". They did not want to believe God and His instruction on how to live, but instead wanted to decide for themselves what is good and what is evil. They chose to believe the devil who would deceive them into thinking good is evil and evil is good. And thus we see the results of that choice all around us in every society and culture in the world.

However, we get an idea of God's desire for His children when we observe His interaction with the nation of Israel. He told them that if they obeyed Him, he would bless them. He would bless the offspring of their body, the produce from their ground, the increase of their herds and cattle and the offspring of their flocks. Their enemies would be defeated. They would have rain in its season, and they would lend but not borrow. They would be blessed in the city and blessed in the country; blessed when they came in and blessed when they went out. Obviously God's desire for his people is to be blessed, and to have abundant lives. But, this does not come without obedience to Him. (Deut. 28:1-14)

Imagine a world with these blessings! Not only did he promise to bless them but he also gave them laws, commandments and statutes that, if followed, would make their lives and culture a wonderful environment.

There are many instructions God gave His people but imagine a world where at least the Ten Commandments were upheld and followed by all. Without murder, the threat of danger would be virtually nonexistent (commandment #6). The sadness of those who have experienced murder in the lives of friends or family would not exist. What freedom would come to know your family and friends are not in danger at anytime or any place!

Imagine the good relationships between parents and their children, whether young or grown adults if all people honored their parents. Much grief that surrounds parents in our society would be gone because they would no longer be treated in a rude, disrespectful manner. Instead they would harbor much improved relationships within the family realm. (Commandment #5) Children and young adults also would be blessed by learning from the experience of their parents if their attitude towards them was one of honor. Unfortunately part of the problem today is many parents do not act honorable. But if the culture of honor to parents was the norm, they would also do better at upholding their status of being honorable. Family division is caused because of lack of honor to parents. If you are a parent or a grandparent you know the pain caused by being dishonored by your children and if you are blessed to have children that honor

you, you know the joy it brings. This commandment is very important in upholding the family which is central to a strong society.

What if the 8th commandment was followed? No more stealing in a society would make incredible changes to so many things. The price of goods would go down, as the market prices reflect the loss to the business due to theft. You would not have to worry about locking cars, houses, or leaving any of your possessions around. The grief that people suffer as a result of theft can be devastating. Now we have theft of one's identity, theft when someone steals our credit card number or money from our bank accounts. Now we have the added expense of insurance to try to protect us from the loss of possible theft. Kidnapping is also a type of theft. Most of us have had to deal with theft in our lives and know the heartache and stress it causes.

The family breakdown, and the devastating pain and suffering caused by adultery, permeates our society. Imagine no more broken families because of affairs and no more hurt children because of divorce. Although it is not the only reason for divorce it is probably the most common and the most hurtful. (Commandment #7) Anyone who has been through this or seen other family members or friends experience this knows how this brings pain to so many people who are affected.

The 9th commandment says "do not bear false witness". Have you ever really thought about how common place it is for people to lie about another individual? To say something untrue about another is to bear false witness of them. Imagine if other people only spoke the truth about you...always! This is unimaginable in the political/corporate environment, but how much better our work situations would be if this commandment was followed, not to mention our relationships with our friends and families. The flip side of this is you could always trust what was said about others was true. This would be a very different world!

The last commandment that instructs us on how to interact with others tells us not to covet. This is an action of the mind, but certainly can lead to harm towards others. Many of the crimes between people begin with coveting what is not yours. Wars are often the outcome of coveting. Even though an action such as theft may not be the outcome of coveting, it can lead to hostile words, anger, quarrels and envious relationships. These actions destroy peace and happiness.

What about the first four commandments which deal with our relationship with God? How do they make our lives better? The first commandment is about recognizing that the Creator God is the only true God and that there are no other gods besides Him. How would this affect our society? If all people truly believed this, they would all follow Him. Therefore all the other commandments would be a way of life for all. This in itself would relieve much pain, bringing peace and well being. There would be unity in religion...unheard of! Think of all the wars, hatred and divided friends and family that exist because of division in religion. This would be gone!

How about the second commandment instructing us not to make graven images to worship? This goes along with the first commandment, not having any other gods, not worshipping anything, anybody but the one true God. This creates a society that is focused solely on following the dictates of one God and creates unity between people instead of confusion and dissention.

Do not take the name of LORD your God in vain; do not make it meaningless. This command too is about showing honor and reference to the one true God. If all in the society obeyed these first three commandments, can you imagine the blessings that a loving God would shower upon those who love Him the way He has commanded? (Commandment #3) Remember the example we see with Israel is his desire to bless. Surely His blessings would be abundant if all mankind loved the one true God, the Creator of all and showed this love through obedience to his commands.

The last commandment regarding man and his relationship with his Creator is the 4th; "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you should labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of LORD, your God. In it you shall do no work...for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." Most people do not understand what a wonderful blessing this command is to mankind. Jesus said in Mark 2:27, "the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Only the God who created mankind is able to give us a day off work and guarantee our needs will be met. He set apart the seventh day at creation, blesses us with a complete day of rest from our work at the end of every week.

The chance to physically and spiritually rejuvenate, to de-stress from life's pressures and busyness would bring much peace to people's lives. If all the distractions of the week, whether work or all the other activities we do that make our lives so busy and hectic would just stop for one day, people would have time for a much needed day of rest! This day is holy; set apart for a different purpose, a different focus. Imagine a world where everyone remembered to keep this day holy. What a day of peace! What a blessing to families and the community; a much needed rest for all.

Just these ten commands that God gave to his people Israel show His intentions were for a much better life for mankind. If the Creator God was honored by all in the way He instructed, He would truly bless and provide for His people more than they could imagine. The relationships between humans would be greatly improved if the other commands were adhered to and the peace that would come in such a society would cause a life of much more happiness for everyone. There are many other instructions from the Creator that add to a better way of life like laws against rape, incest, violence, and laws teaching about His Feast days. His knowledge of good and evil is what mankind lacks. But obviously just living by the Ten Commandments would be a great improvement to the whole world.

This is the world our Father desires. This is the world that is coming when He sends His son, Jesus, back to the earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Rev. 19:16) It will

be a world where the LORD is honored as the one true God of all. As Jesus said, He is "...my Father and your Father, my God and your God." There is no other. "I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me." (Isa. 45:5) "In that day...the LORD will be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—the LORD is one, and His name one." (Zech. 14:9) God's law will be kept by all, including His Feasts which are instructed in Leviticus 23. Those who do not come up to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles will have no rain. So they will probably learn quickly to obey the King of all the earth when they see the abundance in the nations that surround them. This will be a world where the LORD is King over all. His children will obey Him and He will bless them. Imagine this world—it will come!

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