



KIDS CHURCH

08/10-10/19

WE TYPICALLY THINK OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AS RULES WE MUST FOLLOW IN ORDER TO BE GOOD FOLLOWERS OF GOD - AND THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY WRONG - BUT IMAGINE THIS LIST OF "RULES" TO BE MORE OF A LIST OF "SAYINGS" THAT DEFINE THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH GOD. IN ANCIENT EASTERN WEDDING CEREMONIES, THE BRIDE AND GROOM WOULD EXCHANGE A LIST OF 7-12 ITEMS THAT WOULD DEFINE THEIR RELATIONSHIP. THIS LIST OF 10 SAYINGS IN EXODUS 20 DEFINES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. IT'S NOT JUST A LIST OF RULES WE HAVE TO FOLLOW - IT'S A MARRIAGE CONTRACT GOD GIVES US AS A GIFT FROM THE GROOM TO THE BRIDE. AND EVEN WHILE MOSES WAS RECEIVING THESE "COMMANDMENTS," THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE CREATING AND WORSHIPING A GOLDEN CALF, THEREBY BREAKING THE FIRST OF THE COMMANDMENTS. STILL, GOD TAKES MOSES BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN AND PICKS UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF. EVEN WHEN WE DON'T KEEP OUR MARRIAGE COVENANT TO GOD, HE PURSUES US IN THE WAKE OF OUR MISTAKES. THIS LIST - DO NOT HAVE ANY OTHER GODS BEFORE ME, DO NOT WORSHIP IDOLS, DO NOT MISUSE THE NAME OF THE LORD, KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, DO NOT MURDER, REMAIN FAITHFUL TO YOUR SPOUSE (DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY), DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT LIE, AND DO NOT COVET - DEFINES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND CONSISTS OF THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH OUR RELATIONSHIP STANDS. IF WE REMEMBER TO DO THESE THINGS, WE WON'T JUST BE FOLLOWING RULES - WE'LL BE HONORING OUR COMMITMENT AND COVENANT TO A GOD AND GROOM WHO PURSUES US NO MATTER WHAT.