

**Perfect**  
**Exodus 19:20-25**  
**April 6, 2008**

Many people in the church live in devastation over their inability to live up to a standard of perfection – they carry their sins like secrets in spiritual environments that are anything but transparent.

**Vs. 20** – “The LORD descended to the top...” – **The Ten Commandments** – begin here: **It is never about us going up to God** – vss. 21-22...

Understanding the Rules (the Ten Commandments):

- They are the Rules we were Created with

Laws God wrote on our minds at Creation – **Paul – Romans 1:20** – ‘invisible qualities... clearly seen and understood...’ – ‘turning over’ people... sinful desires/actions.

It isn’t as though mankind doesn’t know the rules – or has an excuse – it has chosen to disobey.

For Israel, this led to slavery – we know that sin leads to slavery in our lives.

- They are the Family Rules

**Jeremiah 31:33** – What God has written on our minds, in Christ, He writes on our hearts.

**Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.** – “Sin traps people and makes them wilt; godly obedience liberates people and helps them flourish.”

What we find is that these Rules are intended to create a Grace-Driven Despair

**Galatians 3:24** – “So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.”

Until Jesus came the Law was like a ‘babysitter’ – To say that we can keep the Ten Commandments is to say that we can live apart from needing the Cross – as though Jesus’ work is there in case we mess up.

The Ten Commandments reveal God’s nature but they also uncover ours – We need a Savior. We need Jesus.

How does this play out? By articulating the honesty of that Grace-Driven despair in our lives...

- ‘I’m called to be a caring husband, but I haven’t been – I am willing to flee to Jesus...’
- ‘I’m called to freedom – but I’m a slave to my vices – I have fled to Jesus and admitted this struggle...’

Here’s the Good News – the Gospel – you don’t have to come up, because God came down...

- Jesus descended and on the Cross to be lifted up.
- He consecrated Himself to be desecrated.
- His perfect life was violated and His perfect body pierced and bloodied – for you.

Don’t tell Jesus you can be perfect – it is an insult of the highest order. Instead, admit to Him that you aren’t.