



VERTICAL SPORTS

3D DEVOTIONAL

4/25 The way to stay free

Sports: Rules in sports have always been a sore subject, some rules feel like they were put in place to favor one group over another. Some rules are put in place to make sure that no one gets hurt, while others are put in place to make sure that the game is played at the highest level possible. Rules in sports, while frustrating, allow for both sides to know that there are boundaries they cannot cross.

Life: Rules in life can be the same. Some rules are frustrating to most people as they seem to hinder our ability to live in the way that we want to. Speed limits are often some of the most broken laws, as people think that they are suggestions rather than a strict line. Obedience and adherence to these laws creates a safer environment for everyone around us.

Truth: So what does Scripture say about Rules and guidelines? God Loved and desired for his chosen people the Israelites to know him, however, they also needed to know and see the sins that they committed kept them apart from his love. This is where the Ten Commandments come in. God gave Israel ten rules to live by. God came down to Moses on Mt. Sinani to give Moses ten commands to give to the people to live by. Some people didn't like commands, but God's commands aren't just hard rules to make life harder. NO! These laws show us what God is like and how to live so we are truly happy. The first five focus on loving God above anyone else with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

The last six focus on loving others as much as we love ourselves. What good rules that free us to serve our good God!

GOSPEL CONNECTION: God didn't give the commands then save Israel; he first saved them then gave the Ten Commands. That same pattern is true today. God doesn't tell us to be good so that he can save us, if he did, we would all be in a bad spot. He saves us first, as a gift. Because of God's great love, Jesus came into the world to crush the snake. When Jesus saves us he doesn't just rescue us from the penalty of our sins. He also saved us from the power of them. When we believe, he gives us new hearts- hearts that want to love God and love others. So that when we see the ten commands, we don't see them to earn salvation, but as good things that Jesus' death freed us to do.

Prayer: Let our focus and joy be set on the fact that Christ has first set us free to be able to follow his will and his commands.