

Reply To Louis W. Cable's Article

I do not take the local paper, but was given copies of the exchange between Louis W. Cable and others on the matter of the Ten Commandments and God (*The Lufkin Daily News* Jan. 12, 15, 19, 2003). Those who responded to Mr. Cable did not directly address his statements--this is not to say their points are not valid. However, Mr. Cable's accusations against God and His word need answering.

Mr. Cable claimed the first of the Ten Commandments has no moral or ethical value. He is wrong. The first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before Me," lifts man's mind above the things of this world. It raises man's consciousness to a higher level and, when considered with other principles of the Bible, teaches him he is amenable to One greater than himself (Gen. 1:26-27; Ecc. 5:2; 11:9; 2 Cor. 5:10). Thus, man is more cautious with his thoughts, words and deeds (Rom. 14:12; Mt. 12:36).

The part of the second commandment addressed by Mr. Cable, states that God will visit "the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me" (Ex. 20:5). This does not address personal guilt and responsibility which is considered in Ezekiel 18:20. The consequences of sin do pass on to the children. A drunk brings hardship upon his family, but the family is not guilty of drunkenness. God will not spare the children or grandchildren of those who hate Him from the consequences of their actions, but they are not held responsible for those actions (1 Kgs. 11:1-13). This helps keep men from sin lest their children be adversely affected.

Mr. Cable's complaint about the third commandment is nonsense.

The fourth commandment to keep the Sabbath holy does not apply to the Christian religion. In fact, the entire Old Testament was superseded by the New Testament (Eph. 2:14; Col. 2:14; 2 Cor. 3:3-13). Nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the New Testament of Christ. One is not, the Sabbath, and therefore is not binding upon Christians. As far as slavery is concerned, the Bible regulated it, condemning oppression and mistreatment within the institution (Deut. 23:15-16). Also, kidnapping was punishable by death (Ex. 21:16). Thus, slavery was an institution when the Law of Moses was given. It sought to regulate it and remove its abuses. The New Testament also deals with the relationship between masters and servants, principles which are applicable to employers and

employees today (Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:18-4:1). Slavery was eventually ended because of the morals of Christianity, not the morally bankrupt religion of atheism.

Mr. Cable makes a feeble attempt to discredit the fifth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you" (Ex. 20:12). His hatred for the Bible is so great he even finds fault with honoring parents. He also criticizes what he calls the "pernicious myth that God gave Palestine to the Jews." God promised it to Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 15:18-21). The promise was fulfilled in Joshua 21:43-45 and 23:14. Solomon ruled over all the promised territory (1 Kgs. 4:21). Israel was removed from the land during the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, but later returned to reestablish the nation and worship God (2 Kgs. 17:5-18; 24:1-4, 10-20; 25:1-21; Ezra; Nehemiah). Their biblical right to the land was forfeited when they rejected Christ (cf. Matt. 24:1-35). Thus, God removed them by the hand of the Romans.

Mr. Cable says the sixth commandment indicts God as "the most notorious killer of all time." He also wrote, "His indiscriminate killings, most of which were capricious, inhumane and senseless, are too numerous to repeat here." With these statements Mr. Cable admits the existence of God and that He acts in the affairs of mankind. The only problem is, Mr. Cable does not like what God has done or said. The prohibition of the sixth commandment, "You shall not kill," he says contradicts God's commands to kill certain people, including violators of some of His laws. Well, if that is true, then the laws of the United States against kidnapping contradict the laws that authorize the arrest and incarceration of criminals. It would also make the laws against stealing contradict the laws that impose fines on criminals. Mr. Cable's argument is sophistry.

Mr. Cable's objection to the seventh commandment, "You shall not commit adultery," is interesting. He objects because, he says, it was given in a male-dominated culture where women had no rights. Well, Mr. Cable, in our "enlightened" culture which affords many rights to women, is it acceptable to commit adultery?

The prohibition to steal, the eighth commandment, is criticized by Mr. Cable because he says that is what God told the Israelites to deceitfully do to the Egyptians (Ex. 3:21-22). The Hebrew word "borrow" in the King James version is defined as "to ask, inquire, borrow, beg" (Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon). The word is translated "ask" in the New King James, American Standard and New American Standard

versions of the Bible. Thus, the Israelites asked and received from the Egyptians (Ex. 12:35, 36).

Mr. Cable says that God violated the ninth commandment, "You shall not bear false witness against you neighbor," in 1 Kings 22:21-23. He said God hatched "a devious plot against Ahab, King of Israel, based on a lie." Mr. Cable again admits the existence of God and His interaction with men. The truth is, 1 Kings 22:21-23, proves the opposite of what Mr. Cable claims. In that passage, the prophet Micaiah was revealing the truth to Ahab and Jehoshaphat. He told them that God had sent the prophets who told a lie. This is a case where God allows an action, but is described as doing that action (Ex. 8:32; 9:12). Even so, God sent Micaiah to tell them the truth. The problem was, Ahab's stubbornness--he refused to believe the truth, he wanted lies. The same thing is addressed in the New Testament. People who refuse the truth will be sent a strong delusion, "that they should believe the lie" (2 Thes. 2:10-12).

Mr. Cable objects to the tenth commandment which forbids covetousness because "in biblical times women could neither inherit or own property." "And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a man dies and has no son, then you shall cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter'" (Num. 27:8). In the New Testament Mark's mother, Mary, had her own house (Acts 12:12). Even if women did not have the right to inherit or own anything, how does that mitigate against a command not to covet?

Mr. Cable closed with these words, "Far from being the foundation of this country's common law, the Ten Commandments constitute the very antithesis of those parts of our heritage of which we may be justly proud." If our nation was not founded upon biblical principles, then upon what principles was it established? Islamic? Hindu? Buddhist? Rather, as the Declaration of Independence says, "WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by the CREATOR with certain unalienable Rights..." Our nation was founded upon biblical principles, but admittedly has drifted, due, in large part, to men like Louis W. Cable.

The sum of it all is that Louis W. Cable is part of a radical, fringe element of our society--atheism. He hates the Bible, which imposes restraints and obligations that he is unwilling to accept. One day he will regret it.

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