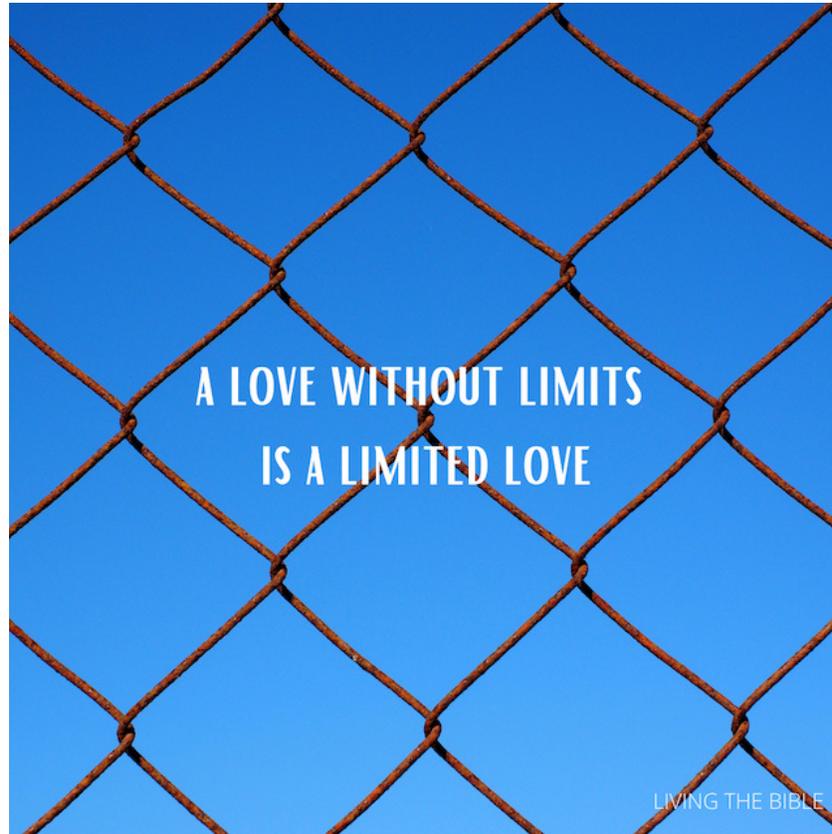


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# THE LOVE OF GOD IN THE LAW OF GOD

## EXODUS 20



How do you view the law of God? Maybe, like many, you view it as a threat. “It’s a threat to my salvation and to my happiness. Give me God’s love over God’s law any day.”

But, what if I told you that there’s another way of looking at God’s Law? That we can see the love of God in the law of God? You don’t want to miss out on God’s love, do you? Well, come with me to Exodus 20 and we’ll discover four ways to experience God’s love in God’s law.

### LEARNING

#### **GOD’S LOVE LIBERATES US**

God’s law starts with God’s salvation, not our obedience. **“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery”** (2). That’s God’s saving love and it comes before God’s law. God’s love is the foundation of God’s law. Therefore, let’s love God’s law as an expression of God’s love. God’s love liberates us.

GOD’S LIBERATING LOVE  
LIBERATES OUR LOVE.

That’s God’s love in the preface to God’s law. What about God’s love in the precepts of God’s law?

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### **GOD'S LOVE LONGS FOR US (3-11)**

The first four commandments express God's longing for us. The first commandment is "Worship me only": God's saying, "I long for your loyalty." The second commandment is "Worship me my way": God's saying, "I long for your worship." The third commandment is "Honor my name": God's saying, "I long for your respect." Fourth commandment "Remember my day": God's saying "I long for your time." God's love longs for us.

Every marriage develops a set of unwritten rules as the husband and wife get to know one another's likes and dislikes. That doesn't turn the couple into lawyers. No, it helps them to be lovers. That's why God wrote out his rules, not because he wants to be our lawyer, but because he wants to be our lover.

GOD LONGS FOR US MORE  
THAN FOR OUR OBEDIENCE.

But what about the other commandments? How do you see God's love in them?

### **GOD'S LOVE LOOKS AFTER US (12-17)**

Commandments 5-10 express God's care for us. Each one of them protects us from ourselves, protects us from others, and protects others from us. God's love looks after us.

GOD'S PROTECTIVE LAWS  
REVEAL GOD'S PROTECTIVE LOVE.

It still seems very restrictive. Where's the love in all the restrictions?

### **GOD'S LOVE LIMITS US (18-26)**

It's God's love that's behind the limits. In verses 18-26, God moves from boundaries for everyday life to boundaries for church life. He sets boundaries as to where, what, and how to worship. God's love limits us.

A LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS  
IS A LIMITED LOVE.

LOVING

Can you see God's love in the law now? A love that liberates, a love that longs, a love that looks after us, and a love that limits us. It begins with loving liberation and ends with loving limitations. He liberates us from the danger of sin and limits us within the boundaries of his blessing. And within these boundaries he longs for us and looks after us. You don't want to miss out on that love, do you? Look up John 14:15-17 and you'll find Jesus also taught the love of God in the law of God.

LIVING

Love God's law as an expression of God's love and you'll experience more of God's love.

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