



## **Freedom's Formula - If/Then**

**February 23, 2020**

Sermon Discussion Guide

This message looks at two major components of finding spiritual freedom. The first is based on what is known as the covenant formula and is found in Exodus 19:1-8. Before the formula is discussed, it is pointed out that God has always taken the initiative in pursuing a relationship with humankind! The formula is: if/then. God tells Moses if the people do certain things, then He will respond accordingly! Under the Old Covenant this required keeping the law, which the people had promised to do. However, they were unable to do this faithfully and continually were in breach of the covenant. God knew we needed help and would later send His Son Jesus to do just that! A part of this section talks about the New Testament version of the covenant formula, which of course is based on Grace rather than the law, though we still have a responsibility to respond. The second component of the message showcases why the principles of the Ten Commandments are still relevant as guardrails and guides for our lives. The message ends with two Scriptures written by Paul which bridge the if/then, covenant, formula between the Old and New Testaments.

### **HIGHLIGHT**

- **Read the Text** - Exodus 19:1-8, 20:1-17
- Ask for someone to read the text aloud. Or you read the text aloud.
- **Look for Highlights** - As the text is read, tell the group to be looking out for the highlights (a particular verse, something new learned, a reminder, a question, etc.)

### **EXPLAIN**

- To whom was it originally written? Why?
- How does it fit with the verses before and after it?
- What is the Holy Spirit intending to communicate through this text?

### **APPLY**

- What does this mean today?
- What is God saying to you personally?
- How can you apply this message to your life?

### **RESPOND**

- In what ways does this passage call you to action?
- How will you be different because of what you've learned?
- What is a prayer to God in response to what you read today?