**The Decalogue as a Bill of [the next person’s] Rights**

**October 9, 2011**

1. YHWH has the right to exclusive allegiance—not only because he has triumphed over all gods Exod 12:12; Num 33:4; Deut 4:34–35, 39., but especially because he has graciously redeemed Israel, brought her to himself, and entered into covenant relationship with them Exod 19:4–6..

2. YHWH has the right to fair and honest representation. We view bearing the name to mean primarily claiming YHWH as one’s God and covenant Lord; to bear it falsely (לַשָּׁוְא) means to claim this name, but live as if one belongs to Baal or some other god (cf. Isa 44:2-5).

3. YHWH has the right to the Israelite’s life and trust (Exodus version), and all the members of the addressee’s household, including the livestock, have the right to humane treatment by the male head (Deuteronomy version).

4. The addressee’s parents have the right to his respect, which will mean more than pietistically verbalizing honor, but concretely caring for them in their old age and honoring them after death.

5. The addressee’s family members and neighbors have the right to life.

6. The addressee’s neighbor has the right to a pure and healthy marriage.

7. The addressee’s neighbors have the right to their own property.

8. The addressee’s neighbors have the right to a true and honest reputation.

9. The addressee’s neighbor and his wife have the right to freedom from fear of his intentions regarding them.

10. The addressee’s neighbor has the right to freedom from fear of his intentions concerning his property.