

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- I heard of a Sunday school teacher who was discussing the Ten Commandments with her class of 6 year olds. After she explained the Commandment, 'Honor thy father and thy mother' to the children, she asked, "Boys and girls, is there a Commandment that teaches all of us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without hesitating, little Billy stood up and answered, "Thou shalt not kill!" (Hopefully some laughter!)

-Even though there is humor in this story, it likely comes from some truth in how our relationships with family, friends, coworkers and others around us can sometimes frustrate us!

-The Ten Commandments were actually given to us to show us what sin is and how it affects our earthly relationships and most importantly, how it separates us from God. As we go over them today, we will understand that in our human nature we do most of them in some form or another every day. But, the beauty of all of it is that God sent His Son to free us from these sins to live in eternal victory and in His wisdom.

-First, let's start with where the Ten Commandments come from according to God's Word, the Bible.

-Does anyone remember who God originally gave them to? (Moses, on Mt. Sinai while the Israelites were in the desert. Exodus 20)

-Can anyone share with us who Moses was? (He was born to a Hebrew slave and then rescued from the Nile as a baby by Pharaoh's daughter and raised in the court of Pharaoh of Egypt. When he grew up, he murdered an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew slave. Moses fled to Midian and at the ripe young age of 80, God called him to lead His people out of Egypt. After the 10 Plagues, Pharaoh let them go and Moses led God's people into the wilderness. They came to Mount Sinai where Moses received the Ten Commandments.)

-Even though God set His people free from Egypt, freedom without law is simply another form of slavery.

-Wherever we go in this world, there are certain laws we have to follow, most for our protection or for the protection of others.

-Here they were, free from Egypt, but they needed God's laws to live by to experience true freedom in living in God's wisdom and ways, as His people.

-Today, we are going to go over these laws to remind ourselves to live as His people, as His children in this day and age.

-They are found in Exodus 20.

-Let's read our first verse together on our Verse Sheet to get us started in the right direction, #1 on our sheet: (Exodus 20:1-2 "And God spoke all these words: 'I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.'")

-Who spoke in this verse? (God)

-And Who did God say He was to them? (He was the Lord their God, the One Who brought them out of slavery.)

-It was important for the Israelites to know Who God was to them. He was the Lord, He was their Savior and He was their Leader.

-Let's ask ourselves this question, Who is He to you and I? (...) Is He our Lord God? Is He the One Who brought us out of the land of slavery to sin?

-It is important to know Who He is to us and what He has brought us out of because then we are able to reverence Him for Who He truly is. He is God Almighty. He is God our Savior.

-As we give Him reverence, let us look at what He taught us through His Ten Commandments.

-Let's start with commandment #1, and read it aloud on our Verse Sheet, #2: (Exodus 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me.")

-What does that say to you? (Worship God alone.)

-Isn't it special that the very first commandment begins where it should begin, in our relationship with God. It calls us to put God first in our thoughts, in our relationships and in every part of our lives.

-No matter where we are, He wants us to worship Him and Him only, to put Him first.

-Does anyone remember the old hymn called "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" written by the blind composure Helen Lemmel? Can anyone recite or sing the chorus? ("Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, then the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.")

-This song reminds us of the first commandment, to keep our eyes fully on Jesus, God the Son, on God Himself. When we do this, keeping Him first in our lives, worshipping Him, all the things that are earthly in our lives will pale in comparison to Him. Thus we should have no other gods before Him.

-Let's read commandment 2 together, it's #3 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 20:4a "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...")

-At that time, the pagans that were around the Israelites were worshipping graven images made out of gold, wood, silver, animals and all kinds of things, things that were created by man.

-What are some modern things we may worship? (money, houses, prestige, power, children, etc.)

-God wants us to worship Him and not created things. Created things mislead men away from worshipping Him, consuming them and drawing them away from Him. Nothing in all of creation can accurately represent the glory and majesty of our incomparable God. We are to worship the Creator and not the created.

-This commandment goes with the first one, to worship God alone and to keep our eyes on Him.

-Let's continue with commandment 3, it's #4 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.")

-The name of God represents the very nature of God. Yahweh, Jehovah, etc. reveal the very nature of God.

-In the Lord's Prayer it reminds us to reverence His name when it says, "Our Father Who art in Heaven, *hallowed be Thy name.*"

-Does anyone know what "hallowed" means? (Hallowed means to be set apart, to be Holy.)

-God's name is holy and we are not to use it in vain, or in cursing or lightly. When we do this, it helps us remember how holy He is.

-These first three commandments go together, worship Him alone, no other images and remember how Holy God is.

-Let's read together commandment #4, it's #5 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.")

-Why do you think this commandment is important even today? (Because we need to refocus on God each week. God did this in the very beginning when He created the whole earth. He created the first six days and looked at everything and said it was good and then on the seventh He rested.)

-This is a way of protecting us, encouraging us to take a day to rest, focus on Him and all that He has done, keeping it Holy by focusing on His glory.

-Why do you think it is important to help our family members, or children and grandchildren to understand the importance of this command? (It encourages them to get to church, to worship God with a body of believers, to focus on God because we need Him. God is our very existence and focusing on Him once a week continually reminds us of His greatness and our need for Him every day.)

-Let's continue with commandment #5, it is #6 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 20:12 "Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.")

-This is the first commandment that comes with a promise after it. It says "Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

-What do you think when it says "...that thy days may be long upon the land...?" (Have you ever had a long summer day, it is peaceful. Restful. That is what honoring a father and mother can be like, less strife in relationships, more peaceful and restful.)

- This is the first commandment that takes the focus off of our relationship with God and shares how we should relate with others.

-When Jesus was asked by a scribe what is the greatest commandment in Mark 12, He replied "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength...And the second is thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other greater than these."

-The first three commandments represent the first part of this verse when Jesus told him to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. The next seven commandments represent the second part of this verse when Jesus said to love thy neighbor as thyself.

-We can love others and honor our parents through listening to God's heart and obeying His Words.

-Let's look at commandment #6, it is #7 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 20:13 "Thou shalt not murder.")

-Who is the giver of life? (God)

-We should not take life that God has given.

-Jesus explained this further on the Sermon of the Mount when He said "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment." (Matt. 5:21-22)

-When you hear what Jesus said, do you think we ought to think more seriously about this commandment and what it really means?(...)

-What do you think it means?(...)

-Any form of gossip, bearing grudges, losing your temper, jealousy, etc. can all be forms of the same sin as murder in God's eyes.

-We need to pray that we all have the very spirit of God in our hearts to empower us to live rightly with others.

-Let's read commandment #7 together, #8 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery.")

-God has designed sexual purity to protect us in our relationships with each other and with Him. This law also addresses the lustful desires of the heart that if not submitted under God's authority, can reign and destroy our lives.

-In today's society, we need to desperately pray for our family members and friends because they are bombarded daily by the enemy in this area. The whole philosophy that the enemy has put out there is "if it feels good, do it" and that is totally against God's law. He said to die to ourselves and follow His commandments so we may live lives honoring to Him. It is a selfless life, not a selfish life.

-Let's read commandment #8 together: (Exodus 20:15 "Thou shalt not steal.")

-Do you think most of the world would agree on this one? (...)

-Do we realize that everything we have comes from God?(...)

-Knowing this, it means that if we steal from someone else, we are stealing from God.

-This is not just physical, but it is also mental. Have you ever had someone steal your joy?(...) Or have you done that to someone else?

-Have you ever had someone not pay you back? That can be a form of stealing.

-Also, stealing time that the Lord has given you to share with someone but you don't do it because you just don't feel like it is a form of stealing as well. Sometimes it is not just possessions but can also be our attitudes or even actions.

-Let's be careful about stealing from others when God calls us to give instead.

-Let's continue with commandment #9, it is #10 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 20:16 "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.")

-What is this basically saying? (Tell the truth! Don't gossip or malign someone's reputation. Etc.)

-Talking in all forms of slander, gossip or idle words can be distortions of the truth and can hurt someone.

-Let's read our last one, #11 on our Verse Sheet: (Exodus 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet...")

-In other words, be content!

-What is coveting? (Wanting something that someone else has.)

-Is that only for material things such as someone's home, car, bank account, or can that also mean for non-material things like a person's personality, charisma, spiritual gift, etc.?

-When we covet, where are our eyes focused?(...)

-Where should our eyes be focused? (On Jesus)

-When our eyes are focused on Jesus and what He has given to us, then He fills us with a super natural contentment that only comes from Him. The world cannot satisfy the deepest longings, but our Holy Father can.

-Obeying the Ten Commandments are God's ways of showing us that if we do as He asks, He brings contentment and peace in our world of turmoil. Letting our eyes rest solely on Him and His word and trusting Him in all things brings the greatest contentment that the world can never offer.

-Jude 1:25 (NLT) says "All glory to Him Who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power and authority are His before all time, and in the present and beyond all time! Amen!"

“THE TEN COMMANDMENTS” VERSE SHEET

- 1. Exodus 20:1-2 “And *God* spoke all these words: ‘*I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*”**
- 2. Exodus 20:3 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”**
- 3. Exodus 20:4a “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...”**
- 4. Exodus 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.”**
- 5. Exodus 20:8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”**
- 6. Exodus 20:12 “Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”**
- 7. Exodus 20:13 “Thou shalt not murder.”**
- 8. Exodus 20:14 “You shall not commit adultery.”**
- 9. Exodus 20:15 “Thou shalt not steal.”**
- 10. Exodus 20:16 “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”**
- 11. Exodus 20:17 “Thou shalt not covet...”**