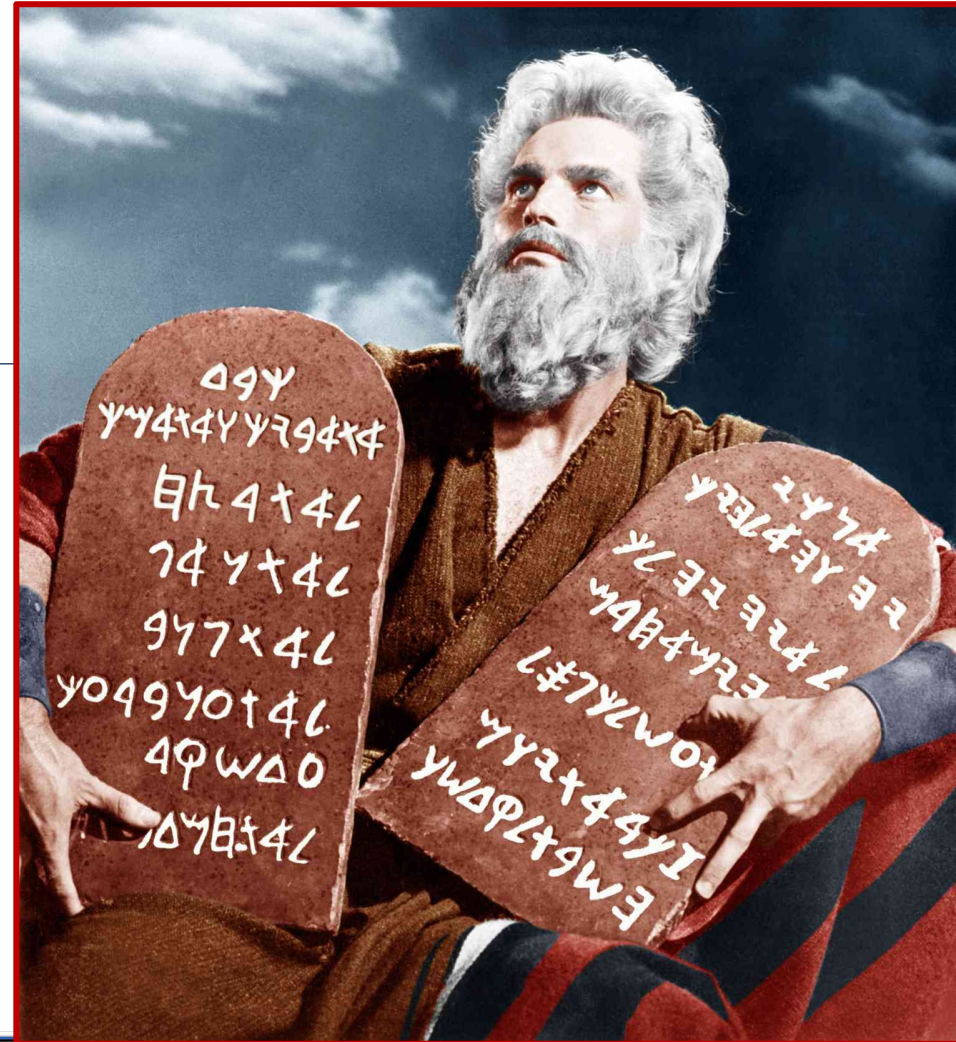

The Ten Commandments



Summarized per Ex. 20:1-17

□ Toward God

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

□ Toward others

5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

Foundational Teaching

- “Core” of the Law of Moses and Judaism
 - First spoken then written by God Ex. 31:18; Deut. 9:10
 - Undergirded by Matt. 22:36-40
 - 36 *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”*
 - 37 *Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’*
 - 38 *This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*
 - 40 *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*
- Promoted by many religious groups as binding today
 - 9/10 restated in the NT for Christians
- Symbol of Judeo-Christian ethics
 - Controversy over public display



There's More to the Story...

□ Those who view the Bible and God negatively

- *“Just a bunch of ‘Thou shalt not’.”*
- *“God doesn’t want us to have any ‘fun’.”*
- *“Characteristic of the ‘harsh’ ‘God of the OT’.”*
- *“OK for that ‘primitive’ culture 1000’s of years ago, but we’ve ‘grown’ beyond such restrictions.”*
- *“Inappropriate in public spaces from the ‘separation of church and state’.”*

□ Do they have practical relevance in today’s ‘modern’ society?

- What if they were the kindest, most protective, and caring thing God could say?



No Other Gods

□ Ex. 20:3

- *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”*

□ NT references

- Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8; Rev. 14:7

□ Practical matters

- Exclusive – the only true and living god
- Wasted activity in having others

□ Messages?

- *“You do not have to live in superstition regarding the supernatural – I can reveal the truth.”*



No Religious Images... Serve Them

□ Ex. 20:4

- *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”*

□ NT references – “idolatry”

- Acts 15:20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10;
Gal. 5:19-20; Eph. 5:5



No Religious Images... Serve Them

□ Practical matters...

- Typical consequences per Rom. 1
 - *20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.*
- Nature of their worship - ritualized fornication, human sacrifices, worship of “self”

No Religious Images... Serve Them

□ Messages

- *“I love you, know what’s best for you, and want you to have it.”*
- *“Put me first because no one will ever care for you like I can.”*
 - *John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
- *“Don't love things, they can't love you back but will trick you into thinking they can.”*
 - *Col. 3:5 ... covetousness, which is idolatry*



Vain Use of God's Name

□ Ex. 20:7

- *“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”*

□ NT references

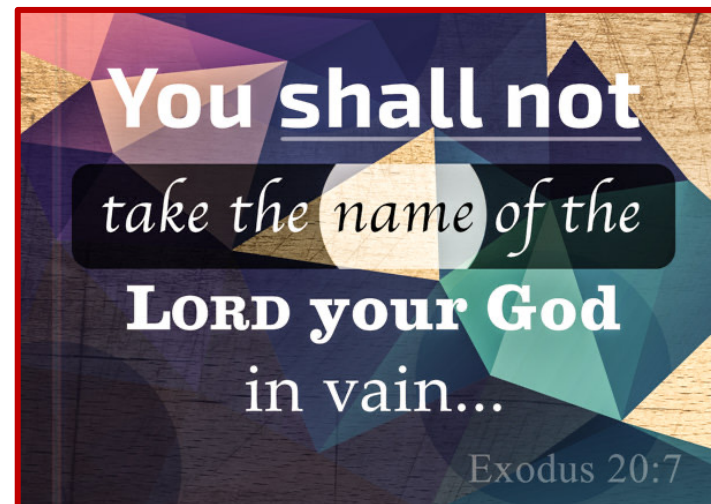
- Matt. 5:33-37; 1 Tim. 6:1; James 2:7; 5:12

□ Practical matters

- Vain oaths (*“By God I swear I will...”*)
- Profanity/coarse/vain speech
- False claiming God's is speaking through you

□ Messages

- *“I want a serious relationship with you.”*



Honor Parents

□ Ex. 20:12

- *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”*

□ NT references

- Matt. 15:4; 19:19; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Romans 1:29-30; Eph. 6:1-3

□ Practical matters

- Eph. 6:2-3
 - *...the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*
- Parents as first representatives of authority (teachers, employers, police, govt.)



Honor Parents

□ Messages?

- *“Your parents are more experienced than you – listen to them.”*
- *“If you can’t learn to respect your parents that you can see, how can you learn to respect me whom you can’t see.”*
- *“Be respectful to your folks even if they're not perfect because I want your kids to respect you. You're not perfect either and I have grace toward you.”*



Not Murder

□ Ex. 20:13

- *“You shall not murder.”*

□ NT references

- Matt. 19:18; Rom. 1:29-30; 13:9

□ Practical matters

- *“Murder” vs. “kill” (...bear the sword... Rom. 13:4)*
- *29 being filled with all ... maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, ... violent... Rom. 1:29-30*
- *...whoever is angry with his brother without cause...’You good for nothing... You fool... Matt. 5:21-22*
- *...Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to a neighbor... Rom. 13:9-10*



Not Murder

□ Messages

- *“Life is a sacred gift from me. You are all created in my image with an eternal soul.”*
- *“The act of murder starts in the heart.”*
- *“You will destroy yourself and others if you dwell on ill-will, malice, envy, jealousy, and hatred for others.”*



Not Commit Adultery

□ Ex. 20:14

- “*You shall not commit adultery.*”

□ NT references

- Matt. 5:27-28; 19:18; Mark 10:11-12, 19; Luke 16:18; 18:20; Romans 7:2-3; 13:9

□ Practical matters

- Adultery vs. fornication 1 Cor. 7:1-3
- Starts in the mind “...*whoever looks at a woman to lust for her...*” Matt. 5:27-28
- Sole grounds for divorce
Matt. 5:32; 19:9



Not Commit Adultery

□ Messages

- *“I don’t want you to live a life dominated by the guilt, pain and shame associated with sexual sin.”*
- *“Marriage is precious... it is not good for a man to be alone” (Gen. 2)*
- *“I never want someone to make a promise to love you always, and then decide the grass is greener somewhere else. But even if something very serious is wrong, do things in the right order.”*



Not Steal

□ Ex. 20:15

- *“You shall not steal.”*

□ NT references

- Matt. 19:18; Rom. 13:9; 1 Peter 4:15; Rev. 9:21

□ Practical matters

- *28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with [his] hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Eph 4:28*
- Shoplifting, scammers, mischarging at work, casual bankruptcy, etc.
- *...Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to a neighbor... Rom. 13:9-10*



Not Steal

□ Messages

- *“Trust me. You will have what you need if you have the right priorities.”* Matt. 6:25-34
- *“Don’t be like Gehazi or Judas. You see what happened to them.”* 2 Kings 5; John 12:6 with Matt. 26:14-15
- *“I’m not happy when someone else feels like they can take the things you’ve worked hard for. So be content with what you have.”*



No False Witness

□ Ex. 20:16

- *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”*

□ NT references

- Matt. 19:18; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 13:9; Eph. 4:25

□ Practical matters

- Slander/libel, gossip
- *...Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to a neighbor... Rom. 13:9-10*
- *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matt. 7:12*



No False Witness

□ Messages

- *“Life is better when people tell the truth.”*
- *“Watch your tongue. It can easily get you into so much trouble!” James 1:26; 3:5*
- *“If someone lies about you, I hate that...especially if it causes you harm or suffering. So if you're ever tempted to embellish the truth or leave out details either to help you, or hurt someone else, stop.”*



Not Covet

□ Ex. 20:17

- *“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”*

□ NT references

- Luke 12:15; Rom. 1:29; 7:7; 13:9; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-5

□ Practical matters

- *15 And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” Luke 12:15*



Not Covet

□ Messages

- *“I give you many rich blessings – be thankful and enjoy what you have!”*
- *“Envy will make you miserable.”*
- *“He who dies with the most toys still dies.” Eccl. 2:10-24*
- *“People may be resentful of you because of what you have...either things you've worked for or your giftedness. Try not to let it bother you too much. If they had your life, they would probably find other things to be resentful of. The same is true for you.”*



Conclusion

□ Very practical

- In addition to being “God’s word”
- God’s knows and wants what’s best for us.
- Evil actions start with evil thoughts.

□ Basis of a “civilized society”

□ Negative consequences when violated / not enforced

- Home, classroom, neighborhood, nation

‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ... ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31



