

Ten Commandments B

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

God's Holy Mandates

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."

The Ten Commandments

I. **You shall have no other gods before me.**

Man is to place God in the position of highest priority in life ^{Deuteronomy 6:5, Acts 14:15}. All false gods are in opposition to the true God, and their worship is blasphemous. Anything established ahead of God in importance simply makes man his own god, and if God is not first in a person's life, everything else in their life breaks down.

II. **You shall not make for yourself an idol** [in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments].

The worship of man-made images is actually a form of hatred of the genuine God. Idolatry is repulsive to Him ^{1 Samuel 15:22-23, 1 John 5:21}, but attractive to man, because it involves worshipping something seen ^{Exodus 32, John 20:24-25} instead of trusting God, who cannot be seen ^{John 20:26-29} and must be worshipped in spirit & truth ^{John 4:24}.

III. **You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God,** [for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name].

The name of God is precious ^{Daniel 2:19-20}, powerful ^{John 17:11, Philippians 2:9-10} and holy ^{Luke 1:46-49}. As a result, it is a sin to misuse His name ^{Leviticus 22:31-32}, in any form. The most obvious sinful misuse of God's name is the common expression in curses.

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However, a more subtle, but even more shameful and sinful use of His name is when a person claims to be a genuine follower of God, but then hypocritically breaks some or all of the other commandments consciously and intentionally. This person will have to answer to Jesus ^{Romans 2:16} for the damage they do to His reputation with other people and for their deceptive representation of Him.

IV. **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

[Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.

Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.]

This Sabbath law is generally misunderstood. Neither Jesus nor the apostles ever taught about this commandment, nor was it repeated anywhere in the NT. In fact, Jesus was often accused of violating the Sabbath ^{Mark 2:23-28, Luke 13:10-17, John 5:1-18}.

The OT Jews were required to consider the Saturday Sabbath as holy ^{Exodus 16:21-23}, but the NT saints have been released from the Saturday decree ^{Colossians 2:16-17}.

However, having created each person ^{Psalms 139:13}, God knows best for the human body, so the command to work six days and rest on the seventh is still in force, but the eternal "Sabbath-rest" will be in Heaven ^{Hebrews 4:1-11} in Christ ^{Ephesians 1:3}.

V. **Honor your father and your mother,** [so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you].

God commanded a person to honor the humans that brought them into existence: their Father and Mother ^{Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20}. The relation between parent and child is the closest earthly example to the relationship between God the Father and a human. (Just as a marriage is the closest illustration of the Jesus – Christian relationship.) Through this commandment, God is essentially saying whoever will

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not honor their parents will not honor Him (i.e., if a person will not honor what they can see, they will not honor what they cannot see ^{John 20:24-29}). The pledge this commandment offers appears to be an eternal, not an earthly promise.

VI. You shall not murder.

Murder (*râtsach*: an unlawful, premeditated killing of a human being with malice) is vile to God, because, having made man in His (Their) own image ^{Genesis 1:26-27}, human life is precious to Him. However, it is not only physical murder that God hates, but also the hatred in the heart for other humans ^{Matthew 5:21-22, 1 John 3:15}.

VII. You shall not commit adultery.

The sin of adultery is not just an immoral act between married people, but it is any sexual contact between people who are not married ^{1 Corinthians 6:9-10}. In addition, as Jesus explained, adultery can also be committed in the mind/heart ^{Matthew 5:27-28}. These acts/thoughts of inappropriate physical intimacy are destructive ^{Proverbs 6:32}, and a reflection of a deeper problem of spiritual immorality ^{Isaiah 54:5, Ephesians 5:22-33}. Ultimately "God will judge the adulterer and all of the sexually immoral" ^{Hebrews 13:4}.

VIII. You shall not steal.

Taking the property belonging to someone else is a form of lazy greed ^{Ephesians 4:28}. It is a sin ^{Mark 10:19} that speaks of a person who has less than they want, but they are too lazy to work or to save for it, so they decide the best way to solve the problem is by selfishly taking what does not belong to them. However, God commands respect for the ownership of personal property ^{Exodus 22:1} and expects capable people to work, save and earn what they want and need ^{2 Thessalonians 3:10}.

IX. You shall not give false testimony [against your neighbor].

Lying is contrary to Christ-like behavior ^{Colossians 3:9-10}, but is the native language of the devil ^{John 8:44}. Jesus is the truth ^{John 14:6}, and for those claiming His name, everything they say reveals the nature of their relationship with Him ^{Matthew 5:33-37}.

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Giving "false testimony against a neighbor" is the same as hitting him with a "club", stabbing him with a "sword" or piercing him with a "sharp arrow" ^{Proverbs 25:18}.

X. You shall not covet [your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor].

While all the other commandments involve a combination of thought and action, coveting is a sin of greed, desiring for the possessions of others ^{Ephesians 5:3} that is exclusively in the heart and mind. Counter to the worldly perspective, dying with the most possessions wins nothing ^{Luke 12:15}. The real key to life is to work hard, trust fully in the LORD and be content with whatever God provides ^{Philippians 4:10-13}.

The Bible makes it clear that a neighbor is everyone else in the world ^{Romans 13:9-10}.

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Commandment	O.T. Statement	O.T. Death Penalty	N.T. Restatement
1. Polytheism	Exodus 20:3, Deuteronomy 5:7	Exodus 22:20, Deuteronomy 6:13-15	Mark 12:29, Romans 3:29-30
2. Idols	Exodus 20:4-6, Deuteronomy 5:8-10	Deuteronomy 27:15	1 John 5:21
3. Misuse of the Name of God	Exodus 20:7, Deuteronomy 5:11	Leviticus 24:15-16	1 Timothy 6:1-3, James 5:12
4. Sabbath	Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Numbers 15:32-36	Nullified by: Colossians 2:16-17
5. Obedience to Parents	Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16	Exodus 21:15,17	Ephesians 6:1-3
6. Murder	Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17	Exodus 21:12-14	Matthew 5:21-26, 1 John 3:15
7. Immorality	Exodus 20:14, Deuteronomy 5:18	Leviticus 20:10	Matthew 5:27-30, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
8. Theft	Exodus 20:15, Deuteronomy 5:19	Non-death penalties: Exodus 22:1-15	Luke 18:20, Ephesians 4:28
9. False Witness	Exodus 20:16, Deuteronomy 5:20	Deuteronomy 18:17-20	Colossians 3:9-10
10. Coveting	Exodus 20:17, Deuteronomy 5:21	-----	Romans 13:9, Ephesians 5:3