

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

First Commandment

- I. Preface to the Ten Commandments – Exodus 2:2
- II. What does this preface teach us? It teaches us that because God is the Lord, and our gracious Redeemer, his commandments are for our good and he does not will for us to depend on ourselves in keeping them, but to trust his grace and power.
Deuteronomy 10:13, 16 and 30:6
- III. First Commandment – “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3.
 - A. What is required in the first commandment? It commands us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God, and to worship and glorify him accordingly. Joshua 24:15, I Chronicles 28:9, Deuteronomy 26:17, Psalm 29:2, Matthew 4:10.
 - B. What is forbidden in the first commandment? It forbids us to deny or not worship and glorify the true God as God and our God; and to give that worship and glory to any other, which is due unto Him alone. Joshua 24:27, Romans 1:20-21, 25, Psalm 14:1.
 - C. What are we taught by the words “before me?” These words teach us that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is very displeased with the sin of having any other god. Deuteronomy 30:17, 18; Psalm 44:20-21, 90:8.
 - D. What other “gods” can we have?
 1. Our self – If we are not saved, we can have ourselves on the throne of our lives. II Peter 2:10-22.
 2. Satan – He is the “god” of this world. Matthew 4:9, Act 26:18
 3. False religious gods – Muhammad, Buddha, John Smith, etc. Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:22.
 4. Creation – We can worship the world rather than its Creator. Romans 1:22-25.
 5. Manmade objects – Money, cars, houses, anything material. Isaiah 42:8, I John 5:21.

*Some information taken from John Piper – *Desiring God* website.

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2nd Commandment

- I. Second Commandment: Exodus 20:4-6.
 1. Shall not make a graven image or likeness.
 2. Shall not bow down to them.
 3. Shall not serve them.

- II. What is required in the second commandment? The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure all religious worship and ordinances, as God has appointed in the world. Deuteronomy 12:32, 32:46; Matthew 28:20.

- III. What is forbidden in the second commandment? The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images, or any other way that draws our heart away from His glory rather than toward His glory. Romans 1:22, 23; Deuteronomy 4:15-16; Colossians 2:18, 3:17.

- IV. Why are the reasons added to the second commandment? The reasons are added because God is Holy jealous for His name and He is passionate for His own worship. Exodus 20:4-6, Exodus 34:14, I Corinthians 10:22.
 1. Jealous God.
 2. Judging God.

- V. What are the promises of the second commandment?
 1. Retribution to those that do not obey.
 2. Mercy to those that do obey.
Deuteronomy 7:9-11

- VI. How can we break the second commandment?
 1. Literal manmade gods (pagan religions).
 2. Religious icons.
 3. Anything in the world that we serve, bow down to or worship instead of the one true God.

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Third Commandment

- I. What is the third commandment? Exodus 20:7, “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”

- II. What is required by the third commandment? The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God’s names, titles, attributes, ordinances, words, and works. Psalm 29:2; 138:2, Deuteronomy 32:1-4; 28:58-59; Matthew 6:9; Ecclesiastes 5:1; Job 36:24; Revelation 4:8; 15:3-4.

- III. What is forbidden by the third commandment? The third commandment forbids all profaning and abusing of any name whereby God makes Himself known. Exodus 20:7; Malachi 1:6-7; Leviticus 20:3; 19:12; Matthew 5:34-37; Isaiah 52:5.

- IV. What is the promise of the third commandment? God promises the breakers of this commandment they will not escape His righteous judgment. Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 28:58-59; Malachi 2:2.

- V. How do we break the third commandment?
 1. Profanity that uses God’s names.
 2. Swearing to anything using God’s names.
 3. Using God’s names in a casual or careless way.
 4. Claiming to speak in God’s names when it is not true.
 5. Speaking, writing, or using God’s names in any way that degrades His holiness.

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Fourth Commandment

- I. What is the fourth commandment? Exodus 20:8-11.
- II. What is required by the fourth commandment? The fourth commandment requires God's people to keep holy to God set times He has appointed in His word, expressly one whole day in seven to be a holy Sabbath to God.
Leviticus 19:30; Deuteronomy 5:12.
- III. Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath? From the creation of the world to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the Sabbath. The first day of the week became Sabbath ever since and will continue to be so until the end of the world.
Genesis 2:3; John 20:19; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Revelation 1:10.
- IV. How is the Sabbath to be kept holy? One day in seven should be devoted to corporate worship and other spiritual exercises that restore the soul's rest in God. The Sabbath should provide sufficient physical, emotional, and spiritual rest to prepare a person for a new week of devoted service to Christ.
Leviticus 23:3; Isaiah 58:13-14; Matthew 12:1-14; Mark 2:27; Romans 14:5-6.
- V. What is forbidden by the fourth commandment? The fourth commandment forbids dishonoring the Lord's Day by any actions or thoughts that divert the soul from spiritual refreshment, worship, or distract our minds from focusing on the Lord.
Ezekiel 22:26: 23:38; Jeremiah 17:21; Nehemiah 13:15-17; Acts 20:7; Mark 2:23-28; Romans 14:5-6.
- VI. What are the specific reasons given for keeping the Sabbath holy? God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh and the Lord's specific blessing of the Sabbath Day.
Exodus 20:9-11; 31:16-17; Genesis 2:2-3.
- VII. How do we break the fourth commandment?
1. By not setting aside a Sabbath day every week.
 2. By not setting aside the first day of the week as a Sabbath Day unless unavoidably hindered.
 3. By engaging in any activity on the Sabbath that would take away from its holiness.
 4. By failing to be involved in corporate worship with other believers.
 5. By doing work on the Sabbath that is not required and thus not resting.

6. By making others do unnecessary work on the Sabbath and thus preventing others from keeping the command.
7. By taking any action that would cause the Lord's Day not to be kept holy.

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Fifth Commandment

- I. What is the fifth commandment? Exodus 20:12.
- II. What is required by the fifth commandment? The fifth commandment requires that we specifically preserve the honor of our parents and perform the duties which belong to all children. The broader precepts of the commandment apply to preserving the honor and performing the duties which belong to everyone in their various roles as authorities, subordinates, or equals.
Leviticus 19:32; I Peter 2:17; Romans 12:10, 13:1; Ephesians 5:21-24, 6:1, 5, 9; Colossians 3:19-22; I Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17.
- III. What is forbidden by the fifth commandment? The fifth commandment forbids neglecting or offending the honor of parents. It more broadly forbids the neglecting of or offending of the honor of anyone in their respective positions of authority.
Proverbs 30:17; Romans 13:7-8.
- IV. What is the special promise for those that keep the fifth commandment? The promise is a long life (as far as it shall serve God's glory and their own good) to all who keep this commandment.
Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2-3.
- V. How can we break the fifth commandment?
1. By treating our parents in any way that fails to honor their position in our lives.
 2. By living a life that does not honor them or our God.
 3. By not obeying them while we are under their authority at home.
 4. By failing to show them respect after we leave their home.
 5. By failing to provide for their needs in later life.
 6. By failing to honor their memory after they die.
 7. By failing to do any of the above things for anyone covered under the general precepts of the fifth commandment.

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Sixth Commandment

- I. What is the sixth commandment? Exodus 20:13.
- II. What is required by the sixth commandment? The sixth commandment requires all lawful efforts to preserve our own life and the lives of others.
Ephesians 5:29; Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 24;11-12; Acts 16:28.
- III. What is forbidden by the sixth commandment? The sixth commandment forbids the taking of our own life or the life of our neighbor unjustly, including acts that aid in the loss of life.
Genesis 4:10-11, 9:6; Matthew 5:21-26.
- IV. How can we break the sixth commandment?
1. By murdering someone.
 2. By participating in the murder of someone (for example paying).
 3. Abortion.
 4. Suicide/Assisted Suicide.
 5. Feticide.
 6. Euthanasia.
 7. Unjust war
 8. By harboring feelings of hatred toward another person.
- V. Important events some people wrongly classify as murder
1. Just War – Romans 13:1-4; I Samuel 15:1-3.
 2. Death Penalty – Genesis 9:5-6; Exodus 21:12; Deuteronomy 19:20. The Old Testament describes 36 separate offenses that are biblically punishable by death.

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Seventh Commandment

- I. What is the seventh commandment? Exodus 20:14.
- II. What is required by the seventh commandment? The seventh commandment requires that we preserve our own and our neighbors' chastity in heart, speech and behavior. I Corinthians 6:18, 7:2; II Timothy 2:22; Matthew 5:28; I Peter 3:2.
- III. What is forbidden by the seventh commandment? The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions. Matthew 5:28-32; Job 31:1; Ephesians 5:3-4; Romans 13:13; Colossians 4:6.
- IV. How can we break the seventh commandment?
1. By having a physical relationship with someone other than our spouse (adultery).
 2. By having a physical relationship with a person outside marriage (fornication).
 3. By thinking lustful thoughts toward another person.
 4. By looking at people or images that cause feelings of lust.
 5. By marrying a divorced person who has a living spouse.
 6. By marrying if you are divorced and have a living spouse.
 7. Any lewd sexual act that perverts us or others.

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Eighth Commandment

- I. What is the eighth commandment? Exodus 20:15.
- II. What is required by the eighth commandment? The eighth commandment requires that we pursue lawful and useful work to provide for our needs and for those unable to provide for themselves.
Ephesians 4:28; Proverbs 27:23; Leviticus 25:35; Deuteronomy 15:10, 22:1-4.
- III. What is forbidden by the eighth commandment? The eighth commandment forbids whatever would unjustly withhold or diminish a person's possessions or attainment.
Malachi 3:8; Ephesians 4:28; Romans 13:7.
- IV. How can we break the eighth commandment?
1. By taking anything material or monetary that is not ours.
 2. By not giving our time that is paid for or wasting time.
 3. By taking credit for something someone else deserves.
 4. By not tithing.
 5. By making money off people it is our responsibility to provide for.
 6. By overcharging interest for loaned money.
 7. By not paying all required taxes or related fees.
 8. By taking advantage of the poor.

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Ninth Commandment

- I. What is the ninth commandment? Exodus 20:16.
- II. What is required by the ninth commandment? The ninth commandment requires that we maintain and promote truth between persons and that we preserve the good name of our neighbor and ourselves.
Zechariah 8:16; Acts 25:10; Ecclesiastes 7:1; III John 12, Proverbs 14:5, 25.
- III. What is forbidden by the ninth commandment? The ninth commandment forbids whatever dishonors truth or injures our neighbor's or our own good name.
Ephesians 4:25; Psalm 15:3; II Corinthians 8:20-21.
- IV. How can we break the ninth commandment?
1. By saying anything that falsely brings dishonor on someone's good name.
 2. By lying or not telling the whole truth.
 3. By gossiping.
 4. By backbiting or speaking slanderously.
 5. By providing false witness or testimony
 6. By not avoiding the appearance of evil.

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Tenth Commandment

- I. What is the tenth commandment? Exodus 20:17.
- II. What is required by the tenth commandment? The tenth commandment requires contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of mind and spirit toward our neighbor and his possessions.
Hebrews 13:5; I Timothy 6:6; Romans 12:15; I Corinthians 13:4-7; Leviticus 19:18.
- III. What is forbidden by the tenth commandment? The tenth commandment forbids all murmuring over our own condition and all envying at the good of our neighbor, and all inappropriate affection for things that are his.
I Corinthians 10:10; James 5:9; Galatians 5:26; Colossians 3:5.
- IV. How can we break the tenth commandment?
1. Covetousness
 2. Discontented attitude.
 3. Envy.
 4. Complaining speech/spirit/attitude to God or others about our material condition.
 5. Being materialistic
 6. Walking by sight and not the Spirit.