

Obeying God's Commandments

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Aim

- † Understanding the origins of the 10 Commandments
- † Understanding God's Commandments and why I need to follow them
- † Knowing the greatest Commandment
- † Learning about God's promises and our rewards

Key Verse

**"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."
(John 15:12-13)**

Lesson

What are God's 10 Commandments?

1. ***"I am the Lord Your God you shall have no other gods before Me"***

I am the Lord your God: because the Lord is our God, have we given Him His due rights? These 'rights' include, praying, going to church regularly, reading the Bible, fasting, etc.

You shall have no other gods before Me: 'other gods' include love of power, authority, money, beauty, lust, Xbox, TV, Playstation, etc

St. James States, "Friendship with the world is enmity with God" (James 4:4)

2. ***"You shall not make for yourself a carved image"***

The Old Testament era was a time where paganism and idolatry were widespread. So God was trying to teach the people not to worshiping pagan pictures and idols.

The same can be said about today's modern world, we should not idolise people in the media, e.g. Singers, performers, businessmen, actors, models, etc...

This commandment does not prevent us from adorning churches with pictures of the Virgin Mary, angels or saints. We adorn our churches with these pictures to remember those saints who put God first and to use them as an example in our own lives. In this way, we are not worshipping these pictures, but rather honouring the person because they worshipped God and God alone.

The Father Himself honoured them; Lord Jesus Christ said, "If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour." (John 12:26)

Obeying God's Commandments

3. ***"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain"***

...*the name of the Lord*: God's name is the source of every power, gift and blessing; by His name wonders and miracles are performed; His name is frightful to demons. Because of this great power it is not proper to use God's name in trivial matters, we ought to fear God and use His name with fear and respect. This is our duty as Christians.

At the end of the Lord's Prayer we say, "Hallowed be Your name".

Nor should we swear, Jesus said, "Do not swear at all. But let your Yes be Yes, and your No, No."

4. ***"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy"***

...*the Sabbath*: God rested the on seventh day and therefore it is a blessed day. This does not mean God tired, so "rest" here, must have some other meaning.

The creation of the world did not require any effort from God; He created the world easily and without effort. **The real toil or effort was in the redemption of man**, for it required God to become incarnate, to leave His glory and take the form of a slave; to labour, accept insult, be crucified, suffer, die and rise again. This was the real labour.

On Great Friday He eliminated sin through death (Rom. 6:23), which He did on Sunday through His Resurrection. Only then, did God rest from His work. For what use would creation have been all mankind was to be put to eternal death.

The Lord God did not toil in creating man but toiled in saving him. So the Sabbath of the Old Testament was a symbol.

5. ***"Honour your father and your mother"***

Honour your father and mother is the first Commandment with a promise.

The promise being *"That it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth."* (Eph. 6: 3)

Honouring our parents requires us to show love, obedience, respect, gratitude and support.

6. ***"You shall not kill"***

Is the act of 'killing' someone only a physical action? Or is it also emotional, psychological, etc...?

Obeying God's Commandments

7. ***"You shall not commit adultery"***

adultery: is not only the act of a *spouse* breaking their marriage vows. Here, adultery includes any person engaging in sexual behaviour outside of a marriage. You can also commit adultery through your senses, thoughts, verbal or written words. The bible gives us reasons why this kind of behaviour is wrong, they include:

- a. "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot?" (1Cor 6:15)
- b. "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit... and you are not your own? ...therefore, glorify God in your body... " (1Cor 6:19-20)

Divorce is not allowed in our church unless a partner has committed adultery. And the church prohibits marrying divorcees: "Whoever marries a woman who is divorced, commits adultery." (Matt. 5:32,19:9)

8. ***"You shall not steal"***

stealing: there are many forms of stealing. The most obvious is taking something that does not belong to you. It displeases God when we steal from others.

In addition, we steal things from God without acknowledging it. When we don't pay our tithes – this is money that belongs to the poor – when we do not go to church, spend time praying and reading the Bible, we steal from God.

9. ***"You shall not bear false witness"***

false witness: means to lie or be dishonest, this includes 'white lies'.

10. ***"You shall not covet your neighbour's wife"***

Desiring your neighbour's wife means committing adultery with her in your heart. Be content with what the Lord has given you.

Which is the greatest Commandment?

When the Lord Christ was asked by one of the lawyers, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' "This is the first and great commandment." And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Did these Commandments already exist?

These commandments, though written by God on the two tablets and given to Moses, existed many generations before Moses was given them on the tablets. When they were given to Moses, they were given as a reminder to the people.

For example people knew that adultery was wrong before it was written and handed to Moses on the tablets. Joseph, who preceded Moses by hundreds of years, refused to 'lay'

Obeying God's Commandments

with Potiphar's wife, he responded, "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9)

Class Discussion

Do we need commandments?

Why does there have to be rules? (e.g. Home, School, Work, Life)

Can't we make our own rules? (State/Country LAW)

If you do not follow the commandments, there are consequences...

On Earth (e.g. if you kill someone...)

Eternally (this is why we need to repent...)

What does the Bible say?

Deuteronomy 28 (Whole chapter, but curses start from verse 15)

Proverbs 19:16

Why Should I follow the commandments?

Our motivation should be LOVE! If you love God, you will do ALL and ONLY those things that are good and right in the sight of the Lord.

God's promises & our rewards

Deuteronomy 11 (from verse 13, a couple of verses)

Question: Can you think of any examples of people from the Bible or Saints who were obedient? What was their reward? What can we learn from their lives?

Homework / Memory Objectives:

Location of 10 commandments in the Bible = EXODUS 20

Learn the Commandment of Love (John 15:12-13)

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

Glory is to God, forever. Amen.