

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17

20 And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You 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 parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but 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 male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹For 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.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

What are rules for?

Traffic Light - Safety



Hockey Game - Fun



Cliff - Protection



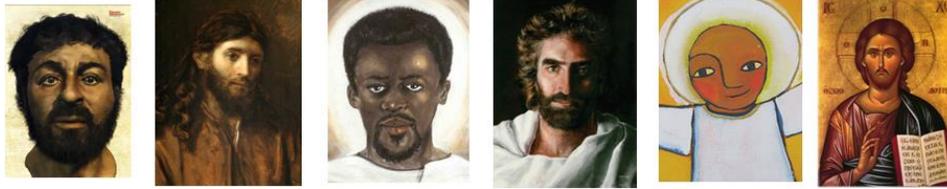
Why do we have them?

1. No Gods before me.

What really is the most important thing in your life?



2. No Images



We aren't just talking about pictures.

Who is the real Jesus..

We are talking about the character of God.

We are talking about how we imagine him not physically but characteristically.

Is he kind, careless, mean, cruel, happy, sad, attentive, positive, negative...

This is the real image or idol we make of him.

You cannot relate to someone you deny in character.

Eg. someone thing you owe them. How would you treat them?

wrong perception leads to wrong relationship.

In fact, God is jealous, in other words, he can't stand you following a false image of him.

The person who perpetuates a false image is punished.

3. God's Name in Vain



This is not about swearing.

It is about misrepresenting God.



Misrepresentation

Rubber stamping his name and approval over our own desires and endeavours.



Eg. The Spire.

4. Sabbath



This is something I found from crossfit.
It is the built in aspect of acknowledging a need for rest.
The reality of limits.
It takes faith to sabbath because it is about ceasing from sowing or harvesting.
It is not about efficiency or production.
It even means not using other people - even animals!
It is against exploitation of others and unbridled production and ambition.
For one day out of seven, Give it a REST!
Rest creates space for something else - something creative.
How do you rest?

5. Honour your Mother and Father



Notice it doesn't just say obey.
It is because obedience is the letter of the law.
Honour is the spirit of it.
Honour goes far beyond obedience.
It is about deference, love, thoughtfulness, compassion, consideration.
It is about a good family.
You see a good daughter and a good son, become good parents.
It is intergenerational.
Families that love and honour each other feel different.
Funny how Paul writes centuries later, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children."

All the following commandments are based on relationships.
It flows from yes, the family life.
By doing them, you guarantee relational and social destruction.
The consequences are always dire.
It is the fence at the cliffside.

6. Murder



This is something that has been misread for centuries.

It is NOT thou shalt not kill.

It is thou shalt not commit murder.

In other words, the ten commandments explicitly forbids the premeditated, planned taking of a person's life.

Often times, murder begets murder. It begins a cycle of vengeance.

7. Adultery



Adultery is to have sex with and physically possess a person who is not your spouse.

In the case of that culture, this would mean the spouse of another person.

If you do this, there are consequences.

8. Steal



Taking from another person what is not yours.

It is theirs.

If you do this, there are consequences.

9. False Testimony



This is about slander, libel, gossip.

Never believe anything you hear that you have not verified.

There are two sides of every story.

If you only have one side of a debate or an issue, you have nothing worth saying until you understand the other side.

Then you speak and judge.

10. Covet



This is the root of the matter.

It isn't an action.

It is the seed to all other sins.

You want what is not yours.

A reputation - so you bear false testimony.

A material object - so you steal it.

A relationship - a spouse - love - so you commit adultery

A life - so you murder.

It all begins at the feeling of lack - covetousness.

The opposite is the feeling of abundance - gratitude.

This is the most insightful understanding of the law.

It is psychological, social, practical, spiritual.

Exercise: The 10 Commandments in Positive Language - Invitations v. Prohibitions.

I will...

Love God

Seek God

Listen to God

Trust God

Love My Family

Forgive

Be Faithful
Be Generous
Encourage
Be Grateful