

The Ten Commandments (Part 2)

(Exodus 19 - 20)

Introduction

What must you do to be saved? Are you to keep the Ten Commandments? Are you to do good deeds and hope that the good things you do in life outnumber the bad? What does the Word of God tell us? Acts 16:31 says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." What does it mean to believe on Jesus? It means to trust that what He did for us on the cross paid the penalty for our violations against God's law.

Opening Prayer

Father, we want to understand Your ways. Please open our ears this morning so that we might know You better. Use the Word like a flash light on our path; show us Your way. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, [and] Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Lesson

Last week we began our study of the Ten Commandments. We learned that in order to be perfect as God is perfect we need to keep all of the commandments all of the time — every minute of every day of our lives. The Bible tells us "For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws." (James 2:10).

That's why it is important for us to know what the commandments are, isn't it?

We looked at the first four commandments that tell us ways to love God. This week we will look at the commandments tells us ways to love each other.

Commandment #5 — Honor your father and mother

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

This is the only commandment with a promise attached...

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

To honor means to prize highly, show respect, treat as precious or valuable. Why are your parents valuable to you? They are God's gift to you. Think of all they do and have done for you. They protect you from many dangers. They provide things you need like food and clothing. They even give you things you do not need but like to have — toys, bikes, special treats. You can honor them by obeying them, by being kind to them, by speaking to them and about them with respect. Perhaps you have substitute parents. God wants you to honor them, too. Even if you don't live with your parents all the time, honor them in every way you can. People who honor their parents are people who please God and receive His promise of blessing.

Jesus said, "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:37)

Commandment #6 — Do not murder

Exodus 20:13

You must not murder.

Murder is taking someone's life in an unlawful way. Life is precious. God breathed His life into the first man, Adam. So everyone's life is important — your life, the lives of those you love, the lives of strangers, the lives of unborn babies. Life is God's gift; and we are responsible not only not to take another's life, but to protect the lives of others.

Jesus said, "*But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.*" (Matthew 5:22)

Commandment #7 — Be faithful in marriage

Exodus 20:14

You must not commit adultery.

Adultery is when a married man or woman doesn't stay faithful to their wife or husband. This commandment shows how God looks at marriage. God planned the first marriage. He created Eve especially for Adam and planned that they should stay together (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5, 6) After you are married, you should be true to your own husband or wife. People joined together in marriage must be careful not to "fall in love" with anyone else. Marriage vows say, "Till death do us part" or "As long as we both shall live." Committing adultery is breaking those vows by doing something with someone else's husband or wife that only a married couple should do.

Disobeying this command causes great unhappiness. While you are young, learn to turn from sinful things like listening to dirty stories, looking at evil pictures, watching films that cause wrong thoughts. Determine, with God's help, to keep yourself pure. And begin praying that, at the right time, God will bring into your life the right person for you to marry. Then trust Him to do what's best for you. If you obey God's laws, He will help you to enjoy life, married or single.

Jesus said, "*Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*" (Matthew 5:28)

Commandment #8 — Do not steal

Exodus 20:15

You must not steal.

Stealing is taking or keeping something that is not your own. Robbing a bank and shoplifting are not the only ways to steal. Borrowing something from a brother or sister or friend and failing to return it is stealing. Copying answers from somebody else's school paper is stealing. Cheating in a game is stealing another's chance to win. The Bible says we should love our neighbors as ourselves. If we love others as we love ourselves, we will want the best for them and will not steal in any way.

Jesus said, "*If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too.*" (Matthew 5:40)

Commandment #9 — Do not lie

Exodus 20:16

You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Giving false testimony means lying. This commandment means that we should always tell the truth. We give "false testimony" by leaving something out of a story, telling a half-truth, twisting the facts, or inventing falsehoods. God's Word tells us to, "put away lying" (Ephesians 4:25). What is a lie? It is anything that deceives or tricks someone into believing something that is not true. You can tell a lie by the way you act as well as by what you say. Often gossip is lying — saying something unkind about someone when you aren't sure it is true. Exaggeration is lying — telling a story better than it really happened. It is lying to make promises you know you cannot keep.

It is wrong to lie because it is against the very nature of God. The Devil is the "father of lies" (John 8:44), but Jesus said, "*I am the...truth*" (John 14:6). Deception is a way of life for many people, but God's children must not give in to it.

Ask the Lord to help you tell the truth. (Psalm 119:29)

Jesus said, *“And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.”* (Matthew 12:36)

Commandment #10 — Do not want what belongs to others

Exodus 20:17

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

To covet is to wish to have the possessions of others. It goes beyond simply admiring someone else’s possession or thinking, “I’d like to have one of those.” Coveting includes envy — resenting the fact that others have what you don’t. To covet means to want something that you cannot afford to buy or something that belongs to someone else. When you feel you just have to have something and you will not be satisfied until you get it, that is coveting.

When we do not let God control our wants, our coveting will lead us to break other commandments, too. God has promised to meet all your needs. Happiness won’t come by getting what you want. Happiness comes by being content with what you have (Hebrews 13:5). Are you thanking God for all that He has given you?

Jesus said, *“Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”* (Luke 12:15).

Conclusion

The Ten Commandments tell us how to live so that we don’t offend God or hurt other people. God gave us the Ten Commandments for our own protection. He knows that if we obey all these laws we will be happy. He wants us to obey them. But, in order to be saved by keeping The Law you would have to keep it absolutely in very point throughout your whole lifetime.

Last week we talked about the fact that no one but Jesus Christ could ever do that! According to Galatians 3:24, the purpose of the law was not to save you, but to show you what sin is, and to point you to Jesus who took the punishment for your sin.

Jesus summed the Commandments up in our Memory Verse for today: “Jesus replied, ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” (Matt 22:37-40)

By fulfilling these two commands, a person keeps all the others. Jesus says that if we truly love God and our neighbor, we will naturally keep the commandments. We should always do all we can to show our love for God and others. Ask God to give you the desire to always do the loving thing.

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to take the punishment that I deserve. Lord, if you hadn’t made a way of escape for me I’d be doomed to spend all of eternity in hell apart from You. Help me to live my life worthy of your gift of salvation. I want every thought I think, every word I speak and everything I do to bring your name honor and blessing. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. What must you do to be saved? Are you supposed to keep the Ten Commandments? Or do good deeds? (Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for you on the cross.)
2. What do the first four Commandments have to do with? (Our relationship with God.)
3. In order to be perfect as God is perfect how many of the Commandments do we need to keep? (All of them all the time.)
4. What does it mean to honor your father and your mother? (To prize highly, show respect, treat as precious or valuable.)
5. Why are your parents valuable to you? (They are God's gift to you.)
6. Why is it wrong to murder? (God said not to do it. Life is God's gift; only He has the right to take a life.)
7. Is being angry with someone the same as murdering them? (Jesus said it was!)
8. What is adultery? (Doing something with someone else's husband or wife that only a married couple should do.)
9. Name some ways people steal things besides robbing a bank and shoplifting? (Borrowing something and not returning it; copying answers from someone else's paper; cheating in a game.)
10. What does it mean to bear false witness against someone? (To lie. To leave something out of a story, telling a half-truth, twisting the facts, or inventing a falsehood.)
11. What is a lie? (Anything that deceives or tricks someone into believing an untruth.)
12. Why is it wrong to lie? (It is against the very nature of God.)
13. Who is the Father of Lies? (The Devil.)
14. What does it mean to covet? (To wish to have someone else's possession to the point of envy.)
15. Who is the only person that ever kept the Ten Commandments perfectly? (Jesus!)
16. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments if He knew we couldn't keep them? (He wanted us to realize our own inability to be righteous. To humble us and to be thankful that He sent Jesus.)

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