

The Ten Commandments

Int.

1. Aim: To explain how the Ten Commandments apply to us today.
2. Ex. 20:1-17 gives the list of the commandments - also in Deut. 5:6-21
3. The Ten Commandments are the best known laws in all the world, yet they are the least understood.
 - a. They were given only to the Jews - Deut. 5:3
 - b. They no longer apply to us today as a law
 - i. Col. 2:14
 - ii. Heb. 9:16,17
 - c. We keep certain basic commands that are the same as the Ten Commandments but we keep them because they are in the N.T.
 - d. Today a person could keep the old Ten Commandments and still be lost - Gal. 2:16
4. The Ten Commandments
 - a. Were given to Moses on Mt. Sinai - Ex. 20
 - b. There are two divisions - Matt. 22:36-39
 - i. Commandments 1-4 = our relation to God = love God
 - ii. Commandments 5-10 = our relation to our fellow man = love neighbor as self
 - c. Eight are negative and two are positive
 - d. There is one commandment that is not repeated in the N.T.
5. We will look at the commandments and how they apply to us today.

Discussion**Part 1 - Man to God Relations - Commandments 1-4****I. THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GOD'S BEFORE ME** - Ex. 20:3

A. First in number and importance

1. If we do not obey this first command then we cannot obey the others
2. This establishes our relation and duty to our heavenly maker
3. "Before Me" - God must be first in our worship and in our affections

B. How does this apply today?

1. There is only one God - not many
2. Eph. 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."
3. 1 Cor. 8:6 "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."
4. The one God has created the universe
5. He is the God of all men, Jews and Gentiles alike

II. THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE - Ex. 20:4

A. They were not allowed to make idols of any kind

1. People in that day believed in many man-made gods and so they made themselves a statue or something to resemble their god.
2. When men bow down and worship some image then they are not worshiping the one who created us.

B. It is still wrong to worship idols

1. Rom. 1:21-25 - they were worshipping the creature rather than the creator
2. 1 Cor. 10:14 - 1 John 5:21
3. We are not to bow down to an image, another man or even an angel.

III. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN -

Ex.20:7

A. Taking God's name in vain

1. Means to use it in an irreverent manner
2. It would also forbid them from making false oaths using the name of God.
3. Ps. 8:1 "O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens."
4. Ps. 111:9 "holy and reverend is his name." = to revere, respect, admire
5. The Jews took this command so seriously that they would not even pronounce the name of God. Therefore the correct way to pronounce the name of God in the Hebrew language is not really known today.

B. How does this apply today?

1. Matt. 6:9 "Hallowed be thy name" = Hallowed = holy
2. James 5:12 prohibits swearing
3. Profanity is also condemned - Eph. 4:29 - "no corrupt word" - NKJV
 - a. Why do men use profanity?
 - b. They are using God's name to back up or verify their words or actions
 - c. Today there are many by-words that use God's name in vain. We should avoid.

IV. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY - Ex. 20:8

A. Sabbath day

1. It was between God and the Jews
2. The Sabbath day was the 7th day - it was a day of rest - no work
3. Deut. 5:15
4. Neh. 9:13-14

B. How does this command apply today? No!

1. It is not repeated in the N.T.
2. Col. 2:14-17 - these old laws were taken away and no longer apply to us today - and that included the Sabbath days
3. The only reason we keep any of these other commandments is because they are repeated in the New Testament.
4. We worship God on the First day of the Week - Sunday
 - a. It is not the Sabbath day - or the Christian Sabbath
 - b. It is the "Lord's Day" Rev. 1:10
 - c. Christ was resurrected on the first day of the week or Sunday - Mt. 28:1
 - d. The church began on the first day of the week = Pentecost - Acts 2
 - e. We are to observe the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week Acts 20:7
 - f. The contribution is to be on the first day of the week - 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Part II - Man to Man Relation - Commands 5-10

V. HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER - Ex. 20:12

A. Honor

1. Respect - revere - esteem
2. This is designed to protect the home
3. The parents must teach their children to respect and honor authority

B. This is repeated in the N.T.

1. Eph. 6:1-2
2. Children are commanded to honor their parents and this is done through obedience
3. As children grow older then they should live Godly lives in obedience to God

VI. THOU SHALT NOT KILL - Ex. 20:13

A. Human life is sacred

1. God is the giver of life and we do not have the right to take the life of another
2. Murder has always been condemned

B. Murder is still wrong today

1. Rom. 13:9
2. Gal. 5:19-21 = murderers shall not enter the kingdom of God
3. Jesus expanded this command to include the cause of murder, hate-
Matt. 5:21-22
4. 1 John 3:15

VII. THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY - Ex. 20:14

- A. Marriage is protected by this command
 - 1. God created man and woman - male and female
 - 2. Ability and opportunity to reproduce
 - 3. Adultery refers to all illicit relationships between men and women
- B. This is repeated in the N.T.
 - 1. Rom. 13:9
 - 2. Heb. 13:4
 - 3. Adulterers and fornicators shall not enter heaven - Gal. 5:19-21

VIII. THOU SHALT NOT STEAL - Ex. 20:15

- A. This is about property
 - 1. A person has the right to possess property
 - 2. A thief had to restore the thing stolen and many times had to give several times more than what he had stolen as a punishment
- B. This command is repeated in Rom. 13:9
 - 1. Stealing is wrong and always will be wrong.
 - 2. Rom. 12:17b. "Provide things honest in the sight of all men."
 - 3. Thieves shall not enter into heaven - 1 Cor. 6:9-10

IX. THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS - Ex. 20:16

- A. This command is to protect a person's good name
 - 1. A good reputation is valuable
 - 2. Prov. 22:1 "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."
- B. Rom. 13:9 repeats this command
 - 1. We are also told by Paul in Col. 3:9 "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;"
 - 2. Liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone -
Rev.21:8

X. THOU SHALT NOT COVET - Ex. 20:17

- A. This command is to protect the individual
 - 1. Covetousness could produce many of the other sins just mentioned
 - 2. This command would regulate the heart
- B. This is repeated in the N.T. in Rom. 13:9
 - 1. Luke 12:15 "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."
 - 2. A covetousness person is miserable. They are never satisfied.

CONCLUSION

1. The Ten Commandments
 - a. Have been taken away - we are not bound by them
 - b. Nine have been repeated in the N.T. and we keep them because they are repeated and not because they are in the original Ten Commandments
2. The Old Law could not bring salvation
 - a. It revealed man as a sinner - Rom. 7
 - b. In the New Testament we learn how to get rid of Sin - Mark 16:16
3. We need to learn the lesson taught to Peter at the mount of Transfiguration - Matt. 17:1-8
 - a. Peter suggested that they build 3 tabernacles - One for Moses, one for Elijah, and one for Jesus.
 - b. God spoke and said to them: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Matt. 17:5
 - c. This was to say: "Don't hear Moses and the ten commandments or Elijah
 - d. But let us hear JESUS !
4. That is the message for us today. Let us hear Jesus, not Moses.