

The Ten Commandments *(part 1)*

Purpose: to show the importance of the Ten Commandments and that only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we keep them.

Today we are going to start on one of the most important parts of the bible: the Ten Commandments! Let me set the atmosphere:

God spoke to Moses:

- He warned him twice not to touch the mountain
- God told Moses that He would come down in the sight of all the people

On the third day, God came down on the mountain, and there was:

- Thunder and lightening
- Thick cloud
- The mountain was in smoke
- The mountain quaked
- A very loud sound of a trumpet
- The people trembled

Why?

Because God was about to give the most important commands in the entirety of mankind – the Ten Commandments

- The Ten Commandments are the measure of morality for all of mankind
- The Ten Commandments show the high standard of God, and what He expects of His people
- The Ten Commandments show us that we are sinners and need saving

- Each of these commands are concise (few words with much meaning)
- Each command is far reaching and needs explanation
- The principles of these commands are all explained in the New Testament

Preface:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

- With thunder, lightening, thick cloud, a voice like a loud trumpet, smoke and a quaking mountain, God is clearly letting His people know who He is:
- *I am the LORD* (Jehovah; the existing One; the self Existent)
- *...your God* – (elohiym, I am you God)
- *...who brought you out of the land of Egypt* – (I am the one who did all of those great things to save you)
- *...out of the house of bondage* – (where you were slaves)

The Ten Commandments:

#1 - Idolatry

Exo 20:3 *"You shall have no other gods before Me.*

Includes all forms of idolatry

#2 - Graven Images

Exo 20:4 *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;*

Exo 20:5 *you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,*

Exo 20:6 *but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

Includes images that represent idols, or even images that represent God Himself

#3 - Irreverent usage of the name of God

Exo 20:7 *"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*

Includes oaths, swearing, damning and light usage of His name

#4 – The Sabbath

Exo 20:8 *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

Exo 20:9 *Six days you shall labor and do all your work,*

Exo 20:10 *but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.*

Exo 20:11 *For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.*

Includes the principle of rest and of worship

#5 - Honour of father and mother

Exo 20:12 *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

Includes honour to all in authority, and is the first commandment with promise (Ephesians 6:2)

#6 - Murder

Exo 20:13 *"You shall not murder.*

Not including killing for food, legal war, or protection, but the preservation of the lives of men

#7 - Adultery

Exo 20:14 *"You shall not commit adultery.*

Includes all manner of sexual immorality

#8 - Stealing

[Exo 20:15](#) *"You shall not steal.*

Including fraud, shoplifting, burglary, domestic theft, tax evasion, etc.

#9 – Bearing false witness

[Exo 20:16](#) *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

Including slander, tale bearing, whispering, backbiting, or anything to ruin the credit or reputation of another

#10 - Covetousness

[Exo 20:17](#) *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."*

Including all greed, gambling, etc.

Today I have given you a very brief summary of these Ten Commandments. Next week, and then in the New Year, we will be considering each of these commandments in greater detail, but today I want to remind you of three things:

- That God is holy and must be feared
- That His commands are very important and must be obeyed
- That the only way that we can keep these Ten Commandments is by the power of the Holy Spirit.

[Rom 8:1](#) *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

[Rom 8:2](#) *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

[Rom 8:3](#) *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,*

[Rom 8:4](#) *that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Conclusion: Ten Commandments will also do two things:

- It will make us aware of our sinful condition and inability to be righteous
- It will make us appreciate all that Jesus did for us by dying on the cross and sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in us.