

The Ten Commandments Deuteronomy 5:6—21

#1 5:6,7 *One God:*

“I will have no other gods—none before him, none after him and none beside him.”

- You shall have no other gods before me.
- Hebrew commands are commonly in the form “You shall . . .”
- “Before” me refers not to priority, but to exclusivity.
- This command is about the “who” of worship.

#2 5:8—10 *No Idols: “I will worship the true God in spirit and in truth.”*

- This command is the “how” of worship.
- The true God is outside of and above all creation.
- Gods created by the human mind or hands can never display the glory of the true God.
- Idols are demonic. (Deut 32:17, I Cor. 10:20)
- People become like what they worship. (Psalm 115:4--8)
- Jealousy is a good thing when it protects an exclusive relationship or status.
- There is one image of God that it is appropriate to worship: God in the flesh—the Lord Jesus Christ.

#3 5:11 *The Name: “I am called by the name of the One whose name is above every name.”*

- The name is more than a label—it is the revelation of the person.
- To demean the Name is to demean the Person.
- Vain = empty, useless, meaningless, false or insubstantial.
- It is the opposite of awe, reverence, respect and appreciation.
- Beyond swear words it is anything false, trivial or manipulative concerning speaking of God.
- It is the very opposite of the Lord’s prayer, “hallowed be your name.”

#4 5:12--15 *The Sabbath: “I will rest in the One who invites me into his rest.”*

- The Sabbath is a sign of Creation, Redemption and Covenant.
- The Lord is the Lord of Time.
- The Sabbath is both sign and celebration.

Questions Concerning the Sabbath

1. Is the Sabbath a permanent moral commandment?
2. If so, how is the Sabbath to be observed?
3. If so, on which day should the Sabbath be observed?
4. What did Jesus teach concerning the Sabbath?

#5 5:16 Honor your Parents: “I cannot honor the One to whom ALL honor is due, if I do not respect those to whom some honor is due.”

- This command is tied to a promise.
- Respect for one’s parents is respect for God.
- Respect is foundational for the health of the family, the culture and the nation.

#6 5:17 Murder: “I cannot exemplify the Life-Giver if my own life produces death.”

- Not all killing is wrong (in a fallen world).
- Contempt, malice and sinful anger violate this commandment.
- Life and death are even in the power of the tongue. (Prov. 18:21)
- Therefore, don’t just be silent—speak life. Don’t just refrain from killing — promote life.

#7 5:18 Adultery: “I cannot love the ever faithful One if my life is controlled by selfish lust.”

- The Lord is the Creator of Sex and Marriage.
- Marriage reveals the covenant faithfulness of the Lord.
- Anything that destroys the marriage relationship violates this commandment.
- Marriage points to the marriage of Christ and his bride – the church.

#8 5:19 Theft: “I cannot take from others and serve the One who gave all he had and even his own life for me.”

- The Lord is the Giver of all things.
- It is more blessed to give than to receive.
- Work was established before the fall.
- To steal one’s property is to injure the person.
- Our model is Jesus who gave his all.

#9 5:20 False Witness:

“I cannot walk with the One who is the truth, without walking in the truth.”

- Primary emphasis is on judicial proceedings.
- False testimony can destroy someone’s life.
- Damage to the reputation is theft of one’s name.
- God is the God of all truth; Satan was a liar from the beginning.
- Jesus commands truthfulness, integrity and faithfulness.
- Jesus is the truth in the flesh. One cannot follow him and not walk in truth.

#10 5:21 Coveting: “Our problem is not that we desire too much, but that we desire the wrong things, and desire the right things not enough.”

- Strong desire.
- Desire for what belongs to someone else.
- Desire for what the Lord has not given to you.
- The commandments involve more than actions, but also the desires, motives and goals of the heart.
- Desire strong enough to motivate to taking what does not belong to you.
- Our problem is not that we desire too much, but that we desire the wrong things.
- Seek first the King and his Kingdom.
- We are back to commandments numbers one and two.

Bottom Line:

- We need the law written on our hearts.
- In Christ by the Spirit we have the law written on our hearts.
- In Christ God has made a new covenant where his laws are written on his people’s hearts. (Jer. 31.31–34; Hebrews 9.15–18).