



GOD'S 10 COMMANDMENTS

Still Relevant Today

The 10 Commandments



This publication is not to be sold. It is produced as free educational material by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1009 • Allen, TX 75013-0017
972-521-7777 • 888-9-COGWA-9 (toll-free in the U.S.)

© 2013 Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version
(© 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.).

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover photo: iStockphoto.com

Author: Mike Bennett **Publication Review Team:** Peter Hawkins, Jack Hendren, Don Henson, Harold Rhodes, Paul Suckling **Editorial Reviewers:** Clyde Kilough, David Treybig **Doctrine Committee:** John Foster, Bruce Gore, Don Henson, David Johnson, Ralph Levy **Design:** Elizabeth Glasgow

The 10 Commandments

Why is the world so violent? Why do half of Western marriages end in divorce and so many children live in single-parent families? What are so many overlooking? What is the missing key to living a happy and productive life? If you want true peace and happiness, acting on the biblical lessons in this booklet is vitally important to you!

...n and
...m is, and
...efore the LORD
...day, and hallowed
...Honour thy fat
...other: that thy days
...on the land which
...od giveth thee.
13 Thou shalt not k
14 Thou shalt not c
15 Thou shalt not
16 Thou shalt not
...against thy neigh
17 Thou shalt not
...bour's house, th
...ighbour's wife
...is maids

If you believe there is a God who created humanity, it's logical to expect this Creator God to know the best way for us to live.

We believe God has recorded this information in the Bible to save anyone who will listen from the heartache and suffering that the wrong choices—what the Bible calls sins—bring.

But humanity as a whole has chosen to try to discover right and wrong by trial and error. Even worse, most people choose to experiment for themselves, not even learning from the mistakes of others!

Jesus Christ summarized the right way in two great commandments:

Love for God and love for others (Matthew 22:37-40). This basic approach is further defined by the great law God thundered from Mount Sinai—the 10 Commandments. The rest of the Bible further magnifies the holy, just and good law of God. It reveals a way of life that produces great benefits in this life and that is a prerequisite to entering eternal life (Matthew 19:17).

How can we know how to love God except He tells us? How can we avoid the pitfalls of human relationships unless we accept the wisdom revealed in God's law?

See more about how God wants us to live—for our own benefit—in the chapters that follow.

The 10 Commandments for Today

Do the 10 Commandments need to be updated—or upheld? How do the ancient laws included in the 10 Commandments apply today?

You may have heard back in 2008 that Archbishop Gianfranco Girotti felt the Catholics’ seven deadly sins needed to be updated. According to the BBC report, he wanted to add things like environmental pollution, genetic manipulation, accumulating excessive wealth, and drug trafficking and consumption to his new list. (The old list, including gluttony, greed and sloth, is traced back to Pope Gregory I in A.D. 590.)

What about the 10 Commandments? They are much older. They were given by God on Mount Sinai about 3,500 years ago. Actually, though, they are even older, considering that Abraham obeyed God’s commandments hundreds of years earlier (Genesis 26:5). In fact, the Bible tells us that

sin existed from the time of Adam (Romans 5:12), so the law of God was known by Adam and Eve—there is no sin where there is no law (verse 13)!

Did Jesus Christ replace or update them—the very laws He had given from the beginning of man’s history? Do they need an update today? Or do they provide timeless, foundational principles that help us know and choose right actions—and thoughts—over wrong behaviors and mind-sets? Do they help us see how to love our neighbors and how to love God?

What the Bible says about the 10 Commandments

Jesus said He didn’t come “to destroy

the Law or the Prophets,” what we call the Old Testament today (Matthew 5:17-19). He didn’t annul the 10 Commandments. He taught their deeper, spiritual application.

When asked which commandment was the greatest, He summarized the 10 Commandments and the whole Bible this way: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40).

Jesus showed the spiritual intent of the 10 Commandments. The first four show us how to love God the way He wants us to love and obey Him. The last six show us how to love our neighbors.

Jesus also said, “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). When asked which commandments, He listed five of the 10 Commandments, along with the summary statement, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (verses 18-19).

The apostle Paul said, “Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. ... For we know that the law is spiritual” (Romans 7:12, 14). How can the natural, fleshly man learn and obey this

holy, spiritual law? Paul showed that this is made possible through Jesus Christ and by being led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 7:25; 8:7-9, 14).

Jesus Christ not only paid the death penalty for our sins (Romans 5:9; 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:18-19), He showed the way and will provide us help to follow God’s good and beneficial way of life—the way of love. We must seek to change, to walk as He walks and to love as He loves (1 John 2:6; John 13:34). Paul shows that the law is designed to teach us how to love (Romans 13:9-10). Love is the spiritual intent of the law.

The problem is not the law, but our weak flesh. But through the Holy Spirit, God helps us overcome that obstacle by writing the law in our hearts and minds as we diligently study and seek to obey His law (Hebrews 8:8-10). This is the heart of the New Covenant.

James also expands on the spiritual intent of the 10 Commandments. He called God’s law the royal law (James 2:8). How is it a “royal law”? It is the law of the Kingdom of God, and Jesus Christ will return as King of Kings of that Kingdom (Revelation 19:16).

James also called it the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25; 2:12). James compares the law to a mirror (1:23-25). Just looking in the mirror—just knowing the perfect law of God—is

not enough. We must use God's help to make changes in ourselves and show love to others and God.

Not burdensome

Some have looked at God's law as bondage—as a heavy burden they feel God eventually sent Jesus to remove from us. But the Bible clearly shows the perfect, eternal, spiritual law of God is a law of liberty:

- John said, "His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).
- The psalmist wrote, "Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments" (Psalm 112:1).

- Paul wrote, "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters" (1 Corinthians 7:19).

Which laws were superseded?

Physical circumcision is not part of the 10 Commandments and is clearly shown in the New Testament to have been superseded by spiritual circumcision—a change of heart (Romans 2:29). Later, the book of Hebrews shows that the sacrifices and temple rituals have been superseded by Christ's sacrifice. They and the civil law (specific regulations necessary to govern the nation of



Israel) generally cannot be practiced by Christians today. But even these give us principles and lessons we can apply today.

The eternal spiritual law remains as the framework for a moral, godly life. The laws and principles taught throughout the Bible are consistent and still guide the Christian today.

To learn more about the continuity of God's law, see the following articles on the LifeHopeandTruth.com website:

- “Were the 10 Commandments Around Before Moses?”
- “Are the 10 Commandments Upheld in the New Testament?” (See page 21).

What was the real bondage?

Jesus Christ made clear what the real burden and bondage is: slavery to sin. The truth makes us free from that slavery (John 8:31-36).

God's truth is revealed throughout the Bible, which Paul explained was “given by inspiration”—literally, “God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Holy Scriptures (what we call the Old Testament) “are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (3:15).

So why does it seem Paul sometimes put down the law? Some of these passages take careful study, but most become clearer by considering some key arguments that Paul was making:

- Gentiles don't have to become Jews (especially, be circumcised) to be Christians.

- No amount of law keeping now can remove past sin, pay our death penalty or give us eternal life.

The apostle Peter recognized Paul's writings as Scripture, but acknowledged that Paul's epistles include “some things hard to understand” (2 Peter 3:16). In examining difficult-to-understand scriptures, remember that Paul also called the law holy, just and good (Romans 7:12). And he said, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (Romans 6:1-2).

So, we can only be made right with God by the gracious sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Nothing we can do can “earn” forgiveness. But after seeing how horrible sin is—seeing how good and beneficial God's laws are—seeing how much God hates sin and how much He loves us—the only correct response is to do what Christ told the woman caught in adultery: “Go and sin no more” (John 8:11).

The 10 Commandments are a wonderful gift from God, and each is worthy of study and meditation. Read a short study of each commandment in the following chapters.

First Commandment: You Shall Have No Other Gods

The First Commandment is recorded in Exodus 20:3: “You shall have no other gods before Me.” It tells us to put God first.

God began the 10 Commandments this way: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:2-3).

This First Commandment sets the tone for the first four commandments, which can be summarized as, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus Christ called this summation the great commandment (Matthew 22:37-38).

Jesus’ example

Jesus set the example of putting God first. Even after fasting for 40 days, He responded to Satan’s temptation

by saying, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Living by every word of God involves a commitment to always listen to what God teaches us in the Bible and not to rely on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6).

In facing Satan’s temptations, Jesus also quoted, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve” (Matthew 4:10). He expounded on this when He pointed out that we can’t serve God and serve the god of materialism (Matthew 6:24). He said our focus and priority must be to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).

The First Commandment is not just about pagan gods and false religions. Anything that we put as higher priority than the true God causes us to sin.



God's greatness and our response

The First Commandment is a reminder to focus on the awesome power and majesty of our Creator God. God's power was on display when He thundered these commandments from Mount Sinai.

"Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off" (Exodus 20:18).

Having respect and standing in awe of God's power is not a bad thing.

Moses told the people the result that our loving Creator wanted: "And Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin'" (Exodus 20:20).

Wise King Solomon explained, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).

And Jesus Christ put things in perspective for His disciples: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul

and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28; see also Hebrews 10:31). While we humans tend to fear other people we can see, we forget the Almighty God we can’t see.

But Christ followed this up with a discussion of our awesome God’s purpose and love for us. The God who notices every sparrow that falls and who knows the number of hairs on our head tells His faithful followers, “Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31).

The right type of fear of God is not terror or torment, but reverence and deep respect that recognizes God’s almighty power and puts God first. This healthy respect should grow into a deep appreciation of God’s love and His laws and way of life. We must grow from obeying God out of fear to obeying God out of love (1 John 4:18; 5:3).

How we break the First Commandment by not putting God first

There are many pitfalls and temptations that can lead us to disobey the First Commandment. This commandment is not just about pagan

gods and false religions. Anything that we put as higher priority than the true God causes us to sin.

Pride, that common human failing, breaks this command by putting self above God. As James wrote: “But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:6-10).

We need to seek God’s help to see things from His perspective—to get outside our own selfish worldview.

The Bible also warns of the common human failings of forgetfulness and neglect (Deuteronomy 8:11-19). Both good times and bad times can test our commitment to put God first. How we respond in our trials shows Him whether we always put God first.

Second Commandment: You Shall Not Make a Carved Image

Why does God command us not to make idols or any representations of Him in the Second Commandment? How does this command about idolatry apply today?

The Second Commandment against idolatry is recorded in Exodus 20:4-6:

“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; 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, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

God commands us not to make idols or any representation of Him. Nothing we can make can compare with Almighty God—human handiwork would only give us a false image of the true God. We are not to use statues, pictures, jewelry or anything else to represent God or as a physical aid in worshipping Him.

This commandment, of course, also prohibited idolatry of pagan gods that are not gods at all. The apostle

Paul agreed that the idols are nothing, but pointed out that “the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons” (1 Corinthians 10:20).

The image of God

Obviously, we are not to worship human heroes or stars, nor are we to love ourselves with a narcissistic self-love. But there is a sense in which we humans are in the image of God.

At the creation, God said: “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:26-27).

God wants us to become like Him in character, love, choices, attitudes and approaches. We are to let Christ

God does not want to be worshipped as pagan gods were. We are also told not to worship angels or saints. Instead we are to worship God in spirit and truth.



live in us—to strive to live always as He lived (Galatians 2:20; 1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21). We are to live godly lives and reflect the light of God “that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Idolatry and the Second Commandment today

How does the Second Commandment apply in our modern, materialistic world? People today still tend to worship the works of their own hands (Jeremiah 1:16). Idolatry is often connected with coveting—the desire to have more of the things the rich and famous have (Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5).

God does not want to be worshipped as pagan gods were (Deuteronomy 12:29-32). We are also told not to worship angels or saints (Colossians 2:18; Revelation 19:10). Instead we are to worship God in spirit and truth.

As Jesus told the Samaritan woman: “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24).

We are not to worship the creation. Instead, the creation should help us appreciate our great Creator.

The apostle Paul wrote: “For since

the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

“Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things” (Romans 1:20-23).

It’s fascinating to read how Paul explained this to the pagan philosophers in Athens, using the analogy that the true God is the One they called the unknown God.

“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things” (Acts 17:24-25; read the rest of the account in verses 22-31).

We must not let physical things cloud our understanding and worship of the Creator God.

To study more about what it means that man is in the image of God, be sure to read “[Spirit in Man: What Is It?](#)” on the Life, Hope & Truth website.

Third Commandment: You Shall Not Take God's Name in Vain

The Third Commandment prohibits profanity, swearing and cursing: "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain."

This Third Commandment is recorded in Exodus 20:7. To not take God's name in vain means to not take it lightly and to never use God's holy name as a thoughtless, hateful curse! This is perhaps the most common and lightly treated sin today, as profanity is splashed all over our television and movies. But God tells us to stop using blasphemy and filthy language and to bless rather than curse.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Colosse, "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth" (Colossians 3:8). He also gave this instruction to the church in Rome: "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse" (Romans 12:14).

Reverencing God and representing Him properly

Instead of using His name in vain

with profanity, we are to reverence God and represent His name well. Jesus Christ called on His followers to set the right example so people would glorify God's name.

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

In contrast, Paul warned that our wrong actions could defame God's name: "You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,' as it is written" (Romans 2:24, alluding to Old Testament passages such as Isaiah 52:5 and Ezekiel 36:22).



Instead of using His name in vain with profanity, we are to reverence God and represent His name well.

Prayers and praise, not profanity

Jesus told us that God's name should be "hallowed" in our prayers (Matthew 6:9). This is translated "kept holy" in the New Living Translation and the Modern Language Bible.

The book of Psalms and many other parts of the Bible give examples of the praise and honor that are due God's name. Here are just a few:

- "O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens" (Psalm 8:1).
- "Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:1-2).
- "Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:1-5).
- "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might

are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells in Him" (Daniel 2:20-22).

- "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

Praying in Jesus' name

It is amazing that Jesus Christ gives His followers the awesome privilege to pray using His name! "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:14).

We must not misuse this privilege; it is not like a genie in a bottle. We are only to ask according to His will, not selfishly. As the apostle John wrote, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

Instead of using profanity, we are to "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).

The Fourth Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day

God made the Sabbath at the end of the creation week, and it reminds us of our Creator. How does He want us to remember it today?

God recorded the Fourth Commandment in Exodus 20:8-11:

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 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.

“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.”

The Sabbath was made at creation

God made the Sabbath at the end of

the creation week, and it reminds us of our Creator: “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” (Genesis 2:1-3).

We follow God’s example and command by remembering and resting on this day each week. Unless God told us, how would we know how He wants to be worshipped? How would mortal man know what is holy time—unless God revealed it? Thankfully He has revealed it,



The Sabbath is more than just a day for sleeping and doing nothing—it’s a day for doing something different: refocusing on God, worshipping and fellowshiping with Christians of like mind.

though so few today “remember” the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Sabbath command is repeated in Deuteronomy 5:12-15, but there God highlights the theme of freedom. The Israelites were given freedom from slavery under Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. This pictured, in type, the freedom we can have from Satan and sin. As the One who became Jesus Christ delivered Israel from Egypt with a mighty hand (1 Corinthians 10:4), so Jesus is our Deliverer and Savior today.

Whose Sabbath is it?

“The seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God” (Exodus 20:10). It belongs to God. It was so important to God that He made it a sign between Him and His people (Exodus 31:13). Jesus said He is “Lord of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:28). But Jesus tells us the Sabbath was made for our benefit: “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (verse 27).

The Sabbath is not a selfish day. We are to let our servants (employees)

rest as well (Deuteronomy 5:14). And Christ clarified that it is not wrong to do good on the Sabbath, giving examples of emergencies and setting the example of caring for the sick and injured (Matthew 12:10-13).

Why did the Pharisees and religious leaders accuse Christ and the disciples of “doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath” (Matthew 12:2)? Because they and their ancestors had learned the wrong lessons from Israel’s punishment for Sabbath-breaking and other sins. They had added many human-devised rules and laws as a hedge around the Sabbath.

God’s commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3), but the rules of Judaism had become a burden (Matthew 23:4).

The Sabbath now and in the future

Chapters 3 and 4 of the book of Hebrews weave together the inter-related themes of the Sabbath, entering the Promised Land and entering the Kingdom of God. Each is a type of rest, with the Promised Land an imperfect picture of the future, peaceful Kingdom.

The Sabbath, the day God rested, is both the forerunner and the weekly reminder of the wonderful future rest, free from the bondage of sin (Hebrews 4:4, 9). “There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people

of God” (Hebrews 4:9, New International Version).

In that future Kingdom, all people will worship before God on the Sabbath (Isaiah 66:23).

The Sabbath command today

We are still required to work diligently for six days to meet our needs and prepare well for the Sabbath each week. This teaches us diligence, planning and priorities. God mandates a day of rest not to promote idleness, but because we need it.

But the Sabbath is more than just a day for sleeping and doing nothing—it’s a day for doing something different: refocusing on God, worshipping and fellowshiping with Christians of like mind (Hebrews 10:24-25), praying, studying the Bible and meditating.

The Sabbath is a day to bond with family, appreciate the creation and do good, perhaps visiting the widows and orphans (James 1:27). The Sabbath should be a delight, not by doing our own hobbies, interests and pleasures, but by honoring God and seeking to please Him and do His will (Isaiah 58:13-14).

For more about the biblical Sabbath and how it was observed in the New Testament and by the early Church, see the 11 related articles on the LifeHopeandTruth.com website section about the “Sabbath.”

Are the 10 Commandments Upheld in the New Testament?

Most people acknowledge that Christians should obey most of the 10 Commandments, including those that prohibit worshipping other gods, murder, stealing, adultery and lying—just to name a few of the instructions spoken by God to the ancient Israelites from Mount Sinai. It is only the Fourth Commandment to keep the seventh-day Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11) that some claim is not repeated in the New Testament and therefore is no longer required of Christians.

Are all of the 10 Commandments upheld in the New Testament? To answer this question, consider what Christ taught concerning the commandments and the following chart showing the repetition of the commandments in the New Testament.

What Christ taught concerning the 10 Commandments in the New Testament

Christ consistently upheld the 10 Commandments as given in the Old Testament. In His Sermon on the Mount, He very pointedly stated: “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17).

Although some mistakenly think that “fulfill” in this passage means to complete and therefore abolish, what Jesus said afterwards shows this could not be the case. Continuing, Jesus said: “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (verses 18-19).

Realizing that Jesus consistently upheld all of the commandments, including observing the seventh-day Sabbath (Matthew 19:17-19; Luke 4:16), some wrongly suggest that it was the apostle Paul, with Jesus’ personal approval, who introduced grace and the abolishment of the law.

The truth is that Jesus did not change His mind about the importance of keeping all of the 10 Commandments. As Hebrews 13:8 states: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Toward the end of the first century—some 60 years after His death and resurrection—Jesus revealed end-time instructions through John in the book of Revelation. In this book He identifies faithful members of His Church as those “who keep the commandments of God” (Revelation 12:17). Some of the final words of the Bible and this revelation of Jesus Christ likewise state: “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).

The 10 Commandments given by God in the Old Testament continue to be God’s expectations of Christians today. The following chart identifies references to the 10 Commandments in both the Old and New Testaments.

Commandment	Old Testament
You shall have no other gods before Me.	Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7
You shall not make idols.	Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 5:8-10
You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.	Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11
Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.	Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Honor your father and your mother	Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16
You shall not murder.	Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17
You shall not commit adultery.	Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18
You shall not steal.	Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20
You shall not covet.	Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21

The New Testament

of Our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ

TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL GREEK :
AND WITH THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS
DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED
BY HIS MAJESTY'S SPECIAL COMMAND

*Authorized
King James Version*

New Testament

Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8; Revelation 14:7

Acts 15:20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-20; Ephesians 5:5

Matthew 5:33-37; 1 Timothy 6:1; James 2:7

Luke 4:16; 23:55-56; Acts 17:1-2; 18:4; Hebrews 4:9; 1 John 2:6

Matthew 15:4-9; 19:19; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Romans 1:29-30;
Ephesians 6:1-3

Matthew 5:21-22; 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Romans 1:29-30; 13:9

Matthew 5:27-28; 19:18; Mark 10:11-12, 19; Luke 16:18; 18:20; Romans 7:2-3; 13:9

Matthew 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Romans 13:9; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Peter 4:15; Revelation 9:21

Matthew 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 13:9;
Ephesians 4:25

Luke 12:15; Romans 1:29; 7:7; 13:9; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21;
Ephesians 5:3, 5

Fifth Commandment: Honor Your Father and Your Mother

The Fifth Commandment says: “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

The first four commandments define how God wants us to show love for Him. This Fifth Commandment begins a series of six commandments that show us how to love other people—starting from our earliest years in the family.

In a way, the Fifth Commandment connects the two sections, since God reveals Himself as our loving Father. No father deserves honor as much as our Heavenly Father, whom Jesus Christ came to reveal to those God is working with! Yet the Bible shows that humanity, and even those chosen to be God’s people, have often failed in showing that honor and respect to our Creator God.

God pointed out this much-too-common problem in Malachi 1:6: “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence?”

This Fifth Commandment helps us see how learning respect and honor in the family setting helps prepare us to show honor to our ultimate Father.

The first commandment with promise

The apostle Paul reiterated the Fifth Commandment, emphasizing that it is the “first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth’” (Ephesians 6:2-3). All of God’s com-

mandments are given for our benefit, but this one is especially highlighted by God for the blessings that it brings for the individual, the family and society in general.

Paul expands on this subject of family relationships, beginning with the command to children: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (verse 1). A smooth functioning society and happy relationships are based on respect and obedience to authority. It is much easier if we learn this early in life instead of learning it by being fired—or by going to prison.

God wants us to learn to “honor all people” (1 Peter 2:17). We must submit to authority, “For there is no authority except from God” (Romans 13:1). This does not mean God condones repressive, heavy-handed leadership. He holds parents, teachers and other leaders to a stricter judgment (James 3:1).

Honor shouldn't end when we leave home

Family is a lifetime commitment, reflecting the permanence of the family relationship we are called to in becoming children of God. As the apostle John wrote, “Behold

This Fifth Commandment helps us see how learning respect and honor in the family setting helps prepare us to show honor to our ultimate Father.



what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1).

God intends for us to continue to show respect and honor for our parents long after we leave home and perhaps even more as they age and require our support and care. Jesus Christ showed the hypocrisy of some who tried to get out of honoring and supporting their elderly parents:

“Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God”—then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition” (Matthew 15:3-6).

God wants our honor to extend throughout our parents’ lives.

The vital parental role

The apostle Paul also commands parents: “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). To the Colossians Paul adds, “Lest they become discouraged” (Colossians 3:21). Parents must not shirk their teaching role, but must do it in a way that is encouraging and doesn’t provoke their children.

The “training and admonition of the Lord” is explained more fully in the book of Deuteronomy. God told parents: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

The parental role is a vital one, and it is challenging. It is worthy of respect.

Sixth Commandment: You Shall Not Murder

God recorded the Sixth Commandment in Exodus 20:13: “You shall not murder.” God values life highly and He wants us to as well.

God is the giver of life. He breathed into the first man the breath of life (Genesis 2:7), and His plan is to give every human being a chance at real life—eternal life as His sons and daughters in His Kingdom.

Jesus Christ said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). He desires everyone to repent and have salvation—eternal life (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9). This physical life is a training ground for that future life.

God values life highly. He tells us to choose life: “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your

descendants may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

God showed the value of human life by requiring capital punishment for the murder of another person (Exodus 21:12, 14). Accidental killing, of course, was treated differently (Exodus 21:13; Numbers 35:11).

The spiritual intent of the Sixth Commandment

Jesus Christ expounded on the Sixth Commandment to emphasize its spiritual intent. He told us not to become angry without a cause or to allow anger to cause us to do violence to or even abuse another person verbally:

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say

Jesus Christ expounded on the Sixth Commandment to emphasize its spiritual intent. He told us not to become angry without a cause or to allow anger to cause us to do violence to or abuse another person even verbally.



to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ [“meaning empty head,” *Nelson’s NKJV Study Bible* note] shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire” (Matthew 5:21-22).

There is righteous anger (God gets angry at sin, as Hebrews 3:17 shows), but it must be controlled as God tempers His anger with patience and mercy. This is shown in Joel 2:13, where Joel encourages us to throw ourselves on God’s mercy: “So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.”

Hate is murder

The Bible shows that hate is the attitude of murder. The apostle John wrote: “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him” (1 John 3:15).

The Bible also shows the dangers of our words and that we can murder with our tongues (Proverbs 18:21).

“Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole

body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:5-8).

We must replace hate—the attitude of murder—with love, shown by action: “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. ...

“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:14, 17-18).

We are not to hate even an enemy, but to love, bless, do good and pray for them.

As Jesus Christ taught in the Sermon on the Mount, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:43-45).

Seventh Commandment: You Shall Not Commit Adultery

The Seventh Commandment is recorded in Exodus 20:14: “You shall not commit adultery.”

God intended the sexual relationship between a husband and wife to be an exclusive, intimate bond to strengthen the marriage relationship.

The creation account shows God’s wonderful intention for men and women and for the marriage bond. “And the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’ ...

“And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

“And Adam said: ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:18, 21-24).

So the prohibition of extramarital sex—adultery—was designed to protect the sanctity of marriage and show the importance of faithfulness.

The spirit of the Seventh Commandment

Jesus Christ expanded on the Seventh Commandment to show the spirit of the law. He said even looking lustfully is mental adultery:

The prohibition of extramarital sex—adultery—was designed to protect the sanctity of marriage and show the importance of faithfulness.



“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell” (Matthew 5:27-29).

Some people in the first century, like many today, felt that natural appetites must be fulfilled. The apostle Paul described this approach and countered it in his first letter to the

Corinthians. “Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods [this was their argument], but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body” (1 Corinthians 6:13).

Paul explained that the God who created our bodies and who wants to live in us, wants us to be pure.

“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body” (verse 18). We must not give in to sexual lust and temptation, instead

we must follow the example of Joseph who fled from the advances of his master's wife (Genesis 39:6-20).

All sex outside of marriage prohibited

Any type of sex outside of marriage is prohibited. Paul said premarital sex, adultery, homosexuality and other sins would keep a person out of the Kingdom of God: "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

But God provides a way out of wrong sexual lifestyles and sins through repentance and conversion: "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the

Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (verse 11). God offers to wash away our sinful past and give us a clean, pure heart.

Sex in marriage is pure and good: "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). Don't let society cheapen sex into just a biological drive or a hedonistic extreme sport. Read Solomon's warnings about the lure of immorality and its consequences compared to the joy of committed love (Proverbs 5:1-20).

Solomon's poetic conclusion is: "Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?" (verses 18-20).

Eighth Commandment: You Shall Not Steal

The Eighth Commandment is recorded in Exodus 20:15: “You shall not steal.” The Bible describes many forms of stealing we must avoid.

Many human laws have been made to try to protect our personal possessions and property from those who would seek to take them for themselves. But the intent of God’s Eighth Commandment goes deeper.

Many forms of stealing

Stealing can take many forms, including cheating someone or even delaying paying someone what you owe him or her: “You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. ... You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning” (Leviticus 19:11, 13).

The apostle James strongly warned the wealthy people who oppressed

their workers and the poor: “Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter” (James 5:2-5).

Companies can attempt to steal from people with misleading advertising and shoddy products and services. Employees can steal from their



The Eighth Commandment protects personal property and teaches us to respect the property of others. More than that, in its spiritual intent it contrasts two ways of life: getting versus giving.

employers by wasting time or doing personal things on company time.

Lazy people can try to take advantage of the goodness of others, leading the apostle Paul to write: “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our

Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread” (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).

Getting versus giving

The Eighth Commandment protects personal property and teaches us to respect the property of others. More than that, in its spiritual intent it contrasts two ways of life: getting versus giving.

Consider how the apostle Paul describes the opposite of stealing:

“Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need” (Ephesians 4:28).

The Bible repeatedly extols the virtues of giving. Consider these passages:

- “He answered and said to them, ‘He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise” (Luke 3:11).
- “Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away” (Matthew 5:42).
- “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Jesus Christ summed up the benefits of God’s way of give this way: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Stealing from God?

The eternal God is the Creator of everything that exists. Therefore He is actually the owner of the entire universe:

- “The earth is the LORD’s, and all

its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1).

- “Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine” (Job 41:11).
- “‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts” (Haggai 2:8).

It is to our benefit to remember that God is the source of every good gift that we have (James 1:17). So God allows us to enjoy His blessings, and He only asks that we acknowledge Him with a tenth (a tithe) of what He provides.

The Bible warns against stealing from God the tithes and offerings owed Him, but promises blessings to those who do give to Him:

“‘Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’” In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:8-10).

Ninth Commandment: You Shall Not Bear False Witness

The Ninth Commandment is found in Exodus 20:16: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” This principle includes all forms of lying.

Modern laws about perjury are based on this concept of reinforcing the importance of truth and truthfulness. The intent of God’s Ninth Commandment goes even deeper.

God of truth

God is a God of truth. He wants us to learn to hate lying and dishonesty and to love truth. Consider these scriptures about how important truth is to God:

- “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).
- “His truth endures to all generations” (Psalm 100:5).

- “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).
- “Your word is truth” (John 17:17).
- “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37).

The Ninth Commandment is designed to prevent slander and perversion of justice.

As God told Moses and the Israelites: “You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. You shall not follow a crowd to

do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice. ...

“You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute. Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked. And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous” (Exodus 23:1-2, 6-8).

Lying and dishonesty pervert and corrupt hearts and are abominations to God.

Is there anything that is impossible for God? Yes! The Bible says it is impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). He will not do it.

The father of lying

On the other hand, Satan is the father of lies. Jesus Christ explained to those who were justifying themselves and sneering at Him: “You

God wants us to replace lying with honesty in our words and our hearts and our thoughts.

I'll tell no lies
I'll tell no lies
I'll tell no lies



are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it” (John 8:44).

The first recorded lie was when Satan, through the serpent, told Eve that God was lying. He did it subtly, by first asking: “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

“Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil’” (Genesis 3:1-5).

What a diabolical act of deception—lying by calling our totally trustworthy God a liar!

We long for the day when Satan will deceive the nations no more (Revelation 20:3).

No need to swear

The spirit of the Ninth Commandment goes further than not swear-

ing falsely. Our every word should be trustworthy—there should be no need to swear.

As Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount: “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:33-37).

God wants us to replace lying with honesty in our words and our hearts and our thoughts.

What about “white lies”?

Some wonder if it is possible to always tell the truth and suggest that “white lies” are needed to avoid hurting others. But the Bible says we should be “speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). White lies are not necessary; but tact, kindness and courtesy should always be practiced.

The apostle Paul also told the Christians in Ephesus that by “putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another” (verse 25).

10th Commandment: You Shall Not Covet

The 10th Commandment tells us not to covet. It gets to the heart of the matter of sin. It looks at our motivations, showing how God wants us to think.

God recorded the 10th Commandment for us in Exodus 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.”

To covet means “to feel inordinate desire for what belongs to another” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition).

When the 10 Commandments are listed again in Deuteronomy 5, the order of the items not to be wrongly desired is slightly different (wife

before house), which argues against breaking this into two commandments as some do.

Deuteronomy 5:21 says: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

In modern terms, coveting often includes our neighbor’s cars, electronic gadgets, money, prestige, etc.

The heart of the matter

Jesus Christ made clear in the Sermon on the Mount and throughout

His teachings that God's law involves more than just our actions. Really obeying the 10 Commandments involves our thoughts and attitudes and approaches.

Even before Christ expanded on the laws, this 10th Commandment added depth to all the commandments by drawing attention to our hearts and motives. Coveting, and all sin, begins in our hearts.

“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man” (Matthew 15:18-20).

Covetousness and idolatry

God even ties the 10th Commandment about coveting to the Second Commandment against idolatry. When we put our greed and selfishness ahead of God, it can become idol worship.

The apostle Paul wrote: “Therefore put to death your members which are on earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience” (Colossians 3:5-6).

Paul also made this comparison in his letter to the church in Ephesus:

“For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God” (Ephesians 5:5).

Jesus Christ explained, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). Worshipping wealth separates us from worshipping the true God.

That's why Jesus Christ also told us, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (verses 19-21).

Bad examples of coveting

The Bible gives many bad examples of coveting, such as when David coveted Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-4) and Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-6). In both of these cases, this sin started in the mind and led to other sins, including murder.

Antidotes to covetousness

When we covet, we give in to a toxic, selfish mind-set that leads to sin and death. Thankfully, the Bible identifies the cure as well as the disease. The

antidotes to covetousness include:

- **Contentment.** Paul “learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (Philippians 4:11). He wrote, “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (verses 12-13).
- **Generosity.** If we learn to be “rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,” we will be storing up treasure “for the time to come, that [we] may lay hold on eternal

life” (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

- **Faith.** We can trust in “the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17). We can know that God has a glorious inheritance for those who have faith in Him. “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

For more about the faith to trust God for our needs and desires, be sure to read “What Is Faith?” on the LifeHopeandTruth.com website.

Coveting, and all sin, begins in our hearts.



What Now?

Reading about the 10 Commandments is not enough. They are designed to be acted on! Obeying them brings great blessings, but disobeying brings a terrible penalty.

When we discover that we have sinned and broken God's 10 Commandments, we should turn to God in repentance and seek His help to overcome sin.



As you have read through God's 10 Commandments, undoubtedly you have seen areas where you have missed the mark—sinned, as the Bible calls it. We say undoubtedly because the apostle Paul says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Paul also explains that this is serious business: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

God's laws are for our benefit; but when we break them, they exact a terrible penalty. Ultimately they carry the penalty of eternal death unless we sincerely repent.

In the concluding remarks of the book of Revelation, Jesus Christ reminds us that He will reward people for their actions when He returns (Revelation 22:12). John follows this statement with, "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life" (verse 14). God gives us the choice.

God's rescue plan

God loved you so much He made a way for you to be forgiven of past sins and to be helped to avoid future sins. That way required the death of His Son, Jesus Christ! God hates sin and loves you and all of us that much!

The apostle Peter summarized the process of change that Jesus' sacri-

fice made possible. He told a group of people who recognized their sins and were "cut to the heart," "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

When we discover that we have sinned and broken God's 10 Commandments, we should turn to God in repentance and seek His help to overcome sin. For more about this vital subject and the other steps in the process, please read the article "How to Repent" and related articles on the LifeHopeandTruth.com website.

Be doers of the word

The apostle James compared God's law to a mirror and warned us not to just look and quickly "forget what kind of man" we are (James 1:23-24).

"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (verse 25).

You should study the 10 Commandments, think about them—and do them! You will be blessed as you do.

If you have any questions or would like to contact one of the caring ministers of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, you can write to us at info@cogwa.org. We are very happy to assist you in any way we can.

About **LifeHope&Truth**

LifeHopeandTruth.com exists to fill a critical void in this world: the lack of understanding about the purpose of life, the lack of realistic hope for a better future and the lack of truth!

Neither religion nor science has satisfactorily addressed these issues, so people today are of divided opinions, confused or, worst of all, don't care anymore. The ancient words of the prophet Isaiah ring so true today: "Truth is fallen in the street." Why? Is it because God was right when He warned that humans are inclined to reject Him and usually choose not to know Him?

We are here for people who are searching for answers, who are ready to prove all things or who are hungry for more than what they've been taught most of their lives about God, the Bible, the meaning of life and how to live. We want to help you truly understand the good news of the gospel and fulfill Jesus Christ's admonition to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

LifeHopeandTruth.com is sponsored by the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, Inc. It is supported by the generous contributions of donors and members of the Church around the world, who make it possible for everything on this site to be free of charge based on Jesus Christ's statement, "Freely you have received, freely give." You will never be charged or made to feel obligated for anything on this site.

The Church of God, a Worldwide Association, has congregations around the world in more than 50 countries, with headquarters in the United States near Dallas, Texas. To learn more about the Church, please visit our website cogwa.org.

Discover more about us:

Send us an email: info@cogwa.org

Find us on Facebook: [LifeHopeTruth](https://www.facebook.com/LifeHopeTruth)

Follow us on Twitter: [@LifeHopeTruth](https://twitter.com/LifeHopeTruth)

Search for us on Google+: [Life, Hope & Truth](https://www.google.com/+LifeHopeTruth)

