

Well, It Is a Command!



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VIRTUAL

Keeping the Commandments is linked to receiving eternal life. When a lawyer asked Jesus Luke 10:25 “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said Luke 10:26, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” The man replied Luke 10:27 “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.”

²⁸ “Thou hast answered right [Jesus said]: this do, and thou shalt live.” Carrying through with that Commandment to keep divine love in our heart, gives us the promise of eternal life—Jesus promising: “This do, and thou shalt live”—forever in Paradise with Him and all the saved, He meant.

Commandment #2 is the follow-up of the first—Exodus 20:4 “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth”—because, ⁵ “I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.”

We break that command if we create a god to suit our wrong life. God will always remain who He is, so we cannot make God what we want Him to be—in second place. We can create an idol and not be conscious of doing so. An idol holds power over us—whether it be possessions; money; sports; a person; entertainment; food; drugs; or a job—all have the potential of becoming an idol.

A Christian speaker once gave a talk at a high school, and afterward, noticed a student polishing his sports car. He asked him: *Can I drive your car?* The student answered, *No way! Only my Dad and I drive this car!* A while later the student said: *Okay, you can drive my car as long as I am in it with you.* He replied: *I don’t want to drive your car. I just wanted to see if your car was an idol.* The student had to admit that it was.

Anything we love on earth, more than we love the God in Heaven, has become an idol to us. The posters on our wall, or the names and images on our tee-shirts can show who or what we idolize. God does not allow us to love or to idolize anything besides Him. This is because He knows that nothing on earth can really satisfy our heart—only His love within can do that.

The question has been asked concerning the Ten Commandments—*What part of ‘thou shalt not’ do you not understand*—but it is not that we don’t understand what God is saying; it’s that we do not want to do, what God is saying we must do. God says No to some things, but deep within us can be a rebellious spirit that wants to do otherwise.

Jesus said that no one can serve two gods at the same time. One will always have preeminence over the other. Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

We instinctively idolize something or someone. Whatever has become too important to us will control our decisions and attitudes. Romans 6:16 “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” Satan makes it easy to break the second Commandment, so we must be careful not to make an idol of anything.

Commandment #3 Exodus 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” Taking the name of God in vain means using His name flippantly, disrespectfully, or offensively.

If we do, we are taking a hallowed and powerful name—then trying to lessen or cheapen it by how we use it. People were given the death penalty for speaking God’s name irreverently in the Old Testament. Some Jews consider the name of God so holy, that they will not speak it nor even write it, lest they inadvertently use His name in vain and break the Command.

If someone feared God, they would not misuse His name. Many people make promises to God, but do not keep them. It is common in the world to hear people say, *I swear to...* and then using God’s name vainly or disrespectfully. Too many people—whether in sports, at work, or doing anything, take the holy name of God and connect it with oaths and curses. That is no way to talk about the Creator of the universe—our loving God who has blessed us beyond measure.

Exodus 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” Very few follow that Command. Acts 17:24 “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed

any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.”

God’s name is to be respected above everything. Philippians 2:9 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” The most important, righteous, and holy name in the universe is often used in vain—that should never be!

Commandment #4 Exodus 20:8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

God set aside one day in the week to rest and to spend time with Him. The Sabbath is a gift God has given to His creation. We are *not* to work at our jobs or do any strenuous activity on the Sabbath. God *cares* for us, and He knows that this time of rest is needed and important.

Under Moses, anyone who worked on the Sabbath could be stoned. When the Israelites were in the wilderness Numbers 15:32 “They found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day.” They were not sure what to do; 35 “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘The man must surely be put to death.’”

God did not mention any specific calendar day, as there were *no* calendars in the beginning—just work *six* days and rest on the *seventh*—keeping one day for the Lord. It is a day to spend time in the Word; in prayer; and with loved ones. We all *keep the Sabbath* in different

ways, and probably not always the way God *designed* it to be kept. We must ask God to *guide* us in this matter so we can keep His day holy; to rest; to spend time in Scripture and with the family.

Commandment #5 Exodus 20:12 “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” We are to honor and obey our parents because God put them over us. We are to acknowledge the value of *having* parents—who taught us godly truths of the Bible and showing by example how to *live* a Christian life of faith.

We are promised blessings and rewards for honoring parents. Ephesians 6:1 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

If we *disrespect* our parents, we *dishonor* them—God tells us to do the *opposite*; to give them our *utmost* respect—that is how we honor them. Our attitude toward our parents will influence our attitude toward all authority.

This Commandment deals with obedience and respect that children *should* show toward parents because it is part of the plan that God has given for a long and happy life. Colossians 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”

Commandment #6 Exodus 20:13 “Thou shalt not kill”—needs little interpretation, but as with other Commandments, the Lord Jesus expounds, and He takes the matter even further. Matthew 5:21 “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:”

He quotes the sixth commandment, and adds 22 “But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to

his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.”

As our anger gets worse, violating of the sixth Commandment gets worse. Most people think that they would never commit murder but getting angry with someone happens *often* and with too *many*. Most times there is no good nor valid reason for our anger. Satan wants to defile our conscience—so he tempts us to be *angry*—whether playing sports, doing work, or with anything.

A just *cause* is *righteous wrath* at so much wickedness in the world, but if we have been really *angry* with anyone without a right reason, it is akin to murder in God’s sight. 1 John 3:15 “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” God knows what is *in* our heart—He sees our *thoughts* as well as our *actions*. If we have broken this Commandment, we need to take corrective measures.

Matthew 5:23 “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

To love others is to readily *forgive* them—then our anger dissipates. Ephesians 4:31 “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” It is another Command to follow!



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