

The Ten Commandments²

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 29th, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.”

~Exodus 20:20 (NASB)

1) The Ten Commandments

- A) The Ten Commandments begin with “I am the LORD your God” (Exodus 20:2) and complete with the command relating to one’s “neighbor” (20:17). There is a two-fold foundation within the Ten Commandments to “Love God & Love Others” (cf. Matthew 22:34-40).

- B) The first five commandments (Exodus 20:3-12) relate to one’s relationship with God, and the last five commandments (Exodus 20:13-17) are foundational for how one loves others. Each commandment is given to an individual (“You Shall...”), calling on each individual to obey the Law, in the midst of family and community.

- C) The first five commandments are:
 - 1) No other gods (20:3).
 - 2) No worship of any idol of any kind (20:4-6).
 - 3) No misuse of God’s name (20:7).
 - 4) Remember Sabbath rest (20:8-11).
 - 5) Honor your parents (20:12).

2) Do Not Murder (6)

- A) The command to “not murder” (Exodus 20:13) emphasizes interpersonal relationships between the “image bearers” of God (Genesis 9:6). There is a specific word used for murder (as opposed to “kill” or “manslaughter”). This command raises up the value and sanctity of human life in all forms.

3) Do Not Sleep With Anyone Else’s Wife/Husband (7)

- A) Emphasizing the value of fidelity, the command to “not have sexual relations with anyone else’s wife/husband” (Exodus 20:14) lays a foundation for participation in marriage as an act of worship. The intimacy of marriage is raised as a human paradigm for experiencing God’s love.

4) Do Not Take What Is Not Yours (8)

- A) Since everything which we possess is given to us by God (cf. Deuteronomy 6:10-12), we are simply stewards of what God has given to us (cf. Matthew 25:14-30). When one steals from another (Exodus 20:15), he is stealing from both man and from God, losing sight of the honor of stewardship.

5) Do Not Give False Testimony About Others (9)

- A) Like today, most disputes and judicial decisions are based on witness testimony. Making a false accusation or giving misleading testimony about another person (Exodus 20:16), destroys God’s foundations for truth and justice. Further, “false testimony” obscures the truth, which is foundational of God’s character, thus damaging God’s reputation.

6) Do Not Desire The Possessions Of Others (10)

- A) Lacking contentment with one’s own possessions, easily leads to a sinful desire for what someone else possesses (Exodus 20:17). This commandment is the only “internal heart command,” and can actually lead to violation of a number of the previous commandments. In this sense, finding contentment in your possessions (family, job, etc.) is an act of worship toward God, rightly focusing ambition for God’s Kingdom, rather than an insatiable desire for more.