

Christian Doctrine

#1 – [Moses receiving the Ten Commandments] God’s expectations of people have not changed since day six of creation week. Those expectations are summarized in The Ten Commandments. They can also be summarized in two commands: “Love God and love your fellow human beings.” God’s law could be summarized just as well in the words of Leviticus 19:2 - “Be holy, as I the Lord your God am holy.” If you wanted to, you could even summarize God’s expectations of human beings with one verb – love.

The Ten Commandments divide quite naturally into two groups, two tables, according to their subject matter. The first three commandments (The First Table) speak of matters pertaining to worship of and reverence for God. The last seven commandments (The Second Table) speak of God’s will in regard to our neighbor.

#2 - The Law as a mirror.

Through the law we become conscious of sin (Romans 3:20).

#3 -

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

The First Commandment is a summary statement concerning God’s glory. As the only God, the Lord has every right to expect and demand that praise and honor be directed to him more than to anyone or anything.

Bible Study

Declare what is to be, present it – let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me (Isaiah 45:21).

“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols” (Isaiah 42:8).

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37).

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5).

[They] exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles (Romans 1:23).

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15).

...though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them (Psalm 62:10).

Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me (Matthew 10:37).

This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD” (Jeremiah 17:5).

#4 - First Commandment summary

#5 -

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

The Second Commandment is a summary statement concerning God’s name. God’s name includes all his titles but it also includes everything he has told us about himself. God uses his name to bless and to save us. Our use of God’s name is always to reflect how precious it is.

Bible Study

...for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13).

And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me (Psalm 50:15).

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name (Psalm 103:1).

Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be (James 3:10).

Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD (Leviticus 19:12).

Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers’ (Matthew 7:22-23)!

#6 - Second Commandment summary

#7 -

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his word but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

The Third Commandment is a summary statement concerning God’s Word. We receive the rest that Jesus has provided for us not merely through taking one day off a week but through hearing God’s Word.

#8 - Third Commandment illustration

Bible Study

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ (Colossians 2:16-17).

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:28-29).

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true (Acts 17:11).

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27).

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long (Psalm 119:97).

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:25).

#9 - Third Commandment summary

#10 -

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

**Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you
and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.**

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve and obey them and give them love and respect.

The Fourth Commandment is a summary statement concerning God’s representatives, people through whom he blesses us. God’s representatives in the home, church, and government are to be honored.

Bible Study

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord (Colossians 3:20).

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves (Romans 13:1,2).

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him (Proverbs 13:24).

We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29)!

#11 - Fourth Commandment summary

#12 -

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

The Fifth Commandment is a summary statement concerning God’s gift of life. Since it is a time of grace and a most precious gift, all our thoughts, words and actions are to reflect the highest regard for God’s gift of life, both our own life and the lives of all people.

Bible Study

See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand (Deuteronomy 32:39).

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near (Isaiah 55:6).

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed” (Genesis 9: 6a).

Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him (1 John 3:15).

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you (Ephesians 4:31-32).

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13).

#13 - Fifth Commandment summary

#14 -

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not commit adultery.*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

The Sixth Commandment is a summary statement concerning God’s gift of marriage. God wants marriage to be the lifelong union of one man and one woman. Marriage is to be honored by all, married persons and unmarried persons.

Bible Study

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral (Hebrews 13:4).

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate” (Matthew 19:4-6).

For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage (Romans 7:2).

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” (Genesis 2:18).

Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him (Psalm 127:3).

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28).

Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity...because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving (Ephesians 5:3-4).

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them (Colossians 3:19).

I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery (Matthew 19:9).

But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace (1 Corinthians 7:15).

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion (Romans 1:26-27).

He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true” (John 4:16-18).

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

#15 - Sixth Commandment summary

#16 -

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal.*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor’s money or property or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

The Seventh Commandment is a summary statement concerning God’s gift of possessions. God has given us the possessions we have, and our neighbor what he has. God wants us to earn our possessions through honest labor and to use all his gifts responsibly and with great care.

Bible Study

The earth is the LORD’S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (Psalm 24:1).

A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare (Proverbs 21:6).

Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15).

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (1 Timothy 5:8).

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him (1 John 3:17)?

Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor (Romans 13:7).

#17 - Seventh Commandment summary

#18 -

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

The Eighth Commandment is a summary statement concerning God’s gift of a good name. False testimony is defined as “...any talk, true or untrue, which has evil intent.”

Bible Study

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold (Proverbs 22:1).

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison (James 3:7-8).

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free (Proverbs 19:5).

Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to (1 Timothy 5:13).

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8-9).

#19 - Eighth Commandment summary

#20 -

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house or obtain it by a show of right, but do all we can to help him keep it.

#21 -

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his workers or his animals or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not force or entice away our neighbor’s spouse, workers or animals, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments are summary statements concerning God’s will that we have holy desires. To covet means to have a sinful desire or craving in our hearts for something we should not want to have. Coveting is dangerous because it can lead to sinful actions.

Bible Study

The LORD detests the thoughts of the wicked, but those of the pure are pleasing to him (Proverbs 15:26).

For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly (Mark 7:21-22).

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God (James 4:1-2).

If you come across your enemy’s ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to take it back to him (Exodus 23:4).

#22 - Ninth and Tenth Commandment summary

#23 – God wants all his commandments kept perfectly. The word sin (ἁμαρτάνω) is a Greek word that apparently came from the archery range. Sin is missing the mark. It is any way in which we fail to think, speak or live in perfect compliance with God’s will. We sin in the evil we do and the good we don’t do. We sin when our thoughts are impure or evil. Sin may be known to us or unknown to us. Sin is also a condition. It is not only what we do – it’s what we are. Sin is also a power. Jesus said that a person who sins is enslaved to sin. Sin destroys our relationship with God and earns us eternal damnation in hell.

#24 - God’s Word about sin

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand (Psalm 130:3)?

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it (James 2:10).

Who knows the power of your anger (Psalm 90:11)?

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law” (Galatians 3:10).

The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong (Psalm 5:5).

But your iniquities have separated you from your God (Isaiah 59:2).

#25 - God’s Word about the Savior