

Thou shalt love The Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up. Deuteronomy 6 v 5-7

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Ecclesiastes 12 v 13. says

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, Fear God and keep His Commandments for this is the whole duty of man.

Deuteronomy 28. The Chapter entitled Blessings & Cursings

It shall come to pass, if thou shall hearken diligently unto the voice of The Lord Thy God to observe and do all His Commandments, which I command thee this day, that The Lord Thy God will set thee on high above all the nations of the earth, and BLESSINGS shall come on thee and overtake thee, IF thou shalt hearken unto the voice of The Lord Thy God. (For list of Blessings read Deuteronomy 28 v 1-14)

BUT

It shall come to pass if thou will not hearken unto the voice of The Lord Thy God, to observe to do all His Commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; thatCURSES shall come upon thee and overtake thee.

Read Deuteronomy 28 v 15 - 68.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20.

1. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any *graven image*, or 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. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I The Lord Thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children onto the third and fourth generations of them who hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep My Commandments.
3. 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.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day, *to keep it holy*. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work; 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. 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.
5. Honour thy Father and thy Mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which The Lord Thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

Here listed is the *complete* Ten Commandments as recorded in The Bible. Some religions *omit* the 2nd Commandment and divide the 9th Commandment in two in order to make up the ten. The 2nd Commandment is very important – to omit it is very serious. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, not only were they instructions for the Children of Israel, but they were a pattern of living for all mankind.

They are just as valid today as they were all those years ago.

Sadly, because of our sin, all of us can say we have fallen far short of God's standards. Sin and disobedience has caused the world to be riddled with all sorts of disasters, plagues, and diseases. God and His Commandments have taken a back seat. In fact today The Ten Commandments are very often disregarded, not only by individuals but by Governments and Nations alike. When we turn our back on God and His Commandments - then we are in trouble- God's righteous judgement follows. *Surely we see this happening all around us today!* It's time to *repent* and seek God!

The 1st Commandment: Thou shalt have no other god's before me.

God, through His Word, makes it quite clear that He should have *central position* in all our lives. The majority, however, have given that centre position to 'other gods' such as self, family, money, job, material possessions, houses, land, cars etc..... yet *God* has promised, if, we follow His Biblical guidelines our lives will be blessed. *He* loves everything to be done decently and in order, so we must get our priorities right – God should always be first, others second and so on. The Bible says,

Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and HIS righteousness, and ALL these things shall be added unto you . Matthew 6 v 33

There is only One God and One Mediator, between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all.... 1 Timothy 2 v 5.

The 2nd Commandment: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or the earth beneath.....

Here God makes it clear in The 2nd Commandment that He forbids the bowing down to - or worshipping of statues or idols. The Bible says:

I am The Lord, that is My Name and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images. Isaiah 42 v 8.

Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the 3rd and 4th generation of them that hate me: Children *do not answer* for the sins of their parents or forefathers, but the *effects or consequence* of sin can continue throughout generations to come. Previous generations may have been pagan - engaged in heathen practices - they may have died unrepentant and in their sin, thus the effects can be passed from one generation to another – until there is repentance on a personal level.

The Lord is long-suffering and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity

*of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.
Numbers 14 v 18 also Exodus 34 v 6-7*

Showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My Commandments.
God is merciful and will forgive any individual who repents of sin and turns to Him for Salvation. Like Nehemiah and Daniel it is always good to repent and renounce the sins of the forefathers. Read Nehemiah 9: 2-3; Daniel 9: 5-6. Ask The Lord to cut off any curse in your life which may be the effects of sin passed down through the generations.

The cure for generational curse is Faith in Christ and a life consecrated to Him. When we are 'born again', we become new creatures in Christ.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5 v 17.

The 3rd Commandment: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

So often people use The Lord's name as a swear-word and it is abominable. God's name is higher than any other Name.. His Name is Holy, even as He is holy. This Commandment not only forbids all vain use of God's name, but all irreverence to God himself. Taking oaths by way of membership of an organisation is also offensive to God – as our allegiance should only be given to Him. The Bible says:

Give unto The Lord the glory due unto His Name; worship The Lord in the beauty of holiness. Psalm 19 v 2.

Above all things, my brethern, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by earth, neither by any other oath; but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. James 5 v 12.

The 4th Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy, six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work..... The Sabbath Day - is a special day which should be set aside to honour and worship God, also for man to rest physically from his labours. How it must grieve The Lord to see how His Holy Day is desecrated. Shops are open 7 days a week. Many people work 6 days a week and use The Lord's Day to clean the house, do the washing, clean the car, work in the garden etc. Others spend the Lord's Day at the leisure centre, at the football match or some other sporting activity, giving no thought whatsoever to God or His Holy Day.

Working on the Sabbath Day is forbidden by God – Emergency and Essential Services are the only exception to the rule. *We believe* that those who work, or proprietors who open their shops on The Lord's Day, are not one bit better off financially. No blessing comes with money received for labour on The Lord's Day. It's like putting your money in a bag with holes in it - you lose about three times as much as you make.

If thou turn away thy foot from The Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My Holy Day; and call the Sabbath a delight, The Holy of The Lord, honourable, and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words; then shalt thou delight

thyself in The Lord and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy Father, for the mouth of The Lord hath spoken it. Isaiah 58 v 13.

The 5th Commandment: *Honour thy Father and thy Mother...* It generally comes naturally to honour your Father and your Mother, when they have nurtured and looked after you, bringing you up to the best of their ability. With that comes blessing. Sadly in this day and age when so many parents abuse and abandon their children it is more difficult. Nevertheless it is God's Commandment and He is good, we believe He gives special grace to those children whose Parents have not treated them well. In fact we have known cases where sons and daughters have honoured their parents under the most difficult of circumstances. With this we believe comes special blessing. God is a great God. He honours those who honour Him and do their best to obey His Commandments. Children who have been forsaken by their Parents - take on board the following promise.

*When my father and my mother forsake me; then
The Lord will take me up. Psalm 27 v 10.*

The 6th Commandment: *Thou shalt not kill.* This Commandment deals with the sanctity of life. God forbids the taking away of our own life or the life of another unjustly. This we believe includes abortion and euthanasia. Anyone who premeditates or deliberately contributes to the premature death of another is a murderer in God's eyes and according to God's Word should pay the just penalty, but on the other side of the coin - God is always merciful to those you genuinely repent and are remorseful for their crime.

Sadly today prisons are overflowing with criminals who have no remorse whatsoever, even with years of much opportunity, they never repent of their crime. God doesn't look lightly upon sin. Sin has consequences. If there is no repentance then God pours out His wrath. When there is genuine repentance leading to Salvation, then The Lord is merciful.

*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans. 6 v 23.*

The sixth commandment does *not* apply to killing in self-defence, the death penalty for deliberate murder, or the killing of animals for food. This is a big subject which obviously space does not permit detail. The Bible - God's Word speaks for itself in these matters.

*Thy Word O Lord, is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
Psalm 119 v 105.*

The 7th Commandment: *Thou shalt not commit adultery.* Adultery is very serious and has devastating consequences for all such offenders. Adultery kills a marriage, breaks the trust between Husband and Wife. Adultery is responsible for the breakup of so many marriages and for the terrible heartache that goes with it - especially for children - so it should be avoided at all costs. Adultery can be encouraged by the way people dress - by things they watch on television

or read in magazines or books. Be on your guard- don't put yourself in a position of temptation!! God forbids adultery.

*Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?
Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that
goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not
be innocent. But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh
understanding; he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound
and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach (disgrace) shall not
be wiped away. Proverbs 6 v 27-29, 32-33.*

The 8th Commandment: *Thou shalt not steal.* This Commandment forbids taking anything which rightfully belongs to another. Stealing can take many different forms. We list some things which may not be obvious. Eg. Theft from God, by way of Prayer time, worship or tithes. Theft of someone's reputation or character through malicious gossip or slander. Theft from the needy, when you have the power to help, but don't. These are just a few examples - there are many more. So beware!!

*Let him that stole, steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with
his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that
needeth. Ephesians 4 v 28.*

The 9th Commandment: *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.* This Commandment forbids telling lies against another, especially if it is going to cause trouble or injustice for the victim. So it is always best *not* to do unto others what you wouldn't want done to yourself or a loved one. Again there is a whole dimension to this commandment which cannot be elaborated upon because of limited space, but, there is the aspect of James 3 – which speaks of the dangers of an unruly tongue. There is also the warning of 'Reaping what you sow'. So all in all, bearing false witness against another has dire consequences. The Bible says,

*Be sure your sin will find you out. Numbers 32 v 23.
Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a
man/woman soweth, that shall they also reap. Galatians 6 v 7.
Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith The Lord. Romans 12 v 19.*

The 10th Commandment: *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, his wife,* ...Coveting is soul destroying - it can go from the casual to the ridiculous - it can ruin your life. It is a futile exercise which so often ends in misery and heartbreak. Incidentally, have you ever thought, that your neighbour whom you covet - may appear to have everything - but he may have problems or adverse circumstances that you know nothing about. His situation may not be as desirable as you think. God forbids coveting and quite rightly so. Simply be content and trust The Lord for everything.

*The Bible says: My God shall supply all your need according to His
riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil 4 v 19
Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with
such things as ye have, for The Lord hath said I will never leave you
nor forsake you. Hebrews 13 v 5.*

So there you have it. A very brief summary of The Ten Commandments. You could elaborate ten times more on each Commandment but the simple lesson in a nutshell:

**Obey God's Commandments and you will be Blessed.
Disobey them and you will be Cursed.**

This is God's Word – not ours. Read the details for yourself in Deuteronomy 28. The Chapter called Blessing & Cursing. We really must *repent* and take the warnings seriously. Seek God for His mercy before it is too late. Jesus is coming soon !!

*Seek ye The Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near;
Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and
let him return unto The Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our
God, for He will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55 v 6-7.*