

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Scripture tells us there are 10 of them; and that it was <u>God</u> who wrote them on the stone tablets.



[God] declared to you His covenant, which He commanded you to follow—the Ten Commandments that He wrote on two tablets of stone.

Deuteronomy 4:13 (BSB)

And the LORD wrote on the tablets what had been written previously, the Ten Commandments that He had spoken to you on the mountain out of the fire on the day of the assembly. The LORD gave them to me, ...

Deuteronomy 10:4 (BSB)

PEOPLE CAN'T AGREE ON THE NUMBERING OF THE COMMANDS!!!

The main issue has to do with the beginning and ending of the list.

There is no question about the commands in the middle; but it
effects what "number" we assign to them.

At the beginning: Some people combine the two commands about "no other gods" and "no images"; others keep them separate.
[We are going to keep them separate.]

At the end: Those who treat the above commands as one command will often divide the "do not covet" command into two sections.

(Or else, they may treat the introductory statement – not a command – as though it were a command.)

But does it matter? Not if you are willing to obey <u>all</u> of what the 10 Commandments say!

IS "DO NOT STEAL' #7 OR #8? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT... JUST DON'T STEAL!!!

THESE COMMANDMENTS DEFINE MORAL CONDUCT.

They are moral principles for guiding all aspects of life:

 They are given to us in Exodus 20 (spoken by God) and Deuteronomy 5 (reviewed by Moses, just before the people entered the land of Canaan).

Other parts of the law expand on the meaning of these commandments:

- They show how these 10 commandments apply to the many aspects of life specifically, within the context of O.T. Jewish life.
- They describe the blessings of obedience, as well as the consequences (punishments) for disobedience.
- (There are also regulations about sacrifices and certain practices that are not relevant under the New Covenant.)

We find applications of these commands in Leviticus 19 (the "holiness code"); in Deuteronomy 12-25; in various passages scattered throughout the books of Moses and throughout the rest of Scripture.

VARIOUS FEATURES ABOUT THESE COMMANDMENTS.

We tend to divide them into two categories (as in Matthew 22:37-40).

- Category #1: Those that focus on our relationship with <u>God</u>.
 We can summarize these by the *First* Greatest Command:
 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart/soul/strength/mind."
- Category #2: Those that focus on our relationship with <u>people</u>.
 We can summarize these by the Second Greatest Command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."



- Commands in these two categories are often linked together. EXAMPLES:
 - Pursuing other gods and idolatry are often compared to adultery and prostitution. (Example: book of Hosea.)
 - ✓ Greed is described as idolatry. (Example: Colossians 3:5.)

Each command represents a group of related concepts. EXAMPLES:

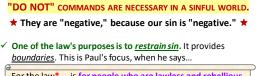
- "Do not murder" includes many forms of anger and hatred –
 Matthew 5:21-26. (Some forms are not sinful; these are identified in
 Scripture. Hatred of <u>sin</u> is an example of <u>God-honoring</u> hate.)
- "Do not commit adultery" represents all sexual conduct and lust that goes contrary to the purposes for which God created sexuality—Matthew 5:27-30; also Leviticus 18.

They are a reflection of God's moral nature.

- They show us how to live <u>holy</u> in the presence of a holy God.
- Leviticus 19 is a passage that applies these 10 commandments to life within the Jewish context. The theme in this part of Leviticus is:

Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

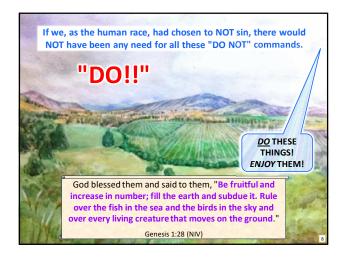
Leviticus 19:2b (BSB)



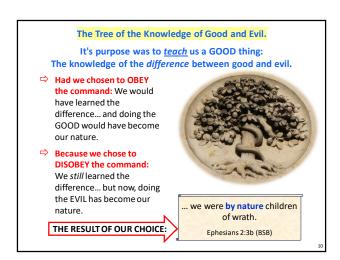
For the law* ... is for people who are lawless and rebellious, who are ungodly and sinful, who consider nothing sacred and defile what is holy, who kill their father or mother or commit other murders. The law is for people who are sexually immoral, or who practice homosexuality, or are slave traders, liars, promise breakers, or who do anything else that contradicts the wholesome teaching that comes from the glorious Good News entrusted to me by our blessed God.

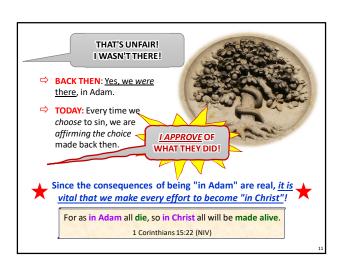
1 Timothy 1:9-11 (NLT)

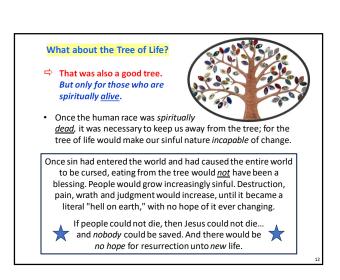
* (This passage is describing "law" in general, not just the Law of Moses. The Law of Moses does restrain sin; but it also points us to Christ, and teaches us how to live.)











➡ In the past ... We were banished from the tree of life. (God was protecting us.)



And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:22-24 (NIV)

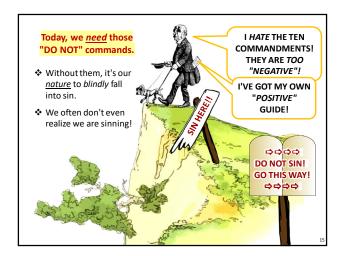
13

In the future ... The tree of life will be growing in the New Jerusalem. All the saved will be free to eat from it.

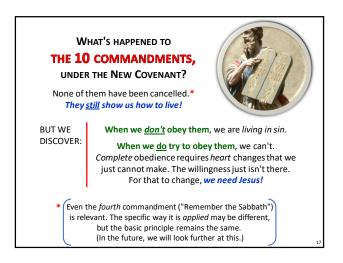
He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to eat from the tree of life in the Paradise of God.

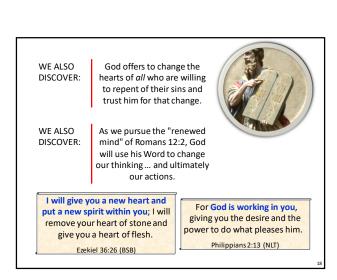
Then the angel showed me a river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the main street of the city [= the New Jerusalem]. On either side of the river stood a tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit and yielding a fresh crop for each month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 2:7; 22:1-2 (BSB); see also Revelation 22:14, 19.









OUR MISSION

 Trust God and rely on him for the ability to do these things.

 Let him use his Word to change our thinking – which will ultimately change our actions.

Be patient and persistent!
 Change often takes time.
 (Learn more about things like this in Scripture.)

'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!'

Luke 18:13b (BSB)

... to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ...

Ephesians 4:23 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2a (NIV)

Don't be like the world. Don't be like Israel was (and still is). This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.' Jeremiah 6:16 (NIV) "DO NOT" cross the boundary! Rejoice in what the It will enslave and destroy you! "DO NOT" commands "DO" stay within the bounds of can accomplish! life and freedom! Follow the One who <u>changes</u> hearts! Pursue his <u>good</u> ways!

Credits (1)

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22