

**The Journey**  
*Series 03: Covenant*  
Week 24: Ten Commandments

\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\*

## Review (Where We Have Been)

### *Where We Are in the Story...*

- Perfect Obedience Required  
**Genesis 2:17 (ESV)** “...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- Mankind Chose Disobedience and Death (physical, spiritual, eternal)  
**Romans 5:12 (ESV)** ...sin came into the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...
- Deliverer Promised (to pay death for sinners)  
**Genesis 3:15 (ESV)** “...he [offspring of a woman] shall bruise your [Satan] head, and you shall bruise his heel [reference to the cross].”
- Evil Prevails; Deliverer (So Far) Absent

## BIG Idea

Man is now wrestling with *how to find His way back to God*.

There are only two possibilities: *man's way* (works) or *God's way* (faith).

### *Three Important Truths about the Ten Commandments...*

- They are not a way to become right before God  
“The Ten Commandments are not a realistic standard of righteousness. The Scriptures make it clear that the Law is God’s perfect standard, which man is **unable** to keep. Because we have failed to perfectly obey all of God’s commandments, we are all guilty before God and deserve the punishment for sin, which is death (physical, spiritual, eternal).” – Firm Foundations
- They can only bring conviction of sin (exposes helplessness before a Holy God)  
“God gives the Ten Commandments to show that all are sinners and, therefore, cannot be accepted by God for the *things we do*. We’re teaching the ten commandments so we realize we’ve already broken God’s Laws and condemned. And, since God is supreme and sovereign, He has the right to set these standards and demand complete obedience from every one of us.” – Firm Foundations
- They force us to seek mercy (or reject mercy) from a patient God  
God withholds judgment so that we might depend on Him for rescue.

## Information (What We Need to Know)

### ***The Ten Commandments God Gives to Israel...***

#### **First Commandment: No gods before Me**

**Exodus 20:3 (ESV)** “You shall have no other gods before me.”

- He alone should be the God of the Israelites (He gets first place in ALL things)
- This means God should be the ruler of *every part of our lives*

“In the days of ancient Israel, there was great temptation to worship the gods of materialism (such as *Baal*, the god of weather and financial success) and sex (such as *Ashtoreth*, the goddess of sex, romance, and reproduction), or any number of other local deities. We are tempted to worship the same gods, but without the old-fashioned names and images.” – David Guzik

#### **Second Commandment: No idol worship**

**Exodus 20:4 (ESV)** “You shall not make for yourself a carved 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. **5** You shall not bow down to them or serve them...”

- No worship of nature, animals, or any lifeless object that God had created
- God doesn't have a physical body, but has revealed Himself in the Scriptures
- Satan has led people away from knowing God (other things have replaced Him)

#### **Third Commandment: Don't use God's name carelessly or blasphemously**

**Exodus 20:7 (ESV)** “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...”

The Israelites were not to use God's name to make promises with no intention of keeping them. People were not to use His name for selfish or evil purposes.

#### **Fourth Commandment: Keep the Sabbath Day holy**

**Exodus 20:8 (ESV)** “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work.”

The Lord formed a life rhythm of working six days and resting on the seventh (creation) as a Sabbath and through the instructions for collecting manna (gather food 6 days and trust Him on the 7<sup>th</sup>). Every aspect of Israel's life should reflect that the people belong to the Lord and are sustained by His hand.

#### **Fifth Commandment: Honor your father and mother**

**Exodus 20:12 (ESV)** “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

Parents should be honored and respected by their children (right heart attitude).

## **Sixth Commandment: Don't murder**

**Exodus 20:13 (ESV)** “You shall not murder.”

- No one has the right to take someone else's life
- Jesus equated hatred with murder (heart sin is as serious as outward sin)

**Matthew 5:21 (NLT)** “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ **22** But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!”

## **Seventh Commandment: Don't commit adultery**

**Exodus 20:14 (ESV)** “You shall not commit adultery.”

- A sexual relationship is only permitted with someone to whom you're married
- Jesus equated lust in the heart with adultery (heart sin is as serious as outward sin)

**Matthew 5:27 (NLT)** “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ **28** But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

## **Eighth Commandment: Don't steal**

**Exodus 20:15 (ESV)** “You shall not steal.”

Taking possession of something you do not own is forbidden.

## **Ninth Commandment: Don't lie**

**Exodus 20:16 (ESV)** “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Exaggeration, promoting false image on social media, failure to tell the whole truth

## **Tenth Commandment: Don't Covet**

**Exodus 20:17 (ESV)** “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

“This is a command against desiring anything that is not one's own. Coveting can lead to breaking one of the commandments: murder, adultery, and theft. If it is wrong to *do* something, it is wrong to *desire to do* that same something.” – Got Questions

*Can you think of ways we may be guilty of breaking this commandment?*

- By desiring another person's possessions
- By desiring another person's position or status
- By believing advertising which pressures us to want more, buy more, and be more

## **Application (What We Need to Do)**

### **Why did God give the Ten Commandments to the Israelites?**

*To prove to them that they were sinners.*

### **What do the Ten Commandments prove to those of us who are not Israelites?**

*That we, too, are sinners.*

Although many years have passed since the giving of the Ten Commandments, God has not changed His position on any of His standards.

**Because God is holy, He will not tolerate disobedience to His commandments.**

**Disobedience is sin, and God demands death as its payment.**

Even if we compensate those who we have sinned against, we still have a sin-debt before God – death and everlasting separation from Him.

**The only way we could please God is if we were able to *perfectly obey all His commandments, from the time we were born to the time we die.***

God knew that no one would be able to keep His commandments perfectly.

But He still gave them to the Israelites to teach them that they were sinners and unable to please Him by their own efforts.

These same commandments teach us that we, too, are sinners who cannot please God by what we do.