The 10 Commandments



*March 9*

**CONTEXT:** In days gone by the 10 Commandments were household knowledge and they, along with the Lord’s Prayer or Apostles’ Creed, used to be prominently displayed in churches. They have formed a bedrock of Christian morality. We’ll be exploring the first 4 commandments (Us and God) today.

***Challenge:*** Can anyone recite the essence of the 10 Commandments?

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Lk 9:57–62)

* What does to follow or to be a disciple mean?
* Why count the cost of following Jesus?
* What did Jesus require of the three would be disciples?
  + How did this challenge you?
* What are some examples of Christians who risked everything for Jesus?
* Following Jesus must take precedence over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Why did Luke not give the three men’s response to Jesus?

**READ:** Ex 20:1–21 (c.f. Dt 5:7–21)

**QUESTIONS:**

Scope & Purpose

1. *Christ is the great Lawgiver and Judge (Ja 4:12a). His laws are for our good (Dt 6:24; Ps 19:7).*
2. **Read Gen 2:17/3:11 and Jn 14:15- How is ‘the law’ greater than simply the Law of Moses?** *Since the New Testament speaks of the Royal Law (Ja 2:8), Law of Christ (1 Cor 9:21) and affirms the 10 Commandments (Ro 13:9–10; Eph 6:2), the 10 Commandments have historically been seen as part of God’s moral law.[[1]](#footnote-1)*
3. Read Gal 2:16, 3:11- Why can works/the Law not save us? (Ro 3:23)
4. **If works cannot save us what twofold purpose is there for the law?: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Ro 3:20) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Ro 8:4)**

Purpose

1. *The 10 Commandments stand-alone but also as a loose summary of the Law of Moses (e.g. Dt 12–26). They are not about earning a relationship but a faithful response to God’s grace (Ex 1:2; 1 Cor 6:20). The first four commandments speak of a life lived before God (or duty to God), the last six before others (or as Jesus put it, to love God and to love others, Mk 12:28–34).*

First Commandment

1. Given the Exodus, why should the Israelites not have worshipped any other gods.
2. **Why should we have no other gods? (Dt 4:35)**

Second Commandment

1. Given the Exodus and that God is spirit, why is it folly to make a god?
2. *Christians have sometimes debated whether they should depict God in any way (e.g. crosses, statues, Jesus film).* What do you think?
3. **How do we make gods today?**
4. **What does it mean that God is jealous?**
5. *(See cycle of sin from previous LG on Ex 34).*

Third Commandment

1. **To use God’s name in vain referred to oaths (Lev 19:12) or magic (Lev 24). Today we most often associate it with disrespect (blasphemy). If God’s name is His character (Ex 34:6–7) why should we revere His name? What does this look like? Why don’t people do this? How serious is it?**

Fourth Commandment (Sabbath means rest)

1. **\_***Though only 1 of the 10 commandments (10%) the word count for the Sabbath is 36%!**In Exodus the Sabbath remembers the Creation and its Sabbath and in Deuteronomy the Exodus. In both it is not only a personal day of rest but one on which others weren’t to be forced to work.*
2. *There are 5 main views on the Sabbath:[[2]](#footnote-2)*
   1. *It remains in force as Saturday (7th Day Baptists & Adventists).*
   2. *It remains in force as Sunday (the Lord’s Day), Christ having transferred the day to commemorate the New Creation. (Traditional Protestant view).*
   3. *It remains in force for ethnic-Jews only.*
   4. *It is similar to the Lord’s Day but not the same.*
   5. *It is no longer part of God’s moral law.*
3. **What is your view of the Sabbath for Christians today and why?**
4. **Regardless of your view:**
   1. How is the 4th commandment a window into the 1st?
   2. How is God’s wisdom and goodness seen in giving this command?
   3. How is the Sabbath a declaration of dependence upon and orientation around God?
   4. How does the Sabbath match the human need for rest?
   5. Think about work and rest and time today. How is it helpful to be a Mary in a Martha world? (Lk 10:38–42) How would society benefit from a holy rhythm? Is Canada better or worse off from moving from 6 days to 24/7?
   6. Has our society/churches benefited from a move away from a day of rest or not?

**NEXT TIME:** March 16th- The Ten Commandments, pt. II

My view is that the Sabbath, now the Lord’s Day, is a Creation ordinance to be perpetually observed in three principles: rest, worship & family time. Its observance is for our good and one of the highest acts of devotion.

1. [1689 Baptist Confession, ch. 19](https://www.the1689confession.com/1689/chapter-19)

   [New Hampshire Baptist Confession (1833) ch. 12](http://baptiststudiesonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/02/the-new-hampshire-confession-of-faith.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)