




# The Ten Commandments

4 – 10



# Recap of Last Week

- God gave Moses the Ten Commandments after freeing the Israelites from bondage in Egypt
  - Moses was entrusted with them - he received them from God on Mt. Sinai
  - There are two parts of the Ten Commandments – we can think of them as tables.
  - Last week we talked about the first table – Commandments one to three: How to have a strong relationship to God
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# Introduction to this Week

- ▶ This week we will talk about the second table – Commandments four to ten: How to have a great relationship with one another
- ▶ Jesus said about the second table of the Law, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- ▶ He also gave us a “simple rule” to live by, known popularly as “the Golden Rule,” which says, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Mt. 7:12)



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

## **Honor your father and mother**

- ▶ This commandment is the only commandment written in *positive* terms of duties to be fulfilled.
- ▶ It covers several areas:
  - ▶ (directly) Duties to parents and family
  - ▶ (indirectly) Duties to the state and society
  - ▶ (remotely) Duties to anybody in authority



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment


- ▶ As written in the book of Genesis, this commandment comes with a promise:

*“that it may go well with you, and that you may live long upon the land the Lord your God is giving to you.”*

- ▶ The gift of the Promised Land of Israel was a strong symbol of the Covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants.



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ To honor, respect, and obey one's parents is to honor, respect, and obey God.
  - ▶ It is through our parents that we inherit God's Covenant promises.
  - ▶ There are both rights imparted to and duties imposed upon God's people who desire to live the faith and inherit an eternal reward.
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# The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ Just as parents have a right to respect from their children, so they also have a duty to provide their children with a good example, and a stable and holy home environment to equip their children for life in this world, as well as the world to come.
- ▶ This commandment also extends to elders and persons in authority (government) BUT:
  - Civil power must be wielded in terms of service, not of domination



# The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment


## **You shall not kill**

- This Commandment refers to the direct taking of human life.
- God is the giver of all life, and human life is particularly precious to Him, as He made human beings in His own image and likeness.





# The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ The most obvious way to break this Commandment is to murder someone.
  - ▶ But there are also many other ways to break this Commandment.
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# The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- **Recklessness**, which endangers one's own life or the lives of others
- **Abortion**, which kills an unborn human life (supporting or counseling someone to have an abortion also make one guilty)
- **Artificial forms of contraception**, such as “the pill” and the “day after pill” are abortifacients, meaning they kill a newly-conceived human life




# The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ **Suicide** breaks this Commandment by taking one's own life
  - ▶ **Euthanasia**, or “mercy-killing” is also murder
  - ▶ In short, any disrespect or harm toward human life offends God and breaks the fifth Commandment, including physical abuse, verbal abuse, and contempt for another person.
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# The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

What about war?

- ▶ When a government makes decisions to go to war, those who kill the enemy are NOT guilty of breaking this Commandment.
  - ▶ War displeases God, and human life is taken but soldiers are not culpable for murder, as long as they do not kill needlessly, or kill the innocent.
  - ▶ Also, police officers, or others in self-defense, or in defense of innocent life, are not guilty of breaking this Commandment.
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# The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

What about Capital punishment (the death penalty)?

- ▶ A difficult issue – many feel it is justified when there is no hope of rehabilitation. Others feel it is never justified.




# The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment

## **You shall not commit adultery**

- ▶ In Matthew 5:27-28 Jesus teaches us about sexual morality: that sexuality is not only a matter of our bodies, but of our souls, of our very personhood.
- ▶ Sexuality is a part of who we are – of our identity, of our self.



# The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ Physical sexuality is a way we live out our interior identity as a man or a woman, and physical sexuality is a very special gift from god: a way He enables us to give the gift of our self to someone else most intimately.
  - ▶ Therefore, sexual activity is not a simple recreation, but it is the most profound and intimate gift of self.
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# The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ An amazing thing about our sexuality is that it is expressed most often not in sexual intercourse, but in chastity.
- ▶ We, as sexual beings, live out our sexuality in a day to day basis in relationships with most people through chastity.
- ▶ God gives us only one special and significant partner to whom we give ourselves intimately in sexual intercourse. To all others we express our sexuality through chaste relationships.





# The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ Marriage gives rise to family life, which is precious to God. Jesus Christ Himself entered into our world through a family; that of Mary and Joseph.
- ▶ Sexuality implies responsibility because it is that capacity to create powerful relationships and to generate human life.
- ▶ The following are virtues which bring honor to God and our sexuality:
  - ▶ chastity = self control, even in marriage
  - ▶ modesty = respect for God, self and others
  - ▶ celibacy = perpetual chastity



# The 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment

## **You shall not steal**

- ▶ God gives creation for the good and use of all His people. Therefore, every person has the right to adequate food, clothing, shelter and whatever else is necessary for life.
  - ▶ To deprive a person of these rights is an offense against their dignity as a person, and against God.
- ▶ We must not steal from God by not supporting His Church.



# The 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ This Commandment not only forbids stealing and greed, but also directs us to implement fair economic standards: a just wage and fair prices.
- ▶ When people work to earn a living, they are putting themselves into whatever they earn. They have a right to the fruits of their labor. Therefore, workers can expect to earn a fair wage, and employers deserve an honest day's work in return.



# The 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ Governments should function so as to create an environment where all may earn a living and be rewarded in a way commensurate with their work.
- ▶ Jesus had great love and concern for the poor, for those who could not provide for themselves. Our Lord entrusts the care of the poor to us, and to withhold help from them is to steal from them.




# The 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment

**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor**

- ▶ This Commandment teaches us to keep holy the name of our neighbor.
- ▶ Because we are created with dignity in God's image, and Christ has exalted that dignity through the shedding of His blood for each person, so each person has the right to a good reputation.
- ▶ Each person has the right to the truth. Jesus came into our world to bear witness to the truth.



# The 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ In Scripture, lies and deception are equated with darkness and death, while truth and honesty are equated with light and life. Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not work in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).
  - ▶ Jesus calls the devil the father of lies, as He says, “(the devil) was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).
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# The 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment


## **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife**

- The Ninth and Tenth Commandments prohibit “coveting.”
- The definition of covet is:

*yearn to possess (all consuming desire) or have (something); to want to have something very much, especially something that belongs to someone else. It can also mean to resent the good fortune of someone else.*



# The 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ Coveting may lead to the cursing of someone more fortunate than oneself, or to the desire to gain for oneself what belongs to someone else by immoral or illicit ways.
  - ▶ Coveting may lead to the breaking of the Seventh Commandment, and is also linked to envy, one of the seven deadly sins.
  - ▶ The Ninth Commandment specifically forbids coveting someone else's spouse.
  - ▶ As we discussed in the lesson on the Sixth Commandment, marriage is sacred to God. To desire the spouse of another is to break the Sixth Commandment, even if the desire remains hidden in one's heart (see Matthew 5:27-28).
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# The 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment

## **You shall not covet your neighbor's property**

- In our material world there is always the temptation toward greed, one of the seven deadly sins.
- As we discussed in the lesson on the Seventh Commandment, everyone has a right to private property. Not only is it our duty not to steal, it is also our duty to help our neighbor retain his property (see Deuteronomy 22:1-4).





# The 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ But is it wrong to admire someone's property?
  - ▶ No. To admire a possession of someone else, and to aspire to attain something similar for oneself by legal and moral means, is perfectly acceptable, and does not break this Commandment.
- ▶ An offense against someone's property is an offense against the dignity of the person to whom the property belongs, and therefore a sin against charity.




# The 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- ▶ It is important to note that this Commandment applies not only to the coveting of material possessions, but also to personal qualities and talents; for example, someone's natural beauty, or their singing voice or athletic ability.
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# How to remember the Ten Commandments in order

- ▶ First Commandment – You shall have no other gods before me. Memory aide: Hold up one finger, remember “one God.”
- ▶ Second Commandment – You shall not take the Lord’s name in vain. Memory aide – Hold up two fingers, you get the letter “V”, remember vain.
- ▶ Third Commandment – Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Memory aide – three letters in the word day.




# How to remember the Ten Commandments in order

- ▶ Fourth Commandment – Honor your father and mother. Memory aide – your parents are your forebears (4-bears)
- ▶ Fifth Commandment – You shall not kill. Memory aide – Hold up all five fingers, pull in the middle, ring and pinkie finger and then point your hand like a gun, for killing.
- ▶ Sixth Commandment – You shall not commit adultery. Memory aide – Six to sex.



# How to remember the Ten Commandments in order

- ▶ Seventh Commandment – You shall not steal. Memory aide – Seven and steal both begin with “s”.
- ▶ Eighth Commandment – You shall not bear false witness. Memory aide – Picture the number “8” in your head, give it ears, eyes and a nose, and you have a bear. Bear=bear.



# How to remember the Ten Commandments in order

- ▶ Ninth Commandment – You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. Memory aide – Picture the number “9”, turn it upside down – related to the sixth.
  - ▶ Tenth Commandment – You shall not covet your neighbor's property. Too many things (largest number)
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