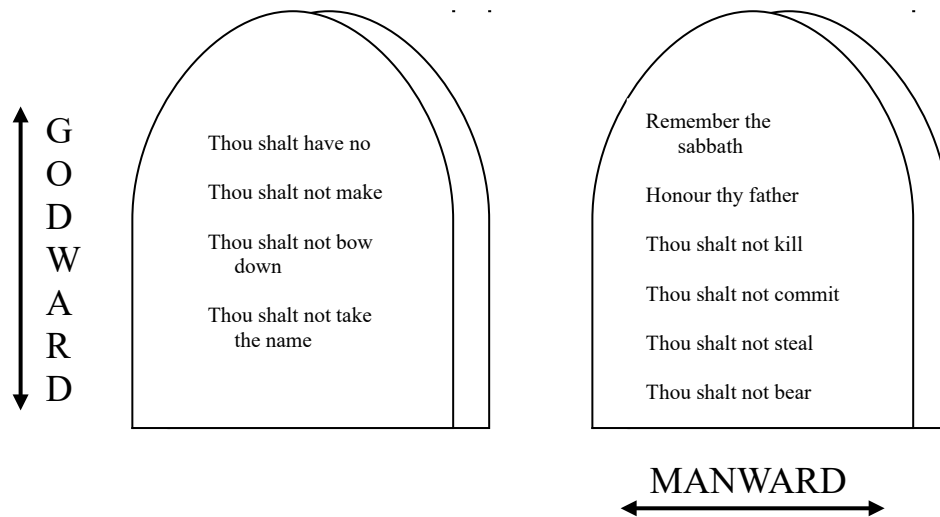


THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20 - The chapter is so important that God took all of Chapter 19 getting Israel's attention! What is so special about the Ten Commandments?

God spoke and wrote them in stone.
They summarize every subject in life.
Four commandments are God-ward.
Six commandments are Man-ward.

Jesus summarized them in Mark 12:30-31: *“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”*



God knew if we were right with Him, we would be right with people. Usually if there is a “people” problem in your life, it is simply an indicator that there is a “God” problem, too. We must be right God-ward before we will be right man-ward. Every crime toward man (murder, kidnapping, rape, theft, etc.) is because the criminal is not right with God.

FALLACIES ABOUT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. The Law always refers to the Ten Commandments
It does not - It is sometimes refers to all of the Pentateuch.
2. We are saved by keeping the Ten Commandments
No one has or over could keep them. Most people cannot name all ten, much less keep them.

WHY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

Gal. 3:24 says: *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”* Rom. 3:23 says: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”* The law is to show us how sinful we are and how needy we are of a Saviour.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ANNALYZED

1ST COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:3 says: *“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”* The tendency is not to turn totally away from God, but to have other gods besides Him! It is called polytheism. God is a jealous God. Just as a husband is jealous toward his wife, God (our bridegroom) is jealous towards us (His bride), and rightfully so. Anything or anyone that comes before God is our god. Matt. 6:33 says: *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

2ND COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:4-5 says: *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing 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 unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;”* This commandment is left out of the Catholic catechism book. God wants wholehearted allegiance. He wants us to live and serve by faith (unseen). Man naturally tends to serve what he can see. I Cor. 8:4-6 says: *“As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”* Matt. 6:24 says: *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

Everyone has a god -

- Pride makes a god of self
- Covetousness makes a god of money
- Some gods today are: drugs, sex, music, rock groups, celebrities, pleasure, body, the Pope, and denominations.

3RD COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:7 says: *“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;”* “Vain” means lightly, without thinking, flippantly, or deceitfully. God’s name in Hebrew was written YHVH. It used no vowels so it could not be pronounced. His Name was mentioned once a year in the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement by the High Priest. In the model prayer, it says: “hollowed (holy) be thy Name”. Lev. 24:14-16 says: *“Bring forth him that hath cursed*

without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him. And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin. And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.” What a penalty! The word “reverend” is mentioned only about God’s name. Ps. 111:9 says: *“He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.”* Phrases like “Holy (Ghost) Cow!” “O God!” “Jesus!” “Golly!” “Gee(sus)!” “Ga(God)!” All use God’s name in vain. The devil likes us to curse God’s name. A Christian also takes God’s name in vain when we take the name Christian but deny Him in our actions.

CURSING

Many times God’s name is used in conjunction with cursing:

Matt. 5:37 says: *“But let your communication be, Yea, Yes; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”*

Matt. 12:34 says: *“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”*

Matt 12:36-37 says: *“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”*

I Cor. 15:33 says: *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”*

Eph. 4:29 says: *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*

Col. 3:8 says: *“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”*

James 3:10 says: *“Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”*

4TH COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:8 says: *“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”*

(This commandment is covered in detail in Step 40)

5TH COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:12 says: *“Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which to LORD thy God giveth thee.”* This verse is the connecting verse between God and man. Not only are the commandments inspired but also their order! God has this one listed here because it is not too far from the first four. Parents are God’s shadow to the child. When someone is wrong with God, they will be wrong with their parents. When wrong with parents, they will be wrong with others.

What does “honor” mean? It means to love, to give affection, gratitude, and respect. God appoints who gets which parents. D.L. Moody said, “...no man or woman who dishonors father and mother ever prospers!” It is the only command you may not always be able to keep, as parents may not always be here.

Notice other Scriptures:

Ex. 21:15,17 says: *“And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death. And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.”*

I Kings 2:19 says: *“Bath-sheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king’s mother; and she sat on his right hand.”*

Prov. 1:8-9 says: *“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”*

Prov. 15:5 says: *“A fool despiseth his father’s instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.”*

Prov. 20:20 says: *“Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.”*

Prov. 30:11,17 says: *“There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.”*

Eph 6:1-3 says: *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”*

Col. 3:20 says: *“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”*

JUDGEMENT

Jacob lied to his father and had much heartache. Samson dishonored his parents by being demanding, disrespectful, and selfish. Absalom was rebellious toward his dad and died an early death. The prodigal son took a long journey after his attitude toward his dad went sour. The Bible says that in the last days there would be many problems with children. II Tim. 3:1-3 says: *“ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.”*

NOTE TO PARENTS

Teach your children to honor you. Eph. 6:4 says: *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”* Col. 3:21 says: *“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”* Act honorable. We are rearing a future mate for someone. Train them how to get along with people and to have a servant’s spirit.

HOW TO HONOR PARENTS

1. Obey immediately if still under their roof.
2. Weight heavily their opinions if out on your own.
3. Take care of them in later years. (Jesus took care of Mary before he died.)

4. Praise them.

6TH COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:13 says: *“Thou shalt not kill.”*

WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN

Killing of animals

God commanded animals to be sacrificed. God said animals could be used for food.

Burglars

Ex. 22:2 says: *“If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him.”*

Capital Punishment

Rom. 13:3 says: *“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:”*

Eccl. 8:11 says: *“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”*

War

God ordered Israel to fight the enemy. If they did not defeat the enemy, Israel would have been captured and their hearts turned to the enemy's gods. It ultimately would have doomed millions in hell. Nothing is wrong with fighting the enemy on foreign soil.

GOD FORBIDS THE INTENTIONAL TAKING OF LIFE

Murder

This is premeditated murder because of hate.

Suicide

Whether shooting, poisoning, gassing, or hanging one's self - it is wrong. Suicide was once considered honorable. Demosthenes, Socrates, Cato, Mithrodes, Brutus, Ahithophel, Abimelech, Saul, Samson, and Judas all committed suicide. Surveys show that when there is a decline in religious teachings and belief in the hereafter, suicides go up. Also, when the emphasis is on material things, suicides go up.

Euthanasia

A request for assisted Suicide is typically a cry for help. It is in reality a call for counseling, assistance, and positive alternatives as solutions for very real problems. Psalms 4:1 *“Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress: have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.”*

Terminally Ill patients who desire death are depressed and depression is treatable. Psalms 139: 1&2 *“O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising: thou understandest my thought afar off.”*

Pain is controllable. Modern medicine has the ability to help control pain; try another doctor. II Timothy 3:10-11 *“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.”*

In the U.S. legalizing voluntary active euthanasia [assisting suicide] means legalizing non-voluntary euthanasia. State courts have ruled time and again that if competent people have a right, the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment requires that incompetent people be "given" the same "right." Ex. 20:13 *“Thou shalt not kill.”*

In the Netherlands, legalizing voluntary assisted suicide for those with terminal illness has spread to include non-voluntary euthanasia for many that have no terminal illnesses. Half the killings in the Netherlands are now non-voluntary and the problems for which death is now the legal “solution” includes such things as mental illness, permanent disability, and even simple old age. Ps. 36:9 *“For with thee is the fountain of life:”*

You don't solve problems by getting rid of the people to whom the problems happen, no matter what age or condition. The more difficult but humane solution to human suffering is to address the problems. Job 14:14 *“If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.”*

Abortion

Jesus said to “Suffer the little children (braphos) to come unto me. “Braphos” means children born and unborn. John the Baptist leaped inside Elizabeth with “Joy” (a human emotion) even before birth! At the time of conception, a human life begins. Notice:

Ps. 51:5 says: *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”*

Ps. 139:13-14 says: *“For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother” womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”*

Jer. 1:4-5 says: *“Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”*

Luke 1:15 says: *“For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.”*

Luke 1:41 says: *“And it came to pass, that when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled*

with the Holy Ghost:”

Respect for human life is gone. Today’s philosophy says: “If it is convenient, it is all right.” We are told abortion will curb child abuse. Is it not ironic to say, “kill the child so he will not later chance being abused?”

WHO IS GUILTY OF MURDER?

- The dope pusher, who ultimately helps someone to die early.
- The bartender that serves drinks for people who will be killed or will kill another person on the highway.
- The rebellious teenager who sends his mother to an early grave.
- Owners of animals that kill people because of lack of safety precautions.
- The person involved in the liquor or tobacco industry.

WHERE DOES IT BEGIN?

It starts in the heart:

Matt. 5:21-22 says: “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.”

Mark 7:21-22 says: “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:”

I John 3:15 says: “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”

Cain hated Abel, first in his heart, before he ever killed him.

Eph. 4:26 says: “...let not the sun go down upon your wrath:” Never go to bed mad at anyone.

7TH COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:14 says: “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” This command includes all sex outside of marriage: rape, prostitution, sodomy, incest, pre-marital, and extra-marital.

Prov. 5:3-6 says: “For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst now know them”

Prov. 7:6-23 says: “For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding. Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, In the twilight, in the evening, in

the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace-offerings with me; this day have I paid my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.”

I Cor. 6:9-10 says: *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Al Capone, the Chicago gangster, who operated over 2,000 houses of prostitution, died of venereal disease. **You reap what you sow.** Samson and Absalom had very low morals also. When Jesus saves someone, He gives them strength to control natural desires. John 8:11 says: *“She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”*

CONSEQUENCES OF IMMORALITY

1. It robs us of the peace of God.
2. It brings guilt.
3. It stops prayers. Ps. 66:18 says: *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:”*
4. It damages marriages. A certain marriage counselor reveals that out of 1,038 problem marriages he has counseled, every one had been immoral before marriage.
5. It reduces future usefulness.
6. Its tendencies are reaped in the children.

Notice the differences in lust and genuine love:

<u>LUST</u>	<u>LOVE</u>
Physical	Spiritual
Temporal	Eternal
Selfish	Selfless
Brings Guilt	Brings fulfillment

Impatient	Patient
Goes fast	Goes slow
Decreases with time	Increases with time

The grass is **never** greener on the other side of the fence if you are married.

WHAT TO DO?

Keep your mind clean by God's Word. Ps. 119:9 says: "*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.*"

Guard what you see or read. Ps. 101:3 says: "*I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.*"

Dress modestly.

8TH COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:15 says: "*Thou shalt not steal.*" I Tim. 6:9-10 says: "*But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while come coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*"

Notice also:

Lev. 6:1-5 says: "*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbor in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour; Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.*"

Lev. 19:13 says: "*Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.*"

Lev. 19:35-36 says: "*Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall he have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.*"

Prov. 1:13-15 says: "*We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:*"

Jer. 22:13 says: "*Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages,*

and giveth him not for his work;”

Matt. 15:19 says: *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:”*

John 12:6 says: *“This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.”*

Eph. 4:28 says: *“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.”*

I Thess. 4:6 says: *“That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.”*

Is there anything you have borrowed that you have not returned? Is there anything in which you have stolen and not made restitution? Are you Tithing? Malachi 3 says that if a Christian is not practicing tithing and the giving of offerings he is stealing.

9TH COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:16 says: *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”*

Rom. 1:25 says: *“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”*

I Tim. 1:10 says: *“For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;”*

I Tim. 4:2 says: *“Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”*

II Tim. 3:3 says: *“Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,”*

Rev. 21:8 says: *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”*

Rev. 22:15 says: *“For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.”*

Two of the Ten Commandments deal with sins of the mouth. The opposite of lying is sincerity. The word sincere comes from a term meaning, “nothing concealed” or “without wax”. In ancient Rome, some merchants would take inferior wood and fill the cracks with wax to sell it as more expensive wood. William Penn said: “Right is right if everyone is against it – wrong is wrong.”

ORIGIN OF LIES

John 8:44 says: *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”* The devil was the first liar. An unsaved person lies because it is his nature.

NATURE OF LIES

Ps. 58:3 says: *“The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.”* Lying does not have to be learned. It comes naturally. Someone said that the man of courage is never afraid of the truth. Lying is a refuge of weakness. A lie has no legs. It requires others to support it.

TYPES OF LIES

There are no white, black, or gray lies. All are wrong.

1. Slander - Slanting the truth with an intent to hurt.
2. Making business promises that cannot possibly be kept.
3. Salesmen who overrate their product.
4. Doctors who lie to their patients about death possibilities.
5. Parents who promise to spank their child and do not do it.
6. Teachers who teach evolution as fact, and pastors who teach false doctrine.
7. A healthy employee who calls the employer to tell him he is sick and cannot report to work.
8. Wives, employees, and children who lie for their leader.
9. Exaggeration.
10. People who lie to God and make promises they do not intend to keep or do not follow through and keep. Many of these promises are made in the hospital, at a funeral, at the wedding altar, or on the deathbed.
11. Singing lies in a hymn that you do not mean.
12. Misquoting people.

Honesty is not the best policy, it is the only policy. Some people lie to make themselves look better. Low self-esteem can cause it. They think people will not like them as they are. Prov. 17:9 says: *“He that covereth a transgression seeketh love;”* Someone said, “If you tell the truth all the time, you never have to remember what you said.” How true!!

LYING PEOPLE

Gehazi lied to Elisha
Samson lied to Delilah
Isaac lied about Rebekah
Jacob lied to his father
Peter lied about knowing Jesus
Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter

All of these people were judged for their sin. Some of their lying tendencies were passed down to their children and grandchildren.

REPERCUSSIONS OF LYING

It is a “ditch” sin. Once someone begins lying, it is a hard habit to break and eventually becomes a lifestyle. It is said that years ago in the country of Siam that convicted liars

had their mouths sewn shut. Because of the lie of the soldiers at the empty tomb, an entire race of Jews have been without the gospel. What damage lying can do!!

10TH COMMANDMENT

Ex. 20:17 says: *“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 any thing that is thy neighbour’s.”* The word “covet” means, “to stretch or reach after”. It really means, “to be greedy of gain”. **Things rule lives.**

I Cor. 6:9-10 says: *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, or covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”* Coveting is wanting something that is not yours. It is first cousin to the sin of stealing. Coveting is a sin that is unseen at first because it deals with desires. It is the opposite of being content. Desire is an action in an egg (soon to be hatched). Someone said a covetous person is a thief in a shell. Eph. 5:5 says: *“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”* An idolater or covetous person worships money and what it can buy. Luke 16:14 says: *“And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.”* Jesus knew the Pharisees (religious unsaved leaders) were covetous. False prophets are covetous people. II Pet. 2:3 says: *“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”* This explains the extravagance in the life of so many evangelists and TV preachers. All gamblers are also guilty of the sin of coveting. People can covet anything - land, homes, security, clothes, reputation, popularity, etc.

WHO WAS COVETOUS?

- Eve coveted the fruit and then took it.
- Achan coveted a Babylonian garment, took it, and lost his life because of it.
- Gehazi became a leper because of covetousness.
- Ahab allowed Naboth murdered because he coveted his vineyard.
- Lot moved to Sodom because he coveted.
- David coveted Bathsheba and he committed adultery with her.
- Judas betrayed Jesus because of covetousness.
- Ananias and Sapphira died in church because they coveted.

CONSEQUENCES

Besides leading to stealing, covetousness chokes our listening to preaching and Bible reading. Mark 4:18-19 says: *“And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.”* There are few wealthy Christians who remain dedicated in their Christian life. Greed gets to them and soon they put their security in things instead of God. Job and Abraham are the only two wealthy Christians mentioned in Scripture. The word “lucre” (money) is mentioned five

times in the New Testament. It is usually called “filthy”. Coveting often leads to breaking all the other commandments. Notice:

Ps. 10:3 says: *“For the wicked boasteth of his heart’s desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.”*

Prov. 28:16 says: *“The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.”*

Eccl. 5:10-13 says: *“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.”*

I Tim. 6:10 says: *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*

CURING COVETOUSNESS

- Confess it as sin
- Begin tithing
- Be a giver (Prov. 21:26)
- Do not get around covetous people (I Cor. 5:9-11)
- Read your Bible (Ps. 119:36)
- Be around Godly examples (Acts 20:33)

REVIEW TEN COMMANDMENTS - STEP 43

1. Name one reason the Ten Commandments are so important:

2. Four commandments deal with our relationship to _____
Six commandments deal with our relationship to _____
3. We must be right _____ before we will be right _____.
4. Name one reason the Ten Commandments were written: _____

5. Which commandment is left out of the Catholic Catechism books?
_____ Why do you suppose? _____
6. Define “vain”: _____

7. List a way you may be taking God’s name in vain (if any):

8. Which commandment connects our relationship to God and people?

9. You cannot be right with God and be wrong with your _____

10. Which commandment is the one you may not be able to keep one day?

11. List one way a person can honor their parents: _____

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12. Is God for capital punishment? _____
13. Is God for abortion? _____
14. Name one type of person who is guilty of murder: _____
-
15. Is all sex outside of marriage wrong? _____
16. List some differences between lust and love:
- | LUST | LOVE |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
17. Two of the commandments deal with sins of the _____
18. List four possible types of lies:
- _____
- _____
19. Define “covet”:
- _____
-
20. Memorize the Ten Commandments!