



SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

The message behind the Ten Commandments looks like this- God’s majesty—his holiness, is an awesome and terrifying reality. It is nothing to be trifled with.

Out of this awesome scene God gives the 10 Commandments. God says, **Leviticus 18:5**, “**If you do these consistently, you shall live before me.**” But cross this line of disobedience—and you will die. You say, “Well, that sounds harsh.” But at least consider this: it is consistent with every other picture we see of God’s holiness in Scripture.

We think sin is not that bad because we have a very human-centered view of it. It doesn’t seem that bad to us. But you measure the wickedness of a deed, in part, by whom it is against. Get mad and kick a wall repeatedly: that may be a sin of frustration; but kick a dog—and you’ve done a genuinely bad thing. Kick the lady next to you in the grocery store line; you’ll go to jail; walk into Buckingham Palace and roundhouse the Queen of England... it’s going to be worse than jail; the little guys in the tall fuzzy hats are going to beat you with sticks. Our sin is infinitely wicked because it is against an infinitely righteous and glorious God

BIBLE STUDY: LET’S LOOK AT THESE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- I. **You shall have no other Gods before me.** Can you say, I have never put anything before God in my life. He has always been pre-eminent in my thoughts, affections, and actions. When I look in my life, I get a lot more excited about a new TV program than I do God and his word sometimes. Do you keep this commandment? YES _____ NO _____

That’s a big one in the L column for me.

- II. You shall have no carved images of me.** This commandment is about reshaping God according to your liking; believing wrong things about him because you'd prefer that he be a different way. Have you consistently refused to do that, believing fully everything his word reveals about him, w/o doubting, or wishing he were different? YES _____ NO _____
- III. You shall not take my name in vain.** This has to do with more than not saying, "G.D." It has to do with how highly we regard the name of God. Can you say, "I have never used God's name as a swear word, and I have always held his name in highest respect. I have always represented that name well, never, for example, calling myself a follower of his yet and not obeying him fully. I've always lived up to the name 'Christian.'" YES _____ NO _____
- IV. Remember the Sabbath.** This has to do with giving God fully what belongs to him. In Scripture, he says 2 things belong to him of all that he gives us. Of time, 1 day each week; of resources, the first-fruits (usually 10%) of what he gave us. Can you say that you have consistently given to God all that was due to him, specifically remembering to set apart one day weekly to worship him with others? YES _____ NO _____
- V. Honor your parents.** This has to do with how you relate to authorities in your life. Your parents are the first representation of the authority of God to you. Comes right in the middle.

The spirit of this commandment how you, throughout your life, have responded to authorities. Can you say, "I have never disobeyed nor dishonored my parents or any others in authority over me. I have consistently respected them and given them honor and willing obedience. I've also done this with other God-appointed authorities, like governmental officials, my boss, and local police." Kids look at parents, they are shaking "no." YES _____ NO _____

- VI. You shall not kill.** (You say, "FINALLY!" One in the "W" column!) Then Jesus came along and messed that up. Because he said to hate someone in your heart, or to desire their harm, is like murder. Can you say, "Not only have I never murdered someone, I have never had hateful thoughts nor taken the slightest pleasure in seeing harm or misfortune happen to another human. YES _____ NO _____
- VII. You shall not commit adultery.** (You say, "I think I'm good on this one, because I'm not even married.") Jesus messed this one up, too. Because he said to think lustful thoughts about someone to whom you are not married is committing adultery in your heart, which is what God sees. Can you say, "I have never entertained thoughts about physical intimacy with someone to whom I am not married?" YES _____ NO _____

VIII. You shall not steal. Can you say, “I have never taken anything that doesn’t belong to me—not credit I didn’t deserve, anything I have never fudged my numbers.” April 15 is right around the corner... you think, I can just change a few numbers. Government wastes it anyway. And I don’t even like the people in office right now. I need this money more than they do, and I’ll do a better job with it anyway.”

Can you say, “I have always been completely truthful and fair in all of my dealings?”
YES _____ NO _____

IX. You shall not lie. I shouldn’t even have to go over this one, but can you say, “I have never lied nor slandered another person. I have never exaggerated the truth for my own benefit or covered up my faults or hidden awkward things I don’t want other people to know. I have always told the truth in every situation regarding every person I have ever known”? (I’ve heard people say, “I don’t lie per se; I just struggle with always telling the truth.”)
YES _____ NO _____

X. You shall not covet: This is the worst one. Can you say, “I have never been greedy for something that wasn’t mine, nor jealous of the abilities, looks, position, or possessions of others. I have always been fully content in what I have.”

Can you say, “I’ve never resented other people’s success, their beauty, their talents, their body shape, their intelligence, their possessions, or their popularity. I have always rejoiced with others in their blessings; glad they have them even when I don’t”?
YES _____ NO _____

How did you do on this test? Do you pass the test of perfection or do these commandments show just how far you are from that standard?

God demands perfection; the gospel is that he also supplies it. The gospel is that our sin was so bad that Jesus had to die to save us. Why do you think Jesus died? A lot of people say, “to show us that he loved us.” How does that show us he loves us? It would only be loving if his death was helping us in some way. And he was. He was dying in our place. He was dying to give us the righteousness we could not obtain on our own.

CONCLUSION:

We just finished celebrating the Easter season. You’ll never understand or appreciate the resurrection until you see the grave he lifted you out of. The price he paid and why he paid it. He went into your grave. His cross was your fate. His grave was your eternal destiny. And Jesus took that penalty and entered your grave and shattered it.

See him on the cross. Do you realize he is dying for your sin...not just the sin of the world, but yours? Do you see the empty tomb? Do you believe it is empty because God raised Jesus from the dead because he had accepted Jesus’ payment for your sin?