

We are still in need of forgiveness from God. The price for our sin is still blood. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission for sin. I am so glad we have a Redeemer, Jesus Christ, that has removed our sin as far as the east is from the west.

If you have never received Jesus Christ as your Savior, today is the day in which you can become justified before God.

Thank God for the Ten Commandments. It gives us a roadmap for life.

But even greater praise should be lifted up for the redeemer, Jesus Christ, who reconciles us back to God and makes atonement for our sin.

## LET US PRAY

## **The Ten Commandments – Part Two** Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr. October 25, 2020

Diaspora XXXII – The Church Scattered, Thirty-second Sunday

Text: Deuteronomy 5:12-22

Purpose: The second half (the last six) of the Ten Commandments involve our relationship with other people. How do we live in the context of community and interaction with others? These commandments give us guidelines for life.

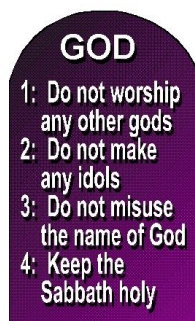
### **I. Introduction**

As I mentioned last week concerning the Ten Commandments, we have come to a High and Holy moment in the life of Israel. God in His wisdom and providential care for His creation has given us guidelines for life.



We began last week by recognizing that the Ten Commandments are guidelines for our relationship with God and others. The first four define our relationship between ourselves and God. God wants us to make our relationship with Him a priority in life.

1. In the first commandment, God said we were not to have any other gods before Him.
2. God reiterated it again in the second by saying that we were not to make any idols and worship them.
3. God emphasized how we were to interact and revere Him by not idly using God's name and diminishing who He is.
4. In the fourth commandment, God directed we are to take a day of rest and keep it holy. By keeping the day holy unto the Lord, we are reminded every week, in the rhythm of life, of our connection with God. When we don't honor God with a day of rest, we become a forgetful people and forget the source of our blessing.

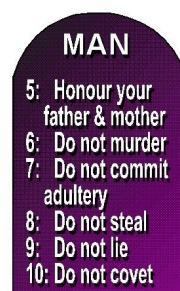


These first four commandments are the vertical connection between us and our creator. Today, we want to examine the last six commandments which form the horizontal axis that connect our lives with the lives of our family, neighbors, and community.

## II. The Decalogue – Part Two

### # 5. *Honor your Father and Mother (5:16)*

This commandment is one of only two that tell us we must do something. The first is to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy and this one which tells us to honor our father and our mother. I remember thinking one day as a little boy that the parents and the preacher got together and made up this rule for all the children to follow. I guess I was wrong in that idea.



This commandment is the only one that has a promise if we obey the command. If we honor our father and our mother then our days on this earth may be long. If we disobey our parents, reject their teaching, follow the alluring way of the world, we will become involved in things that may be exciting for a moment, but in the end, our life will be shortened.

This commandment was really God's idea. The family was to be the nucleus of the entire community. Ideally, as children are raised in the context of a loving home with a mother and father, children are nurtured to love God. Children need both a male and female role models in their life. This doesn't always happen. Some families are broken but God can redeem even those and children can still honor their parents. We honor God's perfect plan by giving respect and honor to our parents.



I know that there are some people that use this commandment as a whipping board to make children comply. "The Bible says you are to 'honor your mother' – ya hear me!" It is true, we need to remind children of the Ten Commandments, but we need to make sure we are telling them about the other nine as well.

To top it all off, we as parents need to make sure WE are living up to it. If you want to ruin a child, tell them to do something that you are not practicing yourself. You as parents must set the example. Remember, there is a little one walking right behind you walking in the shadow of your footprints.

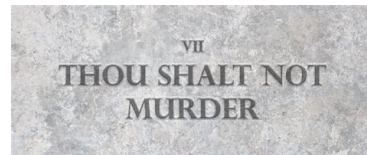
Whenever we as parents have to resort to threats and the excessive use of authority to “help” children obey and honor us, then we have missed the boat somewhere. In the New Testament, we are admonished not to exasperate our children. That word is specifically aimed at the fathers. Fathers are especially gifted at frustrating and irritating their children. You are to love your children, teach your children, guide your children, mold your children, and instill Godly qualities in your children. We need to be careful NOT to frustrate them with petty and meaningless discipline. Especially in the areas you are not practicing. If you do, you will alienate your children.

Oh, before I move on, how you treated your parents while your children are little is probably the way your children will treat you when you get older. God says, “Honor your father and your mother” not only for their wellbeing, but for ours as well!

#### ***#6. Thou shall not murder (5:17)***

I believe if we took a poll here this morning to see if anyone here has lived up to this commandment, we probably could all raise our hands. I have never taken a gun, knife, or any other weapon and murdered another person.

Several translations of the Bible have translated this to say, “Thou shall not kill.” This would imply that there is never, under any circumstance, an appropriate time for another person’s life to be taken. Some have said that all war is wrong because it kills. Some have said that capital punishment is wrong because it takes the life of another human being.



I do not think that is what God intended by this commandment. If you read later in the explanation of this commandment, you see that this is a prohibition for an individual, acting on their own behalf in taking the life of another person.

As you read through the Bible, you see God does instruct the people of Israel to gather arms and attack and kill the enemy. The God of the Old Testament appears to be a ruthless warrior who said to totally annihilate their enemies. In a time of warfare, it is either be killed by the enemy or kill them. God does not hold the soldier accountable for the lives taken in war.

In other instances in the Bible, you see God instructing the community to execute those that violate certain ordinances. God sanctions the execution of individuals that have violated the holiness of the community. Capital punishment was to be given for many different violations – worshippers of Molech (Lev. 20:3), cursing your father and mother (Lev. 20:9), adulterers (Lev. 20:10), witches (Lev. 20:27), individuals that curse God (Lev. 24:16), and murderers (Lev. 24:17). God was seeking a holy community and these violations marred the purity of the community.

Our society in America has turned its back on how awful these sins are and some are often accepted and promoted in our culture. In our society we set free murderers after they only serve seven years. (Very few are actually executed.) Rapists only serve an average of one month for every rape that has been committed. Worshipping false gods, cursing your parents, adultery, cursing God, and practicing witchcraft are actually accepted, tolerated, and promoted in our society.

Our society will reap the consequences of failing to live holy lives. Please hear me, I am not saying we need to execute people for these sins. I am saying, as God's people we need to strive to live holy lives and encourage others to do so as well.

Again, hear me clearly. I am not saying this morning that we need to begin executing more people. I am saying that God sanctioned life and only God can sanction the taking of life. David, when he was being chased by King Saul, had the opportunity to kill Saul on several occasions. But even David realized that judgment belongs only to God. God sanctions punishment – and execution – in the context of community – not on the basis of an individual's need for vengeance.

God instructs us, “Thou shall not murder.”

### **#7. *Thou shall not commit adultery (5:18)***

When God ordained marriage, he ordained it to be forever between one man and one woman. We established that back in our examination of Genesis.



Adultery is a violation of that sacred promise and vow. When one person decides to invite a third person into the marriage relationship, they are polluting what God has called “good.”

Our society has become so enamored with swapping partners that the shame no longer affects us. Every day on television we see adultery treated casually. There is something we enjoy about seeing sin displayed before our

eyes. Eventually we may practice what we embrace as good and acceptable. We need to realize that God hates sin.

The results of our sin are broken relationships - broken families - broken children. The effects of a divorce impact children for the rest of their lives. God can redeem that and bring healing in those situations but His best plan is for committed spouses providing loving homes for their children.

Several years ago (2014) Sharon and I had the opportunity to go hear a guest speaker with the North Carolina Family Policy Council. Ryan Anderson of the Heritage Foundation in Washington DC identified that one of the most critical



changes in our nation, when it comes to providing stability for the family, was the passages of laws that allowed “No Fault” divorce. Once it was passed, marriages and families began to fall apart at an alarming rate. Today, almost half of the marriages end in divorce. The primary reason is our uncontrolled appetite to roam away from the marriage bed.

The point Ryan Anderson was making was that the family unit is designed as the best place to raise children. The family that is stable, one man and one woman for life, is the best environment to raise healthy children.

The “No Fault” divorce trend actually placed the adults' needs and wants above the needs and wants of the children. The natural result of that is that families are being redefined in multiple combinations of people based on the needs of the adults and not what is best for the children.



I know I have digressed, but adultery is a violation of the foundational covenant between a man and a woman. In cases like that, God allowed for divorce.

When God said, “Thou shall not commit adultery,” He meant it!

### **#8. *Thou shall not steal (5:18)***

This is one of the easiest commandments to understand – but often the most difficult for others to truly grasp. I read a list of the Red Neck Ten Commandments. It says, “If it ain’t yours, keep your hands off’n it.”



Based on a 2018 survey by the National Retail Federation (NRF), shrink, or loss of inventory related to theft, shoplifting, error, or fraud, is reducing the bottom line by \$46.8 billion across the industry. This is up from \$13 billion in 2013.

- About 28% of the theft is coming directly from employees.
- Today the overall dollar loss due to dishonest employees is \$1203.16.
- 41% of retailers surveyed reported increases in overall inventory shrink.
- The average cost per shoplifting incident doubled to \$559.

One new hotel that was in operation for 10 months reported the following missing: 38,000 spoons, 18,000 towels, 355 silver coffee pots, 1500 silver finger bowls and 100 Bibles. Can you imagine people stealing the Bible? But it is true!

The Pastor F. E. Marsh preached on the subject of stealing one Sunday. Afterward, a young man came to him and said, “Pastor, you have put me in a bad fix. I’ve stolen from my employer and I’m ashamed to tell him about it. You see, I’m a boat builder, and the man I work for is an unbeliever. I have often talked to him about Christ, but he only laughs at me. In my work, expensive copper nails are used because they won’t rust in water. I’ve been taking some of them home for a boat I am building in my backyard. I’m afraid if I tell my boss what I’ve done and offer to pay for them, he’ll think I’m a hypocrite, and I’ll never be able to reach him for Christ. Yet, my conscience is bothered.

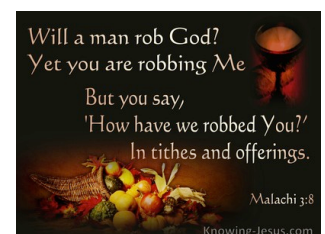


Later when the man saw the preacher again, he exclaimed, “Pastor, I’ve settled the matter and I’m so relieved.” “What happened when you told your boss?” asked the minister. “Oh, he looked at me intently and said, ‘George, I’ve always thought you were a hypocrite, but now I’m not so sure. Maybe there’s something to your Christianity after all. Any religion that makes a man admit he’s been stealing a few copper nails and offer to settle up must be worth having.’”

The quickest way to a clear conscience in this matter is to go and make restitution if you have been guilty of stealing.

If we had more time this morning, would explore...

... the idea of our stealing God’s tithe. The tithe

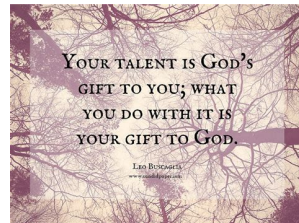


belongs to God. If we don't give it to God's work, we are stealing from God.

...the idea about stealing our time. We waste so much of this precious commodity that God has given us. We need to put down Facebook and get busy with more productive things. We need to be careful and redeem our time. The day is coming when we will have no more.

... the idea of stealing our talents. Many of us possess talents that we are keeping buried deep within ourselves.

For some reason, we are ashamed to sing in the choir, play the piano, or teach a Sunday school class. God has given us talents. I have seen it played out time and time again. If we don't use them, he will take away what we do have.



God's best for us is when He instructed us, "Thou shall not steal."

### **#9. *Thou shall not bear false witness (5:20)***

This ninth commandment is one that again, values the importance of community. Before a person could be charged with a violation of a statute in Israel, it would require two witnesses to come forward and witness against another.



Being a truth teller is difficult business. Why do we lie? Sometimes it is easy to go along with the crowd and condemn another of something that they didn't do. It takes a person of courage to stand against injustice and tell the truth.

When someone is wrongly accused and punished, the entire judicial system loses its integrity and influence. I have encountered our judicial system on different occasions. I have sat in court as a guardian ad litem and heard

someone *clearly lie* on the stand. Every person in the room knew they were lying. Yet, we smile and do not punish that person for perjury. The foundation for justice in the community is that we need to tell the truth. Failure to be trustworthy breaks down the freedoms in a community and society. God was well aware that one person may have a grudge against another individual and lie about something. Needing two witnesses was added as a way to protect against injustice.



Without getting too political, we all know politicians have always embellished the truth. They try and tell their story from the best positive light. But something has dramatically shifted in our nation and culture recently.

There was a time when you could trust the news you were reading. You could trust the reporters as they wrote articles on the latest events. You could trust the news anchor person as they looked us in the eyes and told us



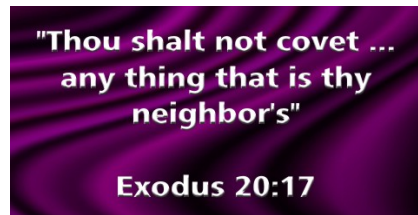
newly discovered information. Because so many lies have been shared, reshared, retold, redistributed, and disseminated, most people today do not trust any news from any news source and don't know who or what the truth REALLY is. The result of the lack of truth, has hurt us all and eroded our trust of each other.

We should all understand how important it is to be a truth teller. The community and common decency suffer when lying is tolerated regardless of who is telling them.

### **#10. *Thou shall not covet (5:21)***

The last commandment in this “top ten” list reveals the true intention of God concerning these precepts. Coveting is really a heart problem. God is more concerned about our heart than our obedience.

The dictionary defines covet as “to desire inordinately or without due regard to the rights of others. Covetous means to be “excessively eager to obtain and possess.”



God does not prohibit us from owning things. Over the years, I have driven my vehicles until they had well over 200,000 miles. It can be tempting to let my eye wander to our neighbor's driveway and see that newer, sleeker, faster, car and begin to want one just like that.

Intentionally and subconsciously our society has programmed us to want more and more. We want more

food on our plate in a buffet, a larger car in the driveway, a bigger house to entertain guests, brighter clothes to impress others, snazzier shoes to show off in, and the latest electronic gadget that keeps us connected to others.

At the heart of this endless longing is covetousness. We want more and more, and often we are willing to compromise our families, job, health, reputation, and character – to get that “prize.” The sad fact is that after we obtain it, it loses its appeal and we are then striving for another prize.

God wants us to enjoy life. But the insatiable desire to “have it all,” can never be satisfied. We need to be satisfied and live contentedly within our means. We can only live contentedly when we “Do not covet.”

### **III. Conclusion / Summary**

Today we have examined the last six of the Ten Commandments. I want us to realize that God has given us these as guideline – these boundaries – towards living in the midst of a community of people.

- Our families are the building blocks of a community. We build a stronger community when we have strong families. When children begin disobeying their parents, where will the disobedience end? It spills out into the community, schools, into other relationships. I



believe if this one area was restored in our community, then there may be hope for our nation.

- The marriage relationship is the bedrock of all other relationships. When marriage is treated lightly, families become fractured. We need to honor and respect marriage. Any other sexual involvement affects and harms the individual, family, and community.
- Within the context of the community, life is precious. God is the giver of life and only in the context of community can we engage in war and execute justice through capital punishment. A life is not to be taken at the hands of an individual.
- Within the context of community, we need to protect others and respect the property of others. A community that rejects and dishonors honest ownership will crumble and fail.
- The last commandment actually gets to the heart of the matter – coveting. All of the ten commandments can be traced back to this one commandment.

Jesus was able to reduce these Ten Commandments down to two. *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. The second is like unto that, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

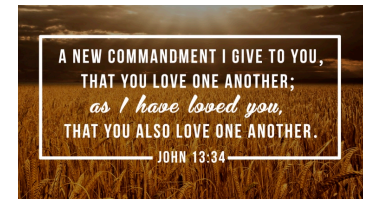
Each of us is guilty of looking out for our interests above the interests of others. When a storm comes, we grab our family and head for cover. But God is calling us to love others with that same kind of concern. If we do, then we

will honor our parents, not let anger rage in us and drive us to murder, we will not commit adultery, we will not steal, lie about others, nor will we desire their “stuff.”

#### IV. Application

Last week I asked you to think about your relationship with God. Did you do that this week? I hope you took that request to heart and thought about how that could be improved. This week I want you to consider these last six commandments. Is there one or two that stick out and prick your conscience? Maybe it is your relationship with your parents. It could be lying, or shoplifting. It could even be coveting your neighbor’s SUV. Take steps this week to “make it right.” I know that if we harbor sin in our heart, then our relationship with God is not as it should be.

The Ten Commandments were given to us as a blessing and a guide for living in a community. Here in America, our nation’s judicial system is based upon these precepts – even if we don’t want to admit it.



Jesus took many of these last six commandments and took them to a higher level.

- Jesus said, if you have lust in your heart, you are just as guilty as if you had committed adultery.
- Jesus said, if you have hated a person, it is as if you have murdered them.

So many people want us to return to the Ten Commandments. But if the truth were told, we would find



we are guilty of many, if not all of them. We still are in need of a Savior. We are still in need of a redeemer.