

How should a disciple of Jesus live in 2020?



FIRST MELISSA



Exodus chapter 20

Then **God spoke all** these words
[literally “things”], saying, Exodus 20:1

אֱלֹהִים *Elohim* NOT יְהוָה *Yâhweh*

דָּבַר *dabar* to speak

כֹּל *kol* all, everything

Elohim (the Divine Judge) personally spoke these
commandments (mitzvot מִצְוֹת) and they ALL go
together... they are one thing.

Introduction to the 10 Commandments

- They are not called “10 Commandments” in Hebrew; literally translated as “10 Sayings” or “10 Words.”
- These commandments were first given in their written form to the people of Israel when they were encamped at Sinai, about fifty days after they came out of Egypt.
- In English, the grammar is often written “you shall not”
- In Hebrew, the grammar is “DO NOT” לא
- The words of God are things themselves, not labels for things.
- Anything the Torah tells us not to do is something we would do if we were not told not to do it.
- When God tells us to do something it is because we would not do it otherwise.

Introduction to the 10 Commandments

- This passage is a massive blueprint of human behavior.
- Each commandment is written to “you” (second person, singular), NOT “y’all” or “you guys” (second person, plural).
- Moses notes that the Decalogue contained the only revelation that was communicated by God directly to the people (Deuteronomy 4:12–13; 5:22) and committed to writing on tablets of stone by God’s own hand (Exodus 24:12; 31:18; 34:1; Deuteronomy 4:13; 5:22; 10:1–4). All subsequent revelation at Sinai was communicated indirectly through Moses, the covenant mediator.
- The special status of the tablets is reflected in the fact that these tablets were deposited inside the ark of the covenant (Deuteronomy 10:5; 1 Kings 8:9). - Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary



As we study, let's ask...

**How is America doing today
when it comes to obeying the
10 Commandments?**

Commandment #1

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:2-3

“The sin against this commandment which we are most in danger of is giving the glory and honor to any creature which are due to God only. Pride makes a god of self, covetousness makes a god of money, sensuality makes a god of the belly, whatever is esteemed or loved, feared or served, delighted in or depended on, more than God, that (whatever it is) we do in effect make a god.” - Matthew Henry

And vs. Only

- I need God and _____
- I need God only

Which statement best describes you?

“You have left your first love.” Revelation 2:4

“And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments.” 2 John 6

Commandment #2

“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for **I**, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate **Me**, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love **Me** and keep **My** commandments.” Exodus 20:4-6

Notice:

- First 2 commandments are written in first person
- Last 8 commandments are written in second person

Why?

“Because the people were so overwhelmed by the majesty of direct communication with God.”

This led to the sin of the golden calf... “we are not up to the glory of meeting the one true God.”

- Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel

Commandment # 2

You shall not make for yourself an idol

God is beyond our comprehension

It might be an IDOL if:

- I can build it or destroy it
- Its purpose is to glorify me
- Its purpose is to entertain me
- Its purpose is to impress others
- Its purpose is for selfish gain
- Its purpose is for evil desires and motives
- Its purpose is to cause pain or exact revenge
- Its purpose is to direct, control, guide God
- Its purpose is to limit, reduce God

Various idols in our lives

- Self
- Religious Relics
- Personal Goals/Desires
- Money
- Possessions
- Celebrities
- Visions/Dreams
- Saints/Pastor/Pope
- Parents/Children/Ancestors
- Positions/Influence/Power

How can I truly worship?

- Jesus said, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24
- "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'" John 14:6

Commandment #3

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain. Exodus 20:7

Do we understand His holiness?

To misuse God's name means literally, "to lift it up to or attach it to **emptiness**." This command forbids using God's name in profanity but it includes more. The third commandment is a directive against using God's name in a manipulative way (e.g., His name is not to be used in magic or to curse someone). – Bible Knowledge Commentary

Commandment #3

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

How to take God's name in vain

- By making promises to Him that I don't intend to keep
- By professing to be a follower of Jesus but not living like one
- By being only a taker, never a giver, in God's kingdom
- By using prayer as a selfish, self-serving strategy
- By reading His Word and choosing to ignore its teachings
- By sensing God's leading and refusing to follow

Commandment #4

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Genesis 2:3

God's statement is a lengthy one

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.” Exodus 20:8-11

Commandment #4

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy

The only way to have a love relationship with God is to routinely and intentionally devote time to focus on Him.

Why did Christians begin to have church services on Sunday?

As a reminder of and celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus

- Now on the **first day of the week** Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. John 20:1
- On the **first day of the week**, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. Acts 20:7
- On the **first day of every week** each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. 1 Corinthians 16:2

Commandment #5

Honor your father and mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you. Exodus 20:12

This is related to the first 4 commandments because we learn to honor parents when we learn to honor God

“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and **that your days may be prolonged.**” Deuteronomy 6:1-2

Exodus 20:5 does not say that God punishes the children, but that the sins of the parents carry on.

In the spiritual world, what you do is not limited to yourself. This is a statement not a threat.

Physical example: look at the environment...
if I pollute a river, my children and grandchildren will suffer the consequences.

Biblical example: Haman's influence in the Queen Esther is the consequence of King Saul not killing Agag, the king of Amalek.

Commandment #5

Honor your father and mother

Starting this year, we can:

- Break bad cycles
- Forgive our parents
- Begin good cycles with our children
- Parent our children like God parents us
- Remember that believing children can witness to unbelieving parents about the grace of Jesus
- Choose to honor God by choosing to honor our parents

Commandment #6

You shall not murder. לֹא תִרְצַח ה

Exodus 20:13

Why is life sacred?

Because it is a gift that can only come from God

- “Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 100:3
- “But now, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand.” Isaiah 64:8

What does the 6th commandment not prohibit?

- Killing of animals (Ex. 20:24)
- Capital punishment (Ex. 21:12, Gen. 9:6, Rom. 13:4)
- Self-protection (Ex. 22:2)
- Just war (Eccl. 3:8)

What does the 6th commandment prohibit?

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Infanticide (Abortion)
- Euthanasia

Commandment #7

You shall not commit adultery. לֹא תִנְאֻף

Exodus 20:14

“...God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but **the Lord looks at the heart.**”

1 Samuel 16:7

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:27-28

Commandment #8

You shall not steal. Exodus 20:15

לֹא תִגְנוֹב

- When a person steals, they are demonstrating a lack of trust in God's ability to provide and meet their needs.
- A lack of trust in God demonstrates a lack of faith in God.
- Do we believe that God gives us everything we need?
- "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." Hebrews 11:6
- "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

Commandment #9

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Exodus 20:16

- Tell the whole truth
 - “He who winks the eye causes trouble” Proverbs 10:10
- Tell the truth always
 - “The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the falseness of the treacherous will destroy them.” Proverbs 11:3
- Tell the truth with love
 - “Speaking the truth in love” Ephesians 4:15
- Tell the truth to heal
 - “The tongue of the wise brings healing.” Proverbs 12:18

Commandment #10

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor. Exodus 20:17

To covet means "to lust for another's property." It was different from the other commandments in that it did not deal with a specific act, but rather with an emotional, psychological sin. Therefore the breaking of this commandment could not be prosecuted in a law court. Yet "lust for another's property" often led to the breaking of the sixth through the ninth commandments. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

Commandment #10

You shall not covet

- What is missing in your life?
- Jesus said to the rich man, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Mark 10:21

What do you want more than you want God?

The Decalogue may be interpreted legitimately as a Bill of Rights, perhaps the world's first Bill of Rights. Yet unlike modern bills of rights, this document seeks not to secure my rights but to protect the rights of others. I am perceived as a potential violator of the other person's rights. Understood this way, the significance of the 10 declarations may be summarized as follows:

1. God's right to exclusive allegiance (Exod. 20:3; Deut. 5:7).
2. God's right to self-definition (Exod. 20:4–6; Deut. 5:8–10).
3. God's right to proper representation by His people (Exod. 20:7; Deut. 5:11).
4. God's right to His people's time (Exod. 20:8–11); a household's right to humane treatment by the head of the house (Deut. 5:12–15).
5. My parents' right to respect (Exod. 20:12; Deut. 5:16).
6. My neighbor's right to life (Exod. 20:13; Deut. 5:17).
7. My neighbor's right to a secure marriage (Exod. 20:14; Deut. 5:18).
8. My neighbor's right to personal property (Exod. 20:15; Deut. 5:19).
9. My neighbor's right to an honest hearing in court (Exod. 20:16; Deut. 5:20).
10. My neighbor's right to secure existence in the community (Exod. 20:17; Deut. 5:21).

The first four statements protect the rights of the covenant Lord; the last six protect the rights of the covenant community. The Decalogue calls on the redeemed to respond to the grace they have experienced in salvation with covenant commitment, first to God, and then to others. This is the essence of "love" (*'ahab*) as understood in both *the Old Testament and New Testament*. - Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary



**How is America doing today
when it comes to obeying the
10 Commandments?**

What happened next?

All the people perceived [literally “saw”] the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled [literally “moved”] and stood at a distance. Then they said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen [shema שְׁמָע]; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.” Exodus 20:18-19

- When Moses speaks, they **hear** the sound
- When God speaks, they **see** the sound

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and **in order that the fear** [יִרְאַה? yir’ ah] **of Him may remain with you**, so that you may not sin.”
Exodus 20:20

Our 2020 theme verse from January 5, 2020

How have we been tested in 2020?

- Global pandemic
- Thousands of deaths
- Racial conflicts
- Economic crash
- Schools closed
- Businesses closed
- Earthquakes
- Wildfires
- Officer involved shootings
- Riots and protests
- Efforts to defund the police
- Murder Hornets
- Hurricanes
- Presidential impeachment
- Presidential election

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test [נִסּוֹת *nasot*] you, and **in order that the fear of Him may remain with you**, so that you may not sin.”

Exodus 20:20

- Extra Hebrew word בְּעִבּוּר־ ba-abur [literally “in order that”] appears twice in Exodus 20:20... it connects two phrases
- Word נִסּוֹת *nasot* means to test or try... “show me what you can do”
 - Same word used in the testing of Abraham in the binding of Isaac (Genesis 22)
 - Related to the root word for “miracle” and “elevate”; there is a miracle involved and you will be elevated as a result

Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test [נִסּוֹת *nasot*] you, and **in order that the fear of Him may remain with you**, so that you may not sin.” Exodus 20:20

- God appears before the people so they will see His glory and majesty
 - 2nd instance of “in order that” וּבְעֵבֹר – “that His awe will be on your faces” ... in other words “reflected from you, not just internalized”
 - Word for “fear” or “awe” is same root as “to show” or “to see”
 - God’s awe should be visible in our lives
 - You may not sin because this mark is on you – this is a reminder to you of what God has done for you
 - You people are here to see and hear these things



**How should
we finish 2020?**

So the people stood [וַיִּעַמְדוּ is singular] at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven.’ ” Exodus 20:21-22

- In 20:18 “stood” וַיִּעַמְדוּ is plural
- In 20:21 “stood” וַיִּעַמְדוּ is singular... root עָמַד amad
- As the story moves from Exodus 20:18 to 20:21, the people have transitioned from individuals to a unified nation ... that is the essence of what happens at Sinai. – Elliott Chodoff
- In 20:22 you have “**seen** that I have spoken from heaven” not “**heard**”
- The essence of the testing... “I have shown you my miracles, you saw my voice (and it affected you) and with this experience I have imprinted my awe on your faces so you may not sin” – Elliott Chodoff

How should we finish 2020?

- Believe in God's goodness and love for you
- Say "I surrender" to Jesus as your Savior
- Follow Jesus in biblical baptism
- Make corporate worship a priority
- Give generously and regularly to God's work
- Volunteer in ministry – say "I am ready"
* Visit Ministry Booths today
- Vote for candidates who support biblical values
* Register to vote today
- Look for ways to "see" the Words of God