

The Twelve Commandments
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Exodus 20:2-17

2 I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 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:

5 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;

6 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

7 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.

8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates:

- 11 For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- 12 Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 13 Thou shalt not kill.
- 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 15 Thou shalt not steal.
- 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbor's.

In a Supreme Court decision back in 1980, Our Nation, for all practical purposes, kicked God out of our public school system and then similar moves were made on our court houses and other public institutions.

The most well known document outlining the rules of right and wrong regarding moral and social conduct and to whom we are ultimately accountable were banned from display in our Government and publicly funded institutions.

The 1980 Stone vs. Graham Supreme Court ruling reads as follows:

The pre-eminent purpose for posting the Ten Commandments on schoolroom walls is plainly religious in nature. The Ten Commandments

are undeniably a sacred text in the Jewish and Christian faiths, and no legislative recitation of a supposed secular purpose can blind us to that fact. The Commandments do not confine themselves to arguably secular matters, such as honoring one's parents, killing or murder, adultery, stealing, false witness, and covetousness. Rather, the first part of the Commandments concerns the religious duties of believers: worshipping the Lord God alone, avoiding idolatry, not using the Lord's name in vain, and observing the Sabbath Day.

There is certainly no question as to whether the behavior of those educated in our public system has improved or worsened since this ruling.

Also, everything the Supreme Court ruling says, with the exception of the first sentence, is true. There are many non-religious reasons to post the Ten Commandments and many non-religious people want them posted.

In an Anti-defamation League article supporting the Court's decision the following statement was also made:

“All of the Court's decisions banning government support for religious activity have rested on the First Amendment's requirement of separation of church and state.”

This is true.

There is, however, a major problem with this premise; the first amendment does not mention nor require any such separation of church and state.

Amendment I

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

The First Amendment does not take a lawyer to decipher. It was added to our Constitution as the first of 10 amendments known as the Bill of Rights on December 15, 1791.

As anyone can clearly read, the First Amendment simply restricts Congress from making certain laws:

It says, “Congress shall make no law”, and then we are given the list of the kinds of laws restricted.

Congress shall make no law:

- respecting [in regard to] an establishment of religion,
- prohibiting the free exercise thereof,
- abridging the freedom of speech,

- abridging the freedom of the press,
- abridging the right of the people peaceably to assemble,
- abridging the right of the people to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

There are six types of laws that Congress is specifically restricted from making. That is all the First Amendment says.

Even if Congress passed a law requiring this most well known list of rules for proper moral and social conduct to be hung in all our schools and public institutions; this would not violate the First Amendment because it does not constitute the establishment of a religion.

There exists no such requirement of separation of church and state in the First Amendment or anywhere else in our Constitution.

I looked up 'respecting' in Johnson's 1755 English Dictionary as well as the Oxford Dictionary; it means 'in regard to.'

What you have witnessed is one of the Devil's favorite tricks. That is, perpetuating an argument based on the ignorant assumption of a premise that is false.

It's like asking John, "John, have you stopped beating your wife?"

John's answer doesn't much matter. You could have a thousand discussions on John's right to beat or not beat his wife or the level of severity of the beating or the frequency of the beating or how many of the victim's rights are violated by the beating... You could even pass a law specifically prohibiting John from beating his wife.

John's reputation is ruined, he is now branded as a bully, he has been the subject of much gossip and shameful discussion; even his wife is mad at him until she remembers; "Oh yeah, John has never laid a hand on me."

Satan sets forth a lie; usually a partial truth with a big fat lie hidden right in the middle of it somewhere; then he gets it repeated so many times that the general population accepts it as truth just because they have heard it so much.

How many times have you heard of "separation of Church and state"? You are going to hear it a lot more as the Supreme Court is just now taking up the issue of gay marriage.

This is exactly the same style of evil that has been perpetuated upon would-be believers in regard to the purpose of God's Ten Commandments.

There are, of course, many more than these known as The Ten Commandments.

Jesus was asked which are the greatest of the commandments in the law of God.

Jesus replied by quoting:

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And...

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I *am* the LORD.

That event is recorded in

Matthew 22:36-40 Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

I. Satan has perpetuated a very well crafted lie.

A. He has phrased this lie many ways; usually in the form of a question:

1. Does your good outweigh your bad?
2. How many of your grandmothers and grandfathers and uncles and aunts have grown

old saying, “Well, I believe if I am a good person and I try to keep the commandments, I’ll be OK?”

3. No, Grandma, you’ve got Santa confused with Jesus; “he knows if you’ve been bad or good, so be good for goodness’ sake...”

B. Satan loves to play you.

1. **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2. He knew what God said; that there was only one tree she was not allowed to eat of.

3. We all know how that ended.

4. Don’t get into a battle of wits with the Devil or with his crowd; because unless you know your Bible, you are unarmed!

C. We see the evidence of this well crafted lie all throughout the Scriptures.

1. In Acts Paul is preaching to Jews who were convinced they could be justified by keeping God’s commandments.

Acts 13:38-39

38 Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

2. In Matthew 19, a young man, probably a Pharisee in training, came to Jesus continuing a discussion he had, no doubt, been having with his peers.

Matthew 19:16

16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

3. Thanks to Satan's well crafted lie, he is asking **the wrong question**. (How are you going to get a right answer to a wrong question?)

4. **The right question** goes more like the one asked Paul and Silas by the Philippian jailer: **Acts 16:30** And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

5. Satan loves to manipulate the truth and especially just to present part of it.

II. It is possible, in theory, for you to do what it takes to be saved.

A. This fact is stated plainly by Jesus.

1. Jesus told the young Pharisee this: **Matthew 19:17** And he said unto him, **Why callest thou me good? there is none good but**

one, *that is*, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

2. **Matthew 19:18** He saith unto him, Which? Here you can see the lie this young man had bought in to; “Surely if I keep enough of these commandments, God will accept me; I’m just not sure which ones.”

B. This fact is stated in the law as well.

1. Jesus could just have quoted him the law in **Leviticus 19:37** Therefore shall ye observe **all** my statutes, and **all** my judgments, and do them: I *am* the LORD.

2. Instead, Jesus quoted him Commandments #6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 and then quoted him Great Commandment # 2.

Matthew 19:18-20

18 Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19 Honor thy father and *thy* mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

3. Yes, you can receive eternal life by keeping the commandments; all you have to do is from the time you know right from wrong; that is from your youth up, keep all of God’s commandments; not just the ten or the twelve; **all of them** like we just read in Leviticus 19:37.

6. It's the same as we are told in **Deuteronomy 6:25** And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do **all** these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

7. That's it, that's all you have to do; piece of cake, right?

B. Why did Jesus quote the young Pharisee these particular commandments?

1. **Romans 3:19-20** tells us why:

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

2. Had he murdered? Probably not.

7. Had he committed adultery? He was young; possibly not?

8. Had he stolen? He was rich; likely from inheritance; no need to steal.

9. Did he lie? Likely but maybe not; he may have even honored his father and mother.

10. Did he love others as himself?

11. If Jesus Himself called you to sell what you have and come follow Him, would you go with Him and preach the gospel to the lost? If you loved others as yourself, you would.

12. **Matthew 19:20** The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: I guess that tells us whether he lies or not.

III. Since you have already blown it, what now?

A. Just how good have you been doing at keeping God's commandments?

1. There are many others, but let's just look at these twelve.

2. We know you have not loved God with all your heart or your neighbor as yourself; so that's two down.

3. **Thou shalt have no other gods before me.** Have you ever put anything in priority above worshipping God? Oops.

4. **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:** Have you ever made yourself some pictures or statues of Jesus or Angels or the Saints or the Devil or have you ever bowed down before any of those?

5. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; Have you ever?
 6. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Do you ever work on Saturday?
 7. Honor thy father and thy mother. Did you always honor and obey your parents?
 8. Thou shalt not kill. Have you ever murdered anyone? (Finally, one I haven't broken!)
 9. Are you sure about that? **1John 3:15** Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer:...
 10. Have you committed adultery?
 11. Have you lied?
 12. Have you stolen?
 13. Have you coveted that which is another's?
- B. Guess what, Grandma, even if God did grade on a curve; even if God did allow your good to outweigh your bad; WHICH HE DOES NOT; you are not doing so good!*
1. So what are you going to do now?
 2. You have two choices:
 3. **Matthew 19:22** But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for

he had great possessions. You can be like the young Pharisee and go away sorrowing.

4. Or, you can allow the law to fulfill its purpose by revealing to you that you are a guilty unworthy sinner who desperately needs a Savior.

5. And you can respond by placing your trust in Jesus - Who is good, because he is God, and Who died in your place and with His own blood paid for all your sins.

In Conclusion:

Jesus said if you love God with all your heart, soul and mind...and you love your neighbor as yourself; you have fulfilled all the commandments.

We know, of course, that none but Jesus ever have.

Thus if you have not loved God with all your heart, soul and mind...and you have not loved your neighbor as yourself, what have you broken...that's right; all the commandments.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

You are simply not going to make it without Jesus! What is it going to be?