

EXODUS: The Person, Promise, and Power of God

Exodus 20 – The Ten Words of Our Fearful God, Part 4

12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

This is the first command with a _____/ _____ attached.

This commandment is essential to God’s plan for _____.

This command is the _____ command to all the rest that follow ...

Authority Respect Trust Social order Human flourishing

Augustine said, “If anyone fails to honor his parents, is there anyone he will spare?”

John Calvin taught that “honor” requires 3 things:

- 1) _____ - Because parenting is “weighty”
- 2) _____ - Because this is God’s design for our good
- 3) _____ - Because this prepares for a life of honoring God

Are their **limits** to honoring parents?

Is this a “**big deal**”?

Q. What is God’s will for you in the fifth commandment?

A. That I honor, love, and be loyal to my father and mother and all those in authority over me; that I submit myself with proper obedience to all their good teaching and discipline;¹ and also that I be patient with their failings –² for through them God chooses to rule us.³

¹ Ex. 21:17; Prov. 1:8; 4:1; Rom. 13:1-2; Eph. 5:21-22; 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-4:1

² Prov. 20:20; 23:22; 1 Pet. 2:18

³ Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-8; Eph. 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-21

13 “You shall not murder.

Only TWO words in Hebrew: *lo ratsach* (“Murder” is a better word here than “kill” ... *qatal*)

This command prohibits taking _____ life:

- Does not prohibit _____ (Ex. 22:2-3)
- Does not prohibit _____ (Gen. 9:6) *lex talionis* ...
- Does not prohibit _____.

But ...

- Does prohibit premeditated _____ murder
- Does prohibit intentional but _____ murder
- Does prohibit reckless _____

This command establishes the _____ of life.

- Prohibits _____
- Prohibits _____
- Prohibits _____

This command establishes the _____ of critical moral law.

How does Jesus transform this command?

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment ... (Matthew 5:21-22)

The _____ that opens us to the _____ that leads to the _____ ...

There's another huge lesson here:

Q. What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

A. I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor – not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds – and I am not to be party to this in others;¹ rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge.² I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.³ Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.⁴

¹ Gen. 9:6; Lev. 19:17-18; Matt. 5:21-22; 26:52

² Prov. 25:21-22; Matt. 18:35; Rom. 12:19; Eph. 4:26

³ Matt. 4:7; 26:52; Rom. 13:11-14

⁴ Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:14; Rom. 13:4

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

Adultery is marital _____.

The primary purpose of this commandment is to protect _____.

Adultery is the _____ sexual sin because it violates the trust between a husband and wife, and it breaks the marriage _____ made before God.

This commandment forbids _____ sexual activity that violates the covenant of marriage.

Remember – the paradigm for marriage is _____ and the _____.

Why is this command critical?

How does Jesus transform this command?

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart ... (Matthew 5:27-28)

In our current culture:

“What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.” (Mark 7:20-23)

Q. What does the seventh commandment teach us?

A. That God condemns all unchastity,¹ and that therefore we should thoroughly detest it² and live decent and chaste lives,³ within or outside of the holy state of marriage.

¹ Lev. 18:30; Eph. 5:3-5

² Jude 22-23

³ 1 Cor. 7:1-9; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4

Q. Does God, in this commandment, forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?

A. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul, and God wants both to be kept clean and holy. That is why God forbids all unchaste actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires,¹ and whatever may incite someone to them.²

¹ Matt. 5:27-29; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; Eph. 5:3-4

² 1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 5:18

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

The commandment forbids outright theft and robbery – taking what doesn’t _____.

***Ganaf** – stealing – covers all conventional types of theft: burglary (breaking into a home or building to commit theft); robbery (taking property directly from another using violence or intimidation); larceny (taking something without permission and not returning it); hijacking (using force to take goods in transit or seizing control of a bus, truck, plane, etc.); shoplifting (taking items from a store during business hours without paying for them); and pickpocketing and purse-snatching. The term ganaf also covers a wide range of exotic and complex thefts ... [such as] embezzlement (the fraudulent taking of money or other goods entrusted to one’s care). There is extortion (getting money from someone by means of threats or misuses of authority), and racketeering (obtaining money by any illegal means).*

Rob Schenck, *The Ten Words That Will Change a Nation*, p. 155.

Stealing is a sin against God in at least two ways.

- First, every theft is a failure to trust in his _____.
- Every theft is also an assault on God's _____ for others.

Q. What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

A. God forbids not only outright theft and robbery, punishable by law.¹ But in God's sight theft also includes all scheming and swindling in order to get our neighbor's goods for ourselves, whether by force or means that appear legitimate,² such as inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume; fraudulent merchandising; counterfeit money; excessive interest; or any other means forbidden by God.³

In addition God forbids all greed⁴ and pointless squandering of his gifts.⁵

¹ Ex. 22:1; 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 6:9-10

² Mic. 6:9-11; Luke 3:14; James 5:1-6

³ Deut. 25:13-16; Ps. 15:5; Prov. 11:1; 12:22; Ezek. 45:9-12; Luke 6:35

⁴ Luke 12:15; Eph. 5:5

⁵ Prov. 21:20; 23:20-21; Luke 16:10-13

Q. What does God require of you in this commandment?

A. That I do whatever I can for my neighbor's good, that I treat others as I would like them to treat me, and that I work faithfully so that I may share with those in need.¹

¹ Isa. 58:5-10; Matt. 7:12; Gal. 6:9-10; Eph. 4:28

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The principle of the command is that we should not _____.

The context of the command is a _____.

"What we see throughout the Ten Commandments is that each commandment often gives us the worst example of sinning in some way. For instance, murder is the worst way of breaking the sixth commandment, but Jesus tells us that it's not the only way. You can also be angry. Adultery is the worst way of violating the seventh commandment, but Jesus tells us that if you lust after someone, you have also sinned. So, with the ninth commandment, the worst thing you can do is bear false witness in a court of law, where someone's life could be snuffed out because of your deceit. The commandment doesn't cover just courtroom infractions. It deals with all manner of falsehoods. Throughout the Ten Commandments we've seen that God cares about justice. Why would he make laws against murder except that he cares about each person made in his image? Why would he make laws against stealing except that he cares about the right of private property? Here we see that God cares deeply about verbal justice. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" just isn't true. Lies hurt people deeply. This command was meant to protect marriages, property, life, reputation, and honor."

Kevin DeYoung, *The Ten Commandments: What They Mean, Why They Matter, and Why We Should Obey Them*, pp. 144-145

Q. What is the aim of the ninth commandment?

A. That I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing.¹

Rather, in court and everywhere else, I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind; these are the very devices the devil uses, and they would call down on me God's intense wrath.²

I should love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it.³

And I should do what I can to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.⁴

¹ Ps. 15; Prov. 19:5; Matt. 7:1; Luke 6:37; Rom. 1:28-32

² Lev. 19:11-12; Prov. 12:22; 13:5; John 8:44; Rev. 21:8a>

³ 1 Cor. 13:6; Eph. 4:25

⁴ 1 Pet. 3:8-9; 4:8

17 "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 is your neighbor's."

Coveting is not the same as having _____ or _____.

Coveting is sinful because:

- It is the _____ of the 8th commandment. It is a matter of the _____.
(Joshua 7:21, James 4:2-3, Romans 1:28-31)
- It is the primary fuel of _____ with God.

Q. What is the aim of the tenth commandment?

A. That not even the slightest desire or thought contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in our hearts. Rather, with all our hearts we should always hate sin and take pleasure in whatever is right.¹

¹ Ps. 19:7-14; 139:23-24; Rom. 7:7-8