



Today, we get to a portion of Scripture that every person in this room has at least heard about – the Ten Commandments. Now, you may not know what they are, but you've at least heard them referenced. Today, we will quickly work through the Ten Commandments and consider how they apply to our lives. A question you may have today may go like this: Are the Ten Commandments binding upon our lives today? Some would argue we're not under the law – as New Testament Christians, we're under grace. We can surely agree with that statement because it's biblical! However, in the New Testament, the Ten Commandments serve as a guide for living the Christian life. So, are they *binding* on us today? Binding is the wrong word. Are they *benefitting* us today? Do they *lead to life* today? Should we obey them today? Yes!

Key Passage: Exodus 20

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some common modern-day idols that people might not recognize as idols? How can we guard against idolatry in our lives? How can you prioritize God above all else, ensuring no other idols take precedence?

God goes on to say, you must not bow down to them or serve them, for I am the Lord! It's not likely that any of us are actively crafting idols to bow down to, but there's no doubt that we're living in an idolatrous culture. In our time, our idols are likely money, possessions, careers, hobbies, social media, personal autonomy, etc. If you're honest with yourself, is anything taking precedence over God right now? Is anything taking priority over my relationship with Christ or my involvement with church?

2. How do you interpret the commandment to not take the name of the Lord in vain beyond refraining from using it in profanity?

We often think to ourselves, I don't need to cuss using the name of God! While that is undoubtedly true, it doesn't give the full scope of what it means to take the name of God in vain. It also references things like claiming to speak for God when you're just speaking for yourself and, in other words, twisting a conversation to persuade someone about something and using God's name as the reasoning when, in reality, it's selfish ambition.

3. What does it mean to observe the Sabbath? Do you think this is practical and necessary in today's fast-paced world? Why or why not? Evaluate your weekly schedule. Is there a designated time for rest and worship? If not, how can you incorporate intentional Sabbath observance into your routine?

Jews worshipped God officially on the Sabbath day, which was Saturday. When Jesus was raised from the dead, Christians started worshipping on Sundays because it was the day Jesus was resurrected. Even with this, the principle of observing a Sabbath day of rest and worship is still to be observed by

Christians. Is there one day in your week when you intentionally stop, rest, and worship? Are you burning the candle at both ends? Some of you are nearing burnout, and you may not be pointing to the right thing as the real cause of your burnout. Could your burnout result from going 90 miles per hour every day of the week?

4. What does it mean to honor your parents, especially as adults? How can we practically demonstrate honor and appreciation towards our parents more consistently?

This is the only command with a principle/promise for your life. Do you want to live a long life? Honor your parents! Those who honor/obey their parents are more likely to live long lives. This is an excellent word for those of you who are kids, students, college students, or young adults. You are still in that mode of your parents being the authority in your life.

Five Ways to Honor Your Parents:

- 1.) Tell them you love them.
 - Some of your mothers would melt today if you told them, you loved them.
- 2.) Show appreciation to them.
 - Thank you, I appreciate you taking us to eat, picking me up, etc.
- 3.) Show love to your siblings.
 - All parents want their kids to get along; it is an easy way to honor them.
- 4.) Ask them for their opinion.
 - It means a lot when you show vulnerability and want their help.
- 5.) Do a chore for your parents.
 - Clean your room, put away the dishes, or serve them in another way.

5. Jesus expanded on the commandments against murder and adultery. How do these expansions challenge our understanding of these commandments?

When it comes to murder, Jesus ups the command in Matthew 5 when He says, “You’ve heard it said that it’s wrong to murder; whoever is angry with his brother is liable to judgment.” Do you have anger in your heart today towards someone else?

Again, Jesus raises the bar in the Sermon on the Mount regarding lust and adultery. People often say it’s just a little pornography – it’s not hurting anybody, it’s just a little flirting or fantasizing – not that big of a deal. Jesus says you’ve committed adultery in your heart. People commit adultery in their hearts before they commit adultery with their bodies. It’s time to run if you’re being tempted!

6. The commandment against stealing extends beyond physical theft. In what other ways can stealing occur in our daily lives?
7. Bearing false witness is about lying and spreading rumors or gossip. How can we ensure that we’re not bearing false witness against others?

This could be rumors about people you help circulate, slander against someone, or simply lying about someone else. Here’s an easy way to obey this command – just speak positively about other people and not harmfully, and you’ll be free from bearing false witness.

8. The commandment against coveting focuses on the heart's desires. How can we cultivate contentment and guard against covetousness?

It's not likely that any of us is coveting our neighbor's donkey! However, this passage teaches us that you can covet just about anything. To covet means to desire what belongs to someone else. Coveting is a secret sin that is often masked in self-righteous criticism. We criticize someone because of what they have when, in reality, we want it. Maybe it's someone's gift or one of their possessions. Sometimes, it's not even spoken out loud but screamed loud in the heart. God says loud and clear, don't be one who covets.