

The Ten Commandments express the character of God and His Holiness that He required of His people in order to have fellowship with Him during the Old Testament times. The Ten Commandments define God's moral guidelines that serve to protect each person from destruction rather than create bondage. The Ten Commandments still serve as a guideline for Holiness. They serve to identify our sin and keep us from continuing in a path of sin. The Sermon on the Mount serves the same purpose in the New Testament which is found in Matthew chapters five through seven.

- Exodus 20:1-17 And God spoke all these words, saying: "I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 1st **"You shall have no other gods before Me.**
- 2nd **"You shall not make for yourself a carved image**-any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
- 3rd **"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,** for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.
- 4th **"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.
- 5th **"Honor your father and your mother,** that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
- 6th **"You shall not murder.**
- 7th **"You shall not commit adultery.**
- 8th **"You shall not steal.**
- 9th **"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 10th **"You shall not covet your neighbor's house;** you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor's."
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Rom 8:1-4 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

1 Peter 1:15-16 but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Discussion Item 1: *If Christ sets us free from the Law, what role do the Ten Commandments and Sermon on the Mount have today?*

Discussion Item 2: *When you sin, do you identify that sin with one of the Ten Commandments?*

Life Application: *Read the Ten Commandments once a month as a reminder from God to improve your walk and fellowship demonstrated by your repentance.*

Helpful Definition:

holy - Set apart to the service or worship of God; hallowed; sacred; reserved from profane or common use. (*Webster*)

Notes:

Proverb 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer *is* an abomination.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.