

Seeing Jesus in God: Christians and The Ten Commandments



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Agenda

1. Do the Ten Commandments apply to Christians?
 - Quotes from Jesus and Paul about the Law
 - View from the Old Testament
2. The Ten Commandments
 - Discreet commands or categories?
 - Some behaviors forbidden repeatedly in Scripture don't appear to be on this list
 - Principles observed from Jesus' teaching about 2 commandments
3. Applying observed principles to other commandments
 - Error 1: Minimize the commandment
4. Human additions to commandments
 - Error 2: Overburdening the commandment

Do the Ten Commandments Apply to Christians?

- Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Matt. 5:17-18
- Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 5:19
- Forgive us our sins... Luke 11:4a
- Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. Rom. 3:20
- I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ...So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. Rom. 7:7b,12

If You Love Me, Keep My Commands. John 14:15

What is the Purpose of the Law?

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matt. 22:36-40

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deut. 6:5

you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:18b

- **Directs Us to Love God**
- **Directs Us to Love Others**
- **Instruction on how to do both**
- **Makes us conscious of our sin**

There are at least two other related Hebrew words derived from the same root as torah. The first is the word for teacher, moreh (מורה). A moreh is one who imparts instruction to his/her students. The second important word is parent, horeh (הורה). This indicates to us that one of the primary roles for a parent is to teach and instruct the child.

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Rules to Keep Us Safe and Enable Us to Flourish

The Law is Good

- Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Psa. 119:97
- If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river... Isa. 48:18
- Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." Deut. 4:6



Chosen for the 10 – Suggest Wide Applicability



Error 1:
Minimize the
Commandmen
t

- **Thou shalt not kill**

- “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. Matt. 5:21-22

- **Thou shalt not commit adultery**

- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matt. 6:27-28

- **No other Gods before Me**
- **Graven Images**
 - **Idolatry: Putting *anything* before God**

- **False witness**

- **Lying**

- **Gossip**

- **Taking God's Name in Vain**

U Deuteronomy 5:11 WLC

Expand

11 לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת־שֵׁם־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוּא כִּי לֹא
יִנָּקֶה יְהוָה אֶת אֲשֶׁר־יִשָּׂא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ לְשׁוּא : ס

ESV

11 “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.

U Deuteronomy 5:20 WLC

Expand

20 וְלֹא־תַעֲנֶה בְּרֵעֶךָ עַד נִשְׂוָא : ס

ESV

20 “And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- **Taking God's Name in Vain**
 - **False Prophecy**
 - **Claiming God's endorsement of viewpoint**

Providing for the Poor

- Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. Isa. 1:17
- “Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.” Ezekiel 16:49
- Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done. Prov. 19:17

Providing for the Poor

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 23:22

If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you. Lev. 25:35

"At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied." Deuteronomy 14:28-29

Which Law Applies?

Error 2: Overburdening the Commandmen t



Overburdening the Commandment

- Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. Deuteronomy 4:2
- Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. Prov. 30:5-6
- And in vain they worship Me, Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men. Matt. 15:9

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Matt. 11:30

Overburdening the Sabbath

God wants us to remember our past slavery and not fall into slavery again

- Remember that you were **slaves** in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the **Sabbath** day.. Deut. 5:15

Rules Added with the Good Intention of Defining the Law

- Capital crime – additional constraints implemented to avoid breaking the law

BUT, the Result is the Opposite of the Spirit of the Law:

- Turns Rest into Work and a Burden; Turns Freedom into Slavery

Observing the Sabbath Builds Our Faith and Demonstrates Our Freedom

Sabbath

Scriptural Rules

- No work for any in the household – including servants and foreigners.
- No kindling in dwelling.
- No carrying loads – through the gates of Jerusalem.
- Stay in your locale.
- Don't forsake community.
- Don't use your own words.
- Violation a capital crime.

Reasons and Benefits

- Commemorates God's creation process
- Sign of our covenant with God
- Entry into God's presence for "foreigners"
- Rest and refreshment
- Reliance on God
- Freedom
- Positive witness to others

It is extremely difficult to enjoy a stress-free moment outside of work when an email that will change your train of thought and get you thinking (read: stressing) about work can drop onto your phone at any moment. If detaching yourself from work-related communication on weekday evenings is too big a challenge, then how about the weekend? Choose blocks of time where you cut the cord and go offline. You'll be amazed at how refreshing these breaks are and how they reduce stress by putting a mental recharge into your weekly schedule.

Dr. Travis Bradberry, Co-Author Emotional Intelligence

“This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.” Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

Neh. 8:9b-12



God's Law Makes Our Lives Better, Right Now and Forever

APPENDIX

- Scripture Pertaining to Sabbath
 - may not be comprehensive

Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out.” Ex. 16:29b

“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” Exodus 20:9-10

“Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy. Ex. 31:13

You are to work for six days, but the seventh day will be a holy day, a Sabbath of rest to honor the LORD. Anyone who works on that day must be put to death. On the Sabbath day you must not light a fire in any of your houses.” Ex. 35:2-3

There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the LORD. Lev. 23:3

God promised to gather eunuchs and foreigners if they hold fast to his covenant and keep His Sabbath. Promised His house would be called a house of prayer for all nations. Isa. 56

“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD... ISA. 58:13-14A

This is what the LORD says: Be careful not to carry a load on the Sabbath day or bring it through the gates of Jerusalem. Jer. 17:21