

Ten Pillars of Christ Series
Pillar Two: Ten Commandments
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: By Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

Today we are mainly going to look at what Jesus Christ taught about the Ten Commandments.

Before we explore the teachings of Christ concerning His Ten Commandments let's first look at some basics.

What are the three main purposes of the Ten Commandments of God also know as His Law?

1 – Defines and reveals sin clearly

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Romans 3:20 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.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

The Ten Commandments is like mirror that reveals sin.

God's Ten Commandments define and reveal sin. Like a physical mirror, the Ten commandments can only reveal the dirt of sin in your life, but it can not clean it.

2 – Standard of Righteousness in which we are judged

Psalms 119:172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

James 2:11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Righteous (Hebrew) – just, lawful

The Ten Commandments cannot make you righteousness or lawful. The commandments is only that standard of righteousness. Just like a posted speed limit sign cannot make you follow the speed limit. The speed limit only reveals the law that is designed to keep you safe. The same is true with the Ten Commandments.

3 – Conversion Tool that points us to Jesus

Psalms 19:7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith

Bible Definition: Convert = Turn to, to return, to turn back

Points You to Jesus

Even though God's law cannot clean you from sin, it points you to Jesus Christ who can clean you and save you from sin. Christ covers you with His righteousness in order for you keep the standard of righteousness, the Ten commandments.

Is it enough to know about the commandments of God without obeying ALL of them?

James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

James 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Where are the Ten Commandments found?

Exodus 20:1 – 17 and Deuteronomy 5:6 - 21

What are God's Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20:1-17 (Summarized)

1 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

2 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:

3 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;

4 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God:

5 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

6 Thou shalt not kill.

7 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8 Thou shalt not steal.

9 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

10 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

All of the Ten Commandments are equally important. According to **Exodus 31:18**, the Ten Commandments were written on stone by the finger of God which represents the permanence and eternal origin of God's Commandments.

Exo 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

Psalm 111:7 & 8 says, "...all his commandments *are* sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, *and are* done in truth and uprightness."

God wants to write His commandments on the hearts and minds of all people.

Hebrews 10:16 says, "This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."

Now that we understand the some basics of the Ten Commandment let's look directly want Jesus Christ teaches us about His Ten Commandments.

Did you know that the foundation of Christ's first sermon on the mountain from Matthew chapters 5 through 7 was based on the Ten Commandments? The commandments were the main platform of the message. This is powerful!

What are some key lessons that Christ teaches us about His Ten commandments in the introduction of His first sermon on the mountain of "TRUTH" in Matthew 5?

Mat 5:1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

Mat 5:2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Mat 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:4 Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Mat 5:5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Mat 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Mat 5:7 Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Mat 5:8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Mat 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Mat 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Remember the commandments reveal sin, it reveals that you need a Savior, and that the commandments of God is the standard of righteousness it points us to Christ! The commandments is the conversion tool that turns from sin to Christ.

What are the contents of the Salvation contract? The law (Ten Commandments) and the testimonies! Remember the commandments reveal sin and the testimonies give us the solution for sin, Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The salvation contract that Jesus offers is a gift. Your name is on it. Christ already fulfilled His end of the deal all you have to do is your part. This is what He is teaching in Matthew 5:3 – 12.

In the introduction of Christ's first sermon He reveals the blessings if you and I do our part in fulfilling the contract of salvation in Matthew 5:3 – 12.

These are the steps to salvation. Jesus is also teaching us that there is NO SALVATION CONTRACT without the Ten Commandments.

Steps to Salvation based on Matthew 5:3 -12

You MUST be	Blessing
1) Poor in spirit (Beggar – recognize you need for a Savior)	Kingdom of Heaven
2) Mourn (Sorrowful for sin – turn from sin: REPENT)	Comforted
3) Meek (Humble – living with the grace of God)	Inherit the Kingdom of Heaven
4) Hunger & Thirst after Righteousness – Commandments	Satisfied!
5) Merciful – show the compassion of Christ to others	Obtain mercy
6) Pure in Heart – Not defiled with worldliness and sin – HOLY	See God
7) Peacemaker – Minds constantly on Christ, even in chaos	Child of God
8) Persecuted for living by ALL the Commandments	Kingdom of Heaven
9) Reviled & Lied About for the sake of TRUTH	Reward – Heaven!

Let's continue to look at this powerful sermon in Matthew 5:13 – 16.

As a result of keeping the commandments in Christ, what are we like to the world?

Mat 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

1) Salt = You give the world “favor” because you are a “law abiding” citizen on earth sharing the compassion of Jesus Christ.

Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

2) Light = You point others to Christ who is the light!

Good works = Keep ALL of God's Ten Commandments through the power of Jesus! A keeper of the contract of salvation, the law and the testimonies!

In the next verses in Matthew 5:17 and 18, what did Jesus say to confirm and emphasize that the main foundation to His sermon is about keeping the Ten Commandments of God?

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

This confirms that the main theme of Christ message on the mountain of “truth” was about the ten commandments and that He did not come to destroy the salvation contract (law and testimonies) but to give us better understanding of the law.

Psalms 19:7 says, “The law of the LORD *is* perfect.” Why would Jesus come to get rid of or abolish a perfect law? Do you think Jesus would want to destroy His perfect Ten commandments which promotes a loving relationship between us and God, and a loving relationship with others? The Ten Commandments promotes a healthy society. It promotes a society to keep God first in all things. The Commandments recognizes God as

our creator and Lord of the Seventh-day Sabbath. The Ten Commandments of God promotes a crime free society. It promotes an honest and truthful society. If the Ten Commandments promotes God our Creator, love, and honesty, why would Jesus get rid of them? That does not make sense. Jesus did not come to destroy His law but to give us a better understanding of it.

At the time of Christ the Jewish leader confused the people about God law because they added and subtracted from God's law. Jesus came to clear up any confusion about the difference between God's Holy commandments and made man commandments.

What does Jesus say next about those who break even one commandment of God and teach that we don't have to keep the Ten Commandments of God?

Mat 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Then after verse 19, Jesus then clears up MUCH confusion that the Jewish leadership, the Pharisees, caused concerning the Ten Commandments of God.

What does Jesus say about setting the standard of righteousness based on the leadership of the church?

Mat 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus reveals here that church leadership is NOT the standard of righteousness. Pastors, preachers, teachers, church administrators are NOT the standard of righteousness. Why? Because our righteousness is filthy! Remember the Ten Commandments sets the standard righteousness, it does not make you righteous. When we accept Christ in our lives He covers us with His righteousness so you and I can keep a righteous law, the Ten Commandments.

Pastors are humans, their standards change overtime. God's law does not change, it is established forever. Jesus revealed the curse of comparing our righteousness with others, will not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The righteousness of leadership creates their own commandments in which they teach to others.

What did Jesus say about this? Is their worship acceptable?

Mat 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

Mat 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

“Nonpracticing Sin”?

At the time of Christ it was apparent that the Jewish leaders were teaching that “non practicing” sin was not really sin. If a person did not physically comment sin that it can be seen by everybody else that it was okay. It was righteous. Why were the church leadership teaching this? Because they themselves had deep seed sins in the heart and mind.

Jesus exposed this nonpracticing teaching among the people and cleared up any confusion of where sin starts and how it manifests itself in the mind. Jesus reveals that there is NO such thing has a “non practicing” clause in the law of God! Let's continue with this powerful sermon. Let's look at some practical examples how sin can be in the heart and mind even if it is not “practiced” openly.

What does Jesus teach about murder (sixth commandment)?

Mat 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

Mat 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca (worthless!), shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

For centuries the Jewish leadership had the blood of martyr on their hands. They hated truth without a cause! The hate was first conceived and manifested in the thoughts. Hate without cause is murder, it is breaking the commandments of God, even though he or she does not physically kill someone. Jesus teaches us here that a “non practicing” murder is still a murderer and is breaking the commandments of God! It is as interesting to see that hate will blind those who hate to the point that they will actually kill someone or have someone killed, but still view themselves as “righteousness”, blameless, and holy. This is what the Pharisee and Sadducees believed even when they killed Christ. They hated Christ in their heart, they saw Him as “worthless”. They did not see their hate as murder, neither the physical act, but an heroic act to save the people!

What does Jesus teach us about committing adultery (seventh-day commandment)?

Mat 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

Mat 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

This includes all forms of adultery which includes fornication and homosexuality. This is sin. Jesus reveals again there is no clause in His commandments that say that it is okay to be a “nonpracticing” sinner. There is NO such thing. Breaking God's law is sin, in the mind of physical act!

Jesus was trying to wake up the people to the true understanding of God's commandment. Sin, the breaking the Ten Commandments is more than just the physical act, it ALL starts where? In the mind and heart.

What else does Jesus teach about adultery?

Mat 5:31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

Mat 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

What does Jesus teach us about covetousness (Tenth Commandment) and having other god's before God (First Commandment) through the story of the rich young ruler?

Mar 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Mar 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, *Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.*

Mar 10:19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

Mar 10:20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Mar 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, *One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*

Mar 10:22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

What was the main problem with the rich young ruler?

He was covetous and put his money and stuff before God. His money and possessions was his god

Covet – desiring or lusting after things that does not belong to you. Or desiring things that do not glorify or

please God.

Covetousness is the root of ALL sin that is probably why it is tenth commandment. Covetousness is a condition of the heart and mind that can be hidden from ALL people, but not God. Covetousness may manifest itself as a physical act by breaking another commandment such as stealing. Before someone steals he or she first covet the item before they steal it. Before someone cheats on his wife they first lust after someone else then physically commit adultery.

The rich young ruler went away sad, why because he loved his stuff!

Mat 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Stuff? Money? Fame? Fortune? ALL EMPTINESS & worthless in the eyes of God.

What does Jesus teach us about honoring father and mother (fifth commandment)?

Honor means to help lift the burden and to be respectful to your mother and father despite your age. The Jewish leaders taught the people that it was literally okay to dishonor your parents as long as it “benefited” the church financially! This is not what the commandments teach about honoring parents.

Mat 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

Mat 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Mat 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, **Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?**

Mat 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

Mat 15:5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his father or his mother*, *It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;*

Mat 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*

What does Jesus teach us about taking the Lord name in vain (third commandment)?

This is more than cursing. Taking the Lord name in vain is professing to take on the name of Christ, but don't not act like Christ. In other words taking the Lord's name in vain is hypocrisy, an actor. Saying one thing, but doing another. Jesus exposed the Jewish leadership's hypocrisy.

Hypocrite (Greek) – Strongs: hupokritēs [**hoop-ok-ree-tace'**] - an **actor under an assumed character** (*stage player*), that is, (figuratively) a *dissembler* (“hypocrite”): - hypocrite.

Mat 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

Mat 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their lips*; but their heart is far from me.

Mat 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for doctrines the commandments of men.*

Mat 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Mat 23:2 Saying, **The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:**

Mat 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.*

Mat 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

Mat 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

Mat 23:6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
 Mat 23:7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

Mat 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Mat 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Mat 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Mat 23:23 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**

Mat 23:24 *Ye* blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Mat 23:26 *Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Mat 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness.

Mat 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

In general what does Jesus command us to do with all sin, the disobedience of God's law?

Mat 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Mat 5:30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Jesus shows us how serious sin is. Jesus says, "Cut it off!" Cut of all temptation that leads to sin! Jesus is revealing the following:

Symbolic	Meaning
Pluck out Right Eye	Cut off the things you watch or look that does not glorify God and cause you to sin.
Cut of Right Hand	Cut off the things you do that does not glorify God and cause you to sin.

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

It's time to cut of the Dish Network, Direct TV, or cable! Time to cut off doing the things that do not please God. The time is now. Get the scissors, God's Word to help with the cut!

What does Jesus say is practical proof that you truly love Him?

Joh 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Joh 5:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

What does the Bible call those who say they love Jesus, but do not keep his commandments?

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Isa 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

What does the Ten Commandments teach us about love? What does Jesus say?

Matthew 22:37 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.

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

1 John 4:8 says, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

Romans 13:10 says, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law."

God and His Ten Commandments reflect each other they are all about love. The Ten Commandments teach us about practical love. Matthew 22:40 reveals that the Ten Commandments hang on loving God and others. Loving God and others is not a substitute of the Ten Commandments, but a summary. The Ten Commandments give us the details how to love God and others. The first four commandments teach how to love God and the last six commandments teach us how to love others.

Today's lesson was the commandments taught directly from Jesus. Jesus did not come to destroy His law but to fulfill it. He wants to write the law of God on your hearts. All sin and worldliness must be cut off. Sin is serious, but Jesus is the solution only if we daily humble ourselves, deny self, pick up the cross, and follow Jesus. He gives us the power to overcome sin and keep His commandments.

Appeal

How are we to live in this present world as we look for the second coming of Jesus Christ?

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

What does Jesus teach about the seventh-day Sabbath? (Next lesson in this series)