

# **The Nine Commandments**



We do not have to keep the Law for our salvation today. Jesus fulfilled the Law for us and when we believe that He took our sins on Himself and died on our place, we are placed in Christ and are on our way to heaven. That being said, many churches continue to put a lot of emphasis on following the 10 Commandments. It can be confusing for many believers.

Grace believers know that believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ—for our sins and in our place—and that alone, saves us. But since we know how to behave in a way pleasing to God, it is smart to do the best we can to behave that way!

Here are the 10 Commandments as they were given to Moses, the first 10 of a total of 613, known as The Law.

### Exodus 20:1-17

And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

**(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: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

**(3)**Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name 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: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. **(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 neighbor. **(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 anything that is thy neighbour's.

The difference between Israel following the Law (all 613 parts,) and us doing our best to follow the 10 Commandments, is that Israel was required to follow the Law to show their faith. They received blessings if they followed the Law, and they were penalized--cursed--if they did not follow the Law. (Many times the penalty was death.)

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15-16

And it shall come to pass, **if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:** And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

**<sup>15</sup>But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.**

The Jews in Jesus day were required to follow the Law. Jesus told His disciples:

John 14:15

**If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

Jesus told His disciples that He came to fulfill, complete, the Law, not to get rid of it.

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.**

But, as dispensational Bible students, we know that Jesus was talking to the Jews when he was on the earth. Jesus gave Paul the information for us. Paul is our apostle.

After Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, Paul was given a different ministry that Jesus revealed to him about the Church, the Body of Christ. It had been a mystery until it was revealed to Paul.

### Colossians 1:25-27

Whereof I am made a minister, **according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you**, to fulfil the word of God; Even **the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

We must acknowledge that Paul taught information straight from the Lord Jesus Christ.

### 1 Corinthians 14:37

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, **let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.**

Paul tells us that Christ's death means that we are no longer required to follow the Law, even the 10 Commandments, to show our faith—our righteousness.

Romans 10:4

**For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

Paul said that now, righteousness is by faith in Jesus Christ, without the Law.

Romans 3:21-23

**But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested**, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; **Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Paul explains, if we could have been made righteous by following the Law, then it was not necessary for Christ to have died in our place. You know that could not be!

### Galatians 2:21

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for **if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**

Paul was given a description of the behavior expected from members of the Church, the Body of Christ. These are not required to show our faith, but they are given to us to show us what is pleasing to God. It sounds a lot like the 10 Commandments! (The numbers by the following verses correspond to the commandments found in Exodus 20)

### Romans 13: 7-10

7 **(1,2,3)**Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, **(8)**Thou shalt not commit adultery, **(6)**Thou shalt not kill, **(7)**Thou shalt not steal, **(9)**Thou shalt not bear false witness, **(10)**Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy

neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore **love is the fulfilling of the law.**

Jesus said the same thing. All 613 parts of the Law can be summed up in 2 commandments.

### Matthew 22:37-40

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. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

### Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. **(5)**Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Can you spot the Commandment that is missing from Paul's list for us? It's number 4, honoring the Sabbath day. Here's why:

Using the principle of right division, we find that honoring the Sabbath does not apply to us today. That is why Paul does not tell us to honor the Sabbath day. (FYI: The Sabbath Day has never changed from the 7th day, Saturday.)

"Rest" was specific to the people of Israel, referring to the land that God was going to give them, where they could rest because He would protect them from all of their enemies. Israel had a chance at this rest when they went over the Jordan River, under Joshua, but Israel did not obey God in the land.

#### Deuteronomy 12:9-11

**For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you.** But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety; Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand,

and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

Israel had another chance at entering into the Kingdom when Christ rode into Jerusalem on a white ass on Palm Sunday. But they rejected the Kingdom again! The writer of Hebrews explains that entering into His rest is still future for Israel.

### Hebrews 4:8-11

**For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.** For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, **lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**

Following our 9 Commandments is a great goal to set for yourself, as long as you know that you will not be able to do it. God has already forgiven you for your failures, so you must be ready to forgive yourself when (not if) you fail. And don't let anyone tell you that failure in any way affects your eternal salvation.

Paul has told us how we should behave if we want to please God. He has also told us that God wants all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of His word.

### 1 Timothy 2:1-4

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. **For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

Bottom line, love your neighbor and make sure you tell him about salvation. The Law was given to show Israel that they needed a savior. Jesus is that savior. He has forgiven everyone's sins, theirs and ours.

We know what is pleasing to God, but, because our sins are paid for, we do not have to worry about the penalties for not following God's law.