

The
Ten
Commandments
A
Guide To
Holiness
Companion
Workbook

by
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Introduction

When I had completed, "Ten Commandments A Guide To Holiness", I sensed God wanted me to write a companion workbook. The purpose of it is to give some additional information and a more practical application to the "daily inventory" I had suggested in the book.

It is my suggestion you get a notebook or journal to set by your study place along with your Bible and this workbook. Then in the evening you can review your day with the questions provided in each section and write down your answers.

If you find in reviewing your day that you have had thoughts or actions that has violated one or more of the commandments, you will then have a clear idea of what you need to bring to our Lord to ask for forgiveness of. Remember He is faithful to forgive if we forgive others (Matt 6:12 - 14).

If we find we have harmed or given cause for offence to another person because of our violation we need to do the best we can to make it right with our fellow human being as soon as possible (Mat 5:23 and 24) unless to do so would cause more harm.

Remember also to put on the full armour of God, Ephesian 6:10 thru 16. The Devil is real and he WILL attack the minute you actively try to draw closer to our Lord.

May the Blessing of God be richly upon your Life

Leslie R Auger

Section 1

Mat 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.

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

Related Verses

Deu 6:5, Deu 10:12, Deu 30:6

Mar 12:29-30, Mar 12:33

Luk 10:27

Rom 8:7

Heb 10:16-17

1Jo 5:2-5

Something to Think About

Jesus said, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Mat 6:21)*" If we love someone it is said that we treasure them. Therefore, if we treasure God then we will Love Him with all of our heart, soul and mind. It really is simple, but as with most things us human beings seem to want to complicate even the simplest of concepts. Perhaps, that is why God gave us the first four commandments. "By these actions I will know that you Love me" might be what God was saying to Israel then, and to us now.

As the result of Loving God and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we begin to fulfil the remaining six commandments somewhat automatically. As we grow in the understanding of Gods Love for us, we begin to show our Love of God toward others.

Sadly, we are still human and not perfect, so the remaining commandments are still necessary to show us how to Love people.

Question for Today

Is God the central fact of my Life? Do I treasure Him above all else?

Deu 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deu 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deu 6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Deu 6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

*Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other
gods before me.*

Related verses

Exo 15:11
Deu 5:7, Deu 6:5, Deu 6:14
Jos 24:18-24
2Ki 17:29-35
Psa 29:2, Psa 73:25; Psa 81:9
Isa 26:4, Isa 43:10, Isa 44:8, Isa 45:21-22,
Isa 46:9
Jer 25:6, Jer 35:15
Mat 4:10
1Co 8:4, 1Co 8:6
Eph 5:5
Phi 3:19
Col 2:18
1Jo 5:20-21
Rev 19:10, Rev 22:9

Something to Think About

Why would God make this His first law?

Perhaps Jesus answered that question in this verse:

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

God wants our heart, completely, without diversion. He wants our full attention.

There are no other gods, all are false. There is only one Creator, none other. So, why would you have any other God?

The practical application then is to have some part of our mind and heart focused on God as often as possible throughout our day.

In today's modern world there are many distractions that can, (even unintentionally), replace God's importance in our life. TV, music, books, philosophies, volunteer work, work, alcohol, food, hobbies, even doctrine can take over our mind and heart, blocking the Spirit of God from our life.

Question for today

Has there been anything today that has dominated my thinking causing me to exclude God from my life?

Exo 20:4 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:

Exo 20:5 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;

Exo 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Related verses

Exo_32:1, Exo_32:8, Exo_32:23, Exo_34:17

Lev_19:4, Lev_26:1

Deu_4:15-19, Deu_4:23-25, Deu_5:8, Deu_27:15

1Ki_12:28

2Ch_33:7

Psa_97:7, Psa_115:4-8, Psa_135:15-18

Isa_40:18-20; Isa_42:8, Isa_42:17, Isa_44:9-20,

Isa_45:16, Isa_46:5-8

Jer_10:3-5, Jer_10:8-9, Jer_10:14-16

Eze_8:10

Act_17:29, Act_19:26-35

Rom_1:23

Rev_9:20, Rev_13:14-15, Rev_14:9-11; Rev_16:2

Something to Think About

Why is this commandment so important?

We know that in Israel's day there were many gods being worshipped in elaborate temples that had

as their focal point an image of their god. Often, as was the case in Egypt, these gods had the shape or form of some animal, fish or bird. These idols were chosen, (loosely used), because of the predominate attributes of that animal that caused fear or wonder in the person worshipping them.

God's attributes cannot be found singularly in any one of His creations, all of creation reflects some part of Him.

In Deu 4:15 Moses reminds the children of Israel that on the day that God spoke the Law to them He did not present any form to them and therefore cannot be represented by any form.

Jesus, while speaking to the woman at the well said, *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (Joh 4:23 & 24)*

So, what image would accurately represent a spirit?

There is another real danger in creating an image to represent God. We tend to apply attributes to an image that we ourselves find important and that becomes the focal point of our worship. As a result we end up boxing in God to those attributes.

An example would be when a person focuses on the cross. This person would have crosses everywhere and see them in everything. At this point Jesus's Passion becomes the soul focus of their worship. "By the cross... this", or "by the cross... that", becomes a choice phrase. The cross of Jesus has become the object of worship to this person and while it is extremely important it by no means reflects all of

what Jesus did, nor does it reflect WHO Jesus is. To this person the cross becomes Jesus and what he did (past tense) becomes the focus rather than who He is (present tense) in their life.

This commandment is about HOW we are to worship God. We are to worship Him, not an image of Him or an object of His.

This commandment is so important that it is the only one that comes with both a curse and a blessing.

We can see how God enacted the curse of this commandment in the history of Israel. When they began to worship other gods. Gods blessings did not depart from them right away, it was often as many as three or four generations before the blessings were withdrawn and their enemies would then attack and win over them.

When they repented and followed Gods commands they would then be restored to the Land and relationship with Him.

It may not seem fair to you but, think about it. If I worship God in a false way I will teach my children that way and as all generations do, they will try to "improve" on that false teaching, making it even a greater abomination to God.

Israel eventually had violated this command so many times that God had had enough and "divorced" Israel, (Jer 3:8).

But, as God promised in this command He will show mercy to those who will Love Him and keep His commandments.

Mercy**MER'CY**, n. [L. misericordia.]

1. That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant. In this sense, there is perhaps no word in our language precisely synonymous with mercy. That which comes nearest to it is grace. It implies benevolence, tenderness, mildness, pity or compassion, and clemency, but exercised only towards offenders. Mercy is a distinguishing attribute of the Supreme Being.

The Lord is long-suffering and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty. Num 14.

From Webster 1828 Dictionary

In a practical sense, in the modern world, we have many objects that can take the place of worshipping God and thereby place us in danger of violating this commandment.

TV, books, music, doctrine, ritual, computers, cars, volunteer work, church, clothes, food, drugs, alcohol, work, you name it. Just about anything can become an idol. How can we tell if we are in violation?

Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them...

There is the answer.

Anything or person that becomes supremely important, so important that we exclude God and neglect our duties to Him can be an idol.

If we discover that we have placed an object or person or even a behaviour in our life as an object of worship, that has become more important than God, then we must confess it to Him and ask His forgiveness and mercy. He is quick to forgive:

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Question for today

Have I placed any person, thing or behaviour ahead of God in it's importance in my life?

Exo 20:7 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.

Related verses

Lev_19:12, Lev_24:11-16

Deu_5:11

Jos_2:12, Jos_2:17, Jos_9:20

2Sa_21:1-2

1Ki_2:9

Psa_50:14-16

Pro_30:9

Jer_4:2

Mat_5:33-37, Mat_23:16-22, Mat_26:63-64

2Co_1:23

Heb_6:16-17

Jam_5:12

Something to Think About

What does it mean to take Gods name in vain?

In my mind it means a great deal more than what the common understanding is. The common understanding is the use of profanity in our daily communications and while this certainly has validity it is perhaps the least of Gods concerns.

I believe many truly religious people violate this commandment unintentionally. They presume they know Gods will for another person much like the friends of Job who presumed a great deal about God

and Jobs relationship, God made them repent from such foolishness (Job 42:7and 8)

In your daily review take a look at all the definitions of the word vain as they appear here in the 1812 Websters Dictionary:

Vain

VAIN, a. [*L. vanus; Eng. wan, wane, want.*]

1. *Empty; worthless; having no substance, value or importance. 1 Pet 1.*

To your vain answer will you have recourse.

Every man walketh in a vain show. Psa 39.

Why do the people imagine a vain thing? Psa 2.

2. *Fruitless; ineffectual. All attempts, all efforts were vain.*

Vain is the force of man.

3. *Proud of petty things, or of trifling attainments; elated with a high opinion of one's own accomplishments, or with things more showy than valuable; conceited.*

The minstrels play'd on every side, vain of their art -

4. *Empty; unreal; as a vain chimers.*

5. *Showy; ostentatious.*

Load some vain church with old theatric state.

6. *Light; inconstant; worthless. Prov 12.*

7. *Empty; unsatisfying. The pleasures of life are vain.*

8. *False; deceitful; not genuine; spurious. James 1.*

9. *Not effectual; having no efficacy*

*Bring no more vain oblations. Isa 1.
In vain, to no purpose; without effect; ineffectual.
In vain they do worship me. Mat 15.
To take the name of God in vain, to use the name of God
with levity or profaneness.*

Here is the Hebrew word that has been translated as "vain" in the Strong's concordance:

H7723

שׂוּא שׂוּא

shâv' shav

shawv, shav

From the same as H7722 in the sense of *desolating; evil* (as *destructive*), literally (*ruin*) or morally (especially *guile*); figuratively *idolatry* (as false, subjectively), *uselessness* (as deceptive, objectively; also adverbially in *vain*): - false (-ly), lie, lying, vain, vanity.

Question for today

Have I treated Gods name with all the Dignity and Respect that He deserves?

Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exo 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exo 20:10 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:

Exo 20:11 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.

Related verses

Gen_2:3

Exo_16:23-30, Exo_31:13-14

Lev_23:3

Isa_56:4-6

Psa_95:4-7

Mar_2:27-28

Act_20:7

Something to Think About

There has been a great deal of controversy over the years as to what day the Sabbath should be. Should it be Sunday or Saturday? As you will see from the definitions, that controversy is clearly a device of the enemy designed to split up the body of Christ with resentment and feuding.

We need to see the bigger picture. All of the commandments were given to man for man that he

might have a fuller and richer life.

Note, that God included all members of the community including the animals in His command to rest in Him, even the non-believers have been included.

I have been told that science has demonstrated that companies that do not give their employees a day off are unable to produce as well as the companies that do.

I have proposed that we employee mini-Sabbaths in the spirit of this commandment.

These mini-Sabbaths are a specific time in the day that we devote to worship and relationship with our Lord. This of course should not replace our weekly day of worship but is added as a special time.

I personally like mornings as my time since it helps to renew my commitment to my God and my friend, for the whole day.

H7673

שבת

shâbath

shaw-bath'

A primitive root; to *repose*, that is, *desist* from exertion; used in many implied relations (causatively, figuratively or specifically): - (cause to, let, make to) cease, celebrate, cause (make) to fail, keep (sabbath), suffer to be lacking, leave, put away (down), (make to) rest, rid, still, take away.

Sabbath**SABBATH**, n.

1. The day which God appointed to be observed by the Jews as a day of rest from all secular labor or employments, and to be kept holy and consecrated to his service and worship. This was originally the seventh day of the week, the day on which God rested from the work of creation; and this day is still observed by the Jews and some Christians, as the sabbath. But the christian church very early begun and still continue to observe the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ on that day, by which the work of redemption was completed. Hence it is often called the Lords day. The heathen nations in the north of Europe dedicated this day to the sun, and hence their christian descendants continue to call the day Sunday. But in the United States, Christians have to a great extent discarded the heathen name, and adopted the Jewish name sabbath.

2. Intermission of pain or sorrow; time of rest.

Peaceful sleep out the sabbath of the tomb.

3. The sabbatical year among the Israelites. Lev 25.

Question for today

Have I remembered my Sabbath today and kept it Holy?

Conclusion

We have seen that the first four Commandments of the Ten are focused on our relationship with God and what He expects that to look like.

In checking our progress towards Holiness we can use the commandments as a gauge to see how well we have "lived in the Spirit" for the day.

This is not a way to bring judgement on yourself nor should you feel bad about who you are. It is only a tool for helping you to see where you have not brought your will into alignment with God's will.

We are carnal by nature¹. It is the state of man since the time of the fall. That is why it takes an act of will, which we call faith, to bring us into right relationship with our Creator. Once we have been made right through faith in Christ then we must grow with the help of the Holy Spirit towards that ideal that Christ exemplified in His own life. The Ten Commandments then become a tool towards that means.

Look at the Big Picture of what Jesus taught. He was considered a teacher of the Law. He taught from the Rabbinical scriptures, that is the Old Testament. His teachings were different than the priest and other teachers of the day².

¹Rom_8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

²Mar_1:22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

What he taught was not the Letter of the Law but the spirit of it - what God had said to and about man and Himself. He explained the scriptures.

Today because of Jesus' s sacrifice on that cross, the Holy Spirit was released into the world to give us power over sin in our life. Today we can overcome sin, but we must confess our sin, to Him and repent, and yes, we believers do sin make no mistake of that, just ask Peter³.

God wants us to have a personal relationship with Him, hence the first four commandments. In them He defines what that relationship shall look like.

1. It shall be between Himself and you exclusively.
2. It shall be with Him personally.
3. You will not lie about Him.
4. You will spend time with Him.

On the practical side, we can live this out by simply Loving Him with all our heart and soul.

Loving Him will make Him exclusive in our life, no other relationship with a person, place or thing will take precedence. Seeking Him and His will, will become a priority. We will be careful not to embarrass Him with false embellishments or angry retorts. Spending time with Him will not be

³Gal_2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

a chore or duty but rather a much looked forward to pleasure.

In writing this I can't help but think how much better our marriages would be if we followed Gods outline for relationship with Him with our spouses.

Section 2

Mat 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Mat 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

As we learn to love God in the way He has outlined in the first four commandments a phenomenon begins to occur. Our hearts begin to enlarge and we begin to Love ourselves because we start to see how valuable we are to Him. That Love then begins to explode outwardly and we become more Loving towards our fellow creatures. Our stony hearts are being broken up and replaced with hearts of flesh as promised in the New Covenant.

For some of us this can be a long and tedious process. I believe we can help the Holy Spirit in this process by concisely participating in the process. Hence the need for checking our progress against the last six commandments, confessing our sins to our Father and expressing our willingness to change by making amends where harm has been done.

These last six of the "Big Ten" are concerned with our relationships with our fellows. They are the expression of God's Love exploding in our heart towards those we share this planet with.

It would be so wonderful if God just performed this miracle in us the very minute we believed. He of course does do it for some, but for

most of us it is a process of chipping away at that stony heart, until, the very day we join Him in paradise. I believe it is because He has limited Himself by the ultimate act of Love by giving us a free will and refusing to violate that free will. We must choose Him and we must choose to obey Him because we want to, then the power of the Holy Spirit can be released in our lives.

So what exactly does loving others as God would have us look like?

Exo 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Related verses

Exo_21:15, Exo_21:17

Lev_19:3, Lev_19:32

1Ki_2:19

2Ki_2:12

Pro_1:8-9, Pro_15:5, Pro_20:20; Pro_23:22-25,

Pro_28:24, Pro_30:11, Pro_30:17

Mal_1:6

Mat_15:4-6

Luk_18:20

Eph_5:21, Eph_6:1-3

Col_3:20

Something to Think About

This commandment is the first of the Love thy neighbour series. It deals with our very first relationship on this planet, that of our parents.

Why did God tell us to honour our parents rather than Love them? I believe it is because not all parents are loveable.

Take for example the alcoholic dad. He harms his children by his misconduct. He may even be physically abusive. Or the mother who is emotionally unstable she can make her family most miserable. We may not be able to love such

parents but we can honour them.

We can see them for what they are, the vessels that God choose to give us life thru. We can see them as fellow human beings who are doing the best they can with what they have to work with.

We can forgive them for their trespasses against us as in Jesus words "for they do not know what they do," yes, we can honour them.

HON'OR, v.t on'or [L. honoro.]

1. To revere; to respect; to treat with deference and submission, and perform relative duties to.

Honor thy father and thy mother. Exo 20.

2. To reverence; to manifest the highest veneration for, in words and actions; to entertain the most exalted thoughts of; to worship; to adore.

That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. John 5.

3. To dignify; to raise to distinction or notice; to elevate in rank or station; to exalt. Men are sometimes honored with titles and offices, which they do not merit.

Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor. Est 6.

4. To glorify; to render illustrious.

I will be honored upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host. Exo 14.

5. To treat with due civility and respect in the ordinary intercourse of life. The troops honored the governor with a salute.

6. In commerce, to accept and pay when due; as, to honor a bill of exchange.

For those who had honourable parents this command may still be a difficult one. Our parents are human, they did make mistakes, they have hurt us at sometime. We must forgive and honour them if we are to claim Gods promise of long life in the land.

It may not be easy, but if you Love God with all your heart, you can do it.

A further thought on this subject, if we do not forgive our parents and honour them we are harbouring a resentment. Resentment always interferes with Gods ability to interact with us.

That resentment will in time come back to haunt us and may even cause us to act in the same way as our parents did.

Question for today

Am I harbouring any resentment or ill feelings towards my parents, have I honoured them today?

Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Related verses

Gen_4:8-23, Gen_9:5-6
Exo_21:14, Exo_21:20, Exo_21:29
Lev_24:21
Num_35:16-34
Deu_5:17; Deu_19:11-13
2Sa_12:9-10
2Ki_21:16
Psa_10:8-11
Mat_5:21-22
Gal_5:21
1Ti_1:9
Jam_2:11, Jam_2:13
1Jo_3:12-15

Something to Think About

Piece of cake right?

With prison sentences and death penalty who would want to kill another person?

Once again Jesus taught that it is the "spirit" of the law that is most important:

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, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Mat 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the

*altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;
Mat 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

It is from our heart that all manner of evil comes from and that is why our Lord brought it to our attention that even the thought makes us guilty of the act.

Notice also in the verses from Matthew that had you expressed that anger towards another then they would have "ought" against you and you must first go and make it right with the other person BEFORE offering any gifts, (prayer) to God.

Anger towards another or even towards yourself is not acceptable to God, it is a sin, equal to murder. It is unloving and unlovable. Anger causes most of the trouble in this world today and is almost always in connection with pride, the very thing that got Lucifer cast from heaven.

Taking this command in a flippant way would really be setting yourself up for great harm. This one is deadly serious.

Examine your heart carefully for this sin , confess it as soon as it is discovered and follow through with any amends needed, ASAP! Then you can expect the Holy Spirit to give you victory over your pride.

Another writer has said on this subject that

when someone offends us, we should see them as perhaps spiritually sick. Would we be angry with some one who is sick? No, we would show them compassion. This is sage advice though truly hard to follow at times. However, with God all things are possible.

Question for today

Am I angry with any with any person place or thing today?

Do I owe amends to any one for a foolish angry word or action?

Exo 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery

Related verses

Lev_18:20, Lev_20:10
Pro_6:24-35, Pro_7:18-27
Jer_5:8-9, Jer_29:22-23
Mal_3:5
Mat_5:27-28
Mar_10:11-12
Eph_5:3-5
Heb_13:4
Jam_4:4

Something to Think About

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.

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.

Here we have another one of the

commandments that Jesus spoke directly to.

God knows the pain that adultery causes, he suffered with it himself with the children of Israel and eventually divorced Israel over it⁴.

Adultery as interpreted from the Hebrew is:

<p>H5003 נָאֵף nâ'aph naw-af' A primitive root; to <i>commit adultery</i>; figuratively to <i>apostatize</i>: - adulterer (-ess), commit (-ing) adultery, woman that breaketh wedlock.</p>

Adultery is more than sex outside of marriage. It is an apostasy a turning away from the True and Living God. It is idolatry.

The pain of sexual adultery has caused suicides, murders and all manner of sin. It has been responsible for more damage to Christ's body than can be easily understood. It has caused children to grow up in dysfunctional families and continue that dysfunction into their families. It is a evil and corroding thread in society that can destroy the very fabric of a nation.

It is idolatry, as it is the worship of sexual gratification and the satisfying of one's own

4 Jer_3:8

esteem over and beyond the esteem of any other human being.

We tend to think of this command as referring only to the marriage bed however should you continue reading the law you quickly find out that God meant any kind of sexually deviant behaviour. The list includes sex outside of marriage, sex with animals, homosexual sex, sex with daughters, fathers, mothers, step parents, uncles and aunts, sons, first cousins and slaves. The penalty in most cases was death of both partners.

God takes this one very serious. Is it any wonder that Jesus said that if the eye causes the offence pluck it out , the hand cut it off.

Jesus did say something very interesting here that I have not heard preached from the pulpit. He said "*whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*" This implies to me that before the lust can occur that there must be an act of the will to cause it to occur. One must decide to look at someone in such a way to cause the feelings of lust to occur. Those feelings don't just happen they arise from a choice made in your heart.

As with all sin it begins in our heart and it is important that we search our hearts for any sign of this or any other sin begging to boil up in our feelings or thinking.

Sexual adultery is not the only kind of adultery.

We can commit adultery against God through the worship of any other person, place or thing and must be careful to keep our relationships in their proper perspective.

We can also commit emotional adultery. That is when we give emotions to someone outside of our marriage that belongs to our spouse such as what happens in an internet affair. Even this form can be extremely damaging to those around us.

Question for today

Have I had any thoughts of sharing my body or heart with someone outside of marriage?

Have I crossed any boundaries in thought or emotion that could lead to lust and adultery, sexual, spiritual or emotional?

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Exo 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Related verses

Exo_21:16

Lev_6:1-7, Lev_19:11, Lev_19:13, Lev_19:35-37

Deu_24:7, Deu_25:13-16

Job_20:19-22

Pro_1:13-15, Pro_11:1

Amo_3:10, Amo_8:4-6

Mic_6:10-11, Mic_7:3

Zec_5:3-4

Mat_15:19, Mat_19:18, Mat_21:13

Luk_3:13-14

Joh_12:6

1Co_6:10

Eph_4:28

1Th_4:6

Something to Think About

We all know what stealing is so we don't need to define it here.

Since we associate stealing with the removal of property from one by another without permission or purchase, it would seem that we can all easily follow this command . However, as with all the commandments there is a deeper level we need to look at.

Have you ever used your employer's time for personal business without permission? Have

you ever checked your e-mail while on company time, on a company computer? Have you ever accepted and kept too much change from a cashier? If you have you are guilty.

There are many different scenarios we can apply this command to and be found guilty.

As with the previous commandments this one tells us how we are to relate to our fellow human beings, in this case it is a call for complete and rigorous HONESTY.

It was not uncommon for merchants in the Middle East to have two or more sets of weights for their scales while doing business. One set weighed correctly while another set may be a bit on the light side so they could cheat their customers. My understanding is that this was a common practice so for God to call his people to a standard that was above the common practice of the day was in fact a call to be holy, set apart and above reproach.

God's call for us today is still the same. We are to be a holy people, set apart, different from the rest of the world and above reproach.

Let us not forget the emotional and spiritual aspects of this commandment. You can steal another's emotions thru dishonest motives such as when a man tells a woman he loves her when in fact he really only wants to sleep with her. Emotional dishonesty with the intent to secure something from another person is stealing.

Spiritually, we can try to do the same thing however, God is not fooled, and he will discipline us.

Question for today

Have I been honest in all I do say and feel?

Have I tried to acquire something that does not belong to me through outright theft or dishonest tactics?

**Exo 20:16 Thou shalt not bear
false witness against thy
neighbour.**

Related verses

Exo_23:6-7
Lev_19:11, Lev_19:16
Deu_19:15-21
1Sa_22:8-19
1Ki_21:10-13
Psa_15:3, Psa_101:5-7
Pro_10:18, Pro_11:13
Mat_26:59-60
Act_6:13
Eph_4:31
1Ti_1:10; 2Ti_3:3
Jam_4:11

Something to Think About

This commandment is another one that seems easy to keep when we look at the face of it. After all, how many of us are called to court to testify and would lie about what we saw. But, as with all the commandments there is a deeper meaning.

This is a call to Honesty in all of our affairs.

It is also a call to put an end to gossip and backbiting. Slander of any kind is a violation of this commandment.

Think on this also, if you Love God and yourself why would you treat another person with such contempt as to lie about them, either in conversation or in court. Is this how God would treat them? Is this the way you would want to be treated.

I can't help but think on the verses in Luke (10:25-37) where a lawyer ask Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?", Jesus answers with the parable of the good Samaritan.

Samaritans were despised yet it was the Samaritan that gave compassion, it was he who acted loving, setting aside his prejudice and seeing a man in need, his race, his character, the colour of his hair mattered none at all. He saw a man hurting and in need and he gave what was needed.

So, who is our neighbour, the answer is simply everyone. Creed, nationality, colour of skin, social upbringing, politics, church affiliation, financial standing, morality or lack thereof should never give us the feeling of the right to look down on anyone or lie about them. Even in the Global sense, statements disparaging other groups character falls under this commandment

Is it possible to live by this commandment 100%? I doubt it. Even Peter failed when he chose to not eat with the Gentiles, but thank God that He has provided His grace and through the power of His Holy Spirit we will be able to come much closer to this ideal than we would have without His Grace.

Question for today

Have I lied about another person today?

Have I participated in a conversation where untruths about another person or group was being discussed?

Exo 20:17 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.

Related verses

Gen_3:6, Gen_14:23, Gen_34:23

Jos_7:21

1Sa_15:19

Psa_10:3, Psa_119:36

Ecc_4:8, Ecc_5:10-11

Isa_33:15, Isa_57:17

Jer_22:17

Eze_33:31

Amo_2:6-7

Mic_2:2

Hab_2:9

Luk_12:15, Luk_16:14

Act_20:33

Rom_7:7

1Co_6:10

Phi_3:19

Col_3:5

1Ti_6:6-10

Heb_13:5

Something to Think About

Lets begin this discussion with defining the word Covet:

COVET, v.t.

1. To desire or wish for, with eagerness; to desire earnestly to obtain or possess; in a good sense.

Covet earnestly the best gifts. 1 Cor 12.

2. To desire inordinately; to desire that which it is unlawful to obtain or possess; in a bad sense.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors house, wife or servant. Exo 20.

H2530

חָמַד

châmad

khaw-mad'

A primitive root; to *delight* in: - beauty, greatly beloved, covet, delectable thing, (X great) delight, desire, goodly, lust, (be) pleasant (thing), precious (thing).

If you do not covet (or desire) what purpose would there be in violating any of God's commandments.

This commandment deals with our heart. What do we think will make us happy. Is it other people's stuff? or is it Gods stuff?

Consider this verse:

Luk 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

And this one

Mat_6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

The real question is what is your heart set on, things or on God?

Covetousness is the very basis of the previous four commandments. You must covet another's possessions to want to steal them or at least the money it would bring after selling them. You must covet (in the form of lust) to commit a sexual sin. You must covet some kind of satisfaction (such as revenge) to lie on another person. Covetousness can even lead to murder.

Covetousness is a ten dollar word that really means want. I want what I want when I want it. The ultimate in selfishness.

However there does seem to be an appropriate use of this human need to covet, consider this verse:

1Pe_2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

If we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Mat 6:33) then our heart shall be filled with coveting the things of God and we will not be in danger of violating this commandment.

By seeking Gods Kingdom first, by desiring relationship with Him above all else, our heart will be set right and indeed all these things will be added unto us, therefore Love God with all your heart and soul and Love others as you Love yourself.

Question for today

Have my thoughts and desires been for the things of God?

A Simple Daily Check List

Commandment	Yes	No	Comments
<i>Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me</i>			
<i>Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image</i>			
<i>Exo 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain</i>			
<i>Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy</i>			
<i>Exo 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother</i>			
<i>Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill</i>			
<i>Exo 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery</i>			
<i>Exo 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.</i>			

<i>Exo 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour</i>			
<i>Exo 20:17 Thou shalt not covet</i>			

Remember, Jesus taught us it is the spirit of the commandments, the thought that proceed the act that Jesus wants us to confess to him. The sooner we confess the sooner sin loses control of our mind and spirit.

This whole concept is a tool to enhance our relationship with our Lord. We do not want to seek right relationship with Him through it, right relationship with Him was established the day we confessed that Jesus is the Messiah and our Lord and Savior.

It is my prayer that you will find this tool beneficial in your walk with the Lord and will help you to spot and overcome the sin in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Praise and Glory be to God forever. Amen

Leslie R. Dugan

See

<http://tencommandments4life.weebly.com>

for a more in depth inventory sheet