

Session 3 – The Ten Commandments

1. It is the firm intent and purpose of this course to establish a bedrock foundation in each of your lives based upon God’s Word. Our focus is on understanding God, not as people claim or think Him to be, but as He reveals Himself. **Read Matthew 16:13-16.** What was Jesus calling on the disciples to do?
2. When Jesus asked the question “Who do you say that I am?” He was calling on the Church to confess Him before all mankind. Peter’s answer is not only the necessary confession for him, it is also the necessary confession for the world to hear. Throughout the centuries, the Christian Church has echoed this confession and preserved it in the teaching of the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. This teaching or doctrine is _____ and not _____. We don’t change it to adapt to our lifestyle, culture, or expectations. It changes us.
3. From generation to generation, the Christian Church has passed down the faith that we received by dividing it into six chief parts: the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar. All of these chief parts are taken from the Bible, because as God’s written Word the Bible is the only final authority for Christian faith and life. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.** How is it necessary for you join in this one confession?
4. The first of the chief parts are the Ten Commandments. When God created people, He wrote the Law on their hearts (Romans 2:14-15). Later he arranged the Law in Ten Commandments, writing it on two tables of stone, and making it known through Moses. Commandments 1-3 or the _____ deal with our relationship with God (Matthew 22:37). Commandments 4-10 or the _____ focus on our relationships with others (Matthew 22:39). What will happen to a society that doesn’t honor God’s commands?
5. **Read Exodus 20:1-2.** (also recorded in Deuteronomy 5:6-21) Before the Ten Commandments were given to the people, God instructed Moses to speak these words. Why?
6. **First Commandment** – *Thou shalt have no other gods before Me (see Exodus 20:3-6).* Martin Luther, the Reformer of the Church (see Appendix A on the *Reformation of The Church*), suggests that people should think of themselves as a horse, with someone sitting in the saddle to direct them. There are only two riders: _____ or _____. The question is, “Who sits in the saddle of my life?” It is interesting to note that when Satan is sitting in the saddle, he always let the horse steer.
7. The only true God is the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one divine being (Numbers 6:24-26, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, 1 Corinthians 8:4, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 5:6-8). In the First Commandment, God

forbids us to have other gods in their various forms (Isaiah 42:8, Matthew 4:10, 1 Corinthians 8:4, 1 John 5:21). People have other gods when they regard, trust, or worship any creature, person, or thing as more important than God (Psalm 115:4, Philippians 3:19, Revelation 9:20). The worship of false gods, also known as idolatry, emerges when we replace the Creator with the _____ or the Giver with the _____. This commandment also forbids the creation of “graven images”. This can take the form of the obvious offense of a person crafting an idol out of a substance like wood or stone and worshipping it. However, it can also occur in one’s mind. Often times people create an image of god in their own mind that they are comfortable with and fits their own outlook and opinions rather than worshipping the true God revealed in the Scriptures. Making an idol, either physically or mentally, is also a violation of the 1st Commandment.

8. God requires us in the First Commandment to _____ (Psalm 33:8, Psalm 96:4-5, Matthew 10:28), _____ (Psalm 73:25-26, Mark 12:33, Luke 16:33) and _____ (Psalm 118:8, Proverbs 3:5, John 14:1) in Him above all things.

9. **Second Commandment** – *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD, thy God, in vain.* This commandment concerns God’s _____, which includes His very essence and attributes (Exodus 3:12-15, Exodus 20:7, Jeremiah 23:6). In what ways is God’s name misused today?

10. God’s name is misused when it is spoken uselessly or carelessly (Lev. 24:15). He is also blasphemed when people _____, _____, use _____, _____ or _____ by His name. Cursing by God’s name includes speaking evil of Him or calling down His anger and punishment upon oneself, any other person, or things (Matthew 26:74, Matthew 27:25, Luke 9:51-55). Swearing is forbidden when it is done falsely and thoughtlessly in uncertain or unimportant matters. It is permitted to swear, and even required, to take an oath by God’s name when it is necessary for the glory of God or the welfare of our neighbor. Examples include the following: testimony in court, oath of office, and wedding vows (Romans 13:1, Numbers 30:2, Hebrews 6:16). Using satanic arts includes any desire to grasp power apart from God with the help of the devil, such as casting spells, consulting the dead, or any other occult practices (Deuteronomy 18:10-12, 2 Timothy 3:1-8, Acts 19:13-29). Lying and deceiving by His name is teaching any false doctrine and saying that it is God’s Word or revelation (Deuteronomy 12:32, Jeremiah 23:31, Matthew 15:9) or covering up an unbelieving heart and a sinful life by pretending to be a Christian (Matthew 7:21, Matthew 15:8, Acts 5:1). Instead, in all things, we should _____ upon His name in every trouble, _____, _____, and _____ (Psalm 50:15, Psalm 103:1, John 16:23, Ephesians 5:20).

11. **Third Commandment** – *Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.* This commandment concerns God’s _____. In the Old Testament, God set aside the seventh day (Saturday) as a required day of rest (Sabbath means to

_____ or _____). In this commandment, we are commanded to hold the Word of God sacred and gladly hear and learn it (Exodus 25:2, Leviticus 23:3). We neglect the Sabbath by:

- Not going to church at all.
- Going only on occasion (example: Christmas and Easter).
- Going but not _____.
- Going and listening but not _____.
- Going and listening and believing but not _____.

12. God requires Christians to worship together in community (Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:25). He no longer requires us to worship only on Saturday (this was a major conflict between Jesus and His opponents, see what Jesus says in Mark 2:27) for the Sabbath was a sign pointing to Jesus, Who is our rest (Matthew 11:28, Matthew 12:8, Colossians 2:16-17, Hebrews 4:9-10). We should also honor and support the preaching of the Word of God (Galatians 6:6-7, Mark 12:41-44) and diligently spread its teaching (Acts 20:32, Philippians 2:14-16). While a certain day is not commanded, the Church worships together especially on _____ because that is the day Christ rose from the dead and it being the first day of the week it emphasizes that God is first in our lives (Luke 24:1-2, Acts 20:7, John 20:19-31).

13. **Fourth Commandment** – *Honor thy father and thy mother*. This commandment concerns God's _____. We are to honor, serve, and obey parents and guardians, as well as authorities in the government, school, work, and Church (Proverbs 23:22, Romans 13:2).

14. In this commandment, God commands us to honor all earthly authorities as His _____ (Ephesians 6:2-3, Genesis 46:29, 2 Kings 2:12). The person who despises earthly authority despises God's authority. **Read Acts 5:27-29**. When is the only appropriate time to disobey earthly authority?

15. **Fifth Commandment** – *Thou shalt not kill (murder)*. This commandment concerns God's gift of _____. God forbids us to take the life of another person. This includes not only murder (Genesis 9:6), but also abortion (Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:16), euthanasia (Proverbs 6:16-17, Proverbs 31:8), and suicide (Jeremiah 31:3, Luke 12:22). Life is His precious gift to be ended only by Him. Only lawful government, as God's servant, may execute criminals and fight just wars (Matthew 26:52, Romans 13:4).

16. God forbids us to hurt or harm any person in thought, word, and deed. This includes harboring hatred and anger toward anyone in our hearts (Matthew 5:22, 1 John 3:15, Matthew 15:19, Ephesians 4:26). Instead we should help and support others as ourselves (Matthew 5:5-9, Luke 10:33-35), be merciful and kind toward even our enemies (Romans 12:20, Ephesians 4:32), and assist others in avoiding the abuse of drugs or the use of any substance that harms the body and the mind (1 Corinthians

6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 7:1). **Read Luke 6:27.** How is this an unusual standard to live by?

17. **Sixth Commandment** – *Thou shalt not commit adultery.* This commandment concerns God’s gift of _____. God calls us to lead lives of sexual purity. We do so when we consider sexuality to be a good gift of God (Genesis 1:27-31), honor marriage (the lifelong union of one man and one woman) as God’s institution (Genesis 2:24-25, Mark 10:6-9), reserve sexual intercourse for the marriage partner alone (Hebrews 13:4), and control sexual urges in a God-pleasing way (Titus 2:11-12). God requires married people to love, honor, and respect each other (Genesis 2:18, 1 Corinthians 7:4, Ephesians 4:32). **Read Ephesians 5:21-27.** How is God’s design for marriage difficult for many to accept? What is the beauty in His plan for those who are willing to receive it?
18. In the Sixth Commandment, God forbids divorce except in the cases of adultery and malicious desertion (Matthew 19:6-9, 1 Corinthians 7:15). He also forbids all sexual intercourse outside of the marriage between one man and one woman (1 Corinthians 6:18, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10) and sexually impure thoughts or desires of any kind (Romans 1:24-27, Matthew 5:28, Matthew 15:19). **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7.** What challenges do we face as we seek to live holy lives in a sin-saturated environment?
19. **Seventh Commandment** – *Thou shalt not steal.* This commandment concerns God’s gift of _____. God forbids every kind of robbery, theft, and dishonest way of getting things (Leviticus 19:35, Psalm 37:21, Ephesians 4:28, 2 Thessalonians 3:10).
20. God requires of us to help others improve and protect their possession’s and income (Matthew 7:12, Philippians 2:4), and help others in every need (Matthew 5:42, Hebrews 13:16, 1 John 3:17). **Read Luke 19:8-9.** How can the presence of Jesus’ love and forgiveness change a person’s understanding about possessions and income?
21. **Eighth Commandment** – *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.* This commandment concerns God’s gift of a good _____. When the commandments refer to our “neighbor”, it means _____, even our enemies (Luke 10:25-37). The Eighth Commandment forbids us to lie about, lie to, or withhold truth from others (Proverbs 19:5, Ephesians 4:25). He also forbids us to betray others by revealing their secrets (Proverbs 11:13) or hurt someone’s reputation in any way (Matthew 18:15, Luke 6:37, James 4:11).
22. It takes two people to gossip; one to speak and one to do nothing but _____. In the Eighth commandment, God calls us to walk above the cultural norms of gossip and slander. He has called us to defend the reputation of others (Proverbs 31:8-9), speak well about their good actions and qualities (Luke 7:4-5, Mark 14:3-9), and put the best construction on everything (1 Corinthians 13:7, 1

Peter 4:8). **Read Proverbs 16:28.** When people gossip, what is the result? How can you respectfully refuse to receive gossip about others?

23. **Ninth Commandment** – *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.* This commandment concerns God's gift of _____. Coveting is having a sinful desire for anyone or anything that belongs to our neighbor (Romans 7:8, Matthew 15:19). God forbids every sinful desire to get our neighbor's possessions openly or by trickery (Micah 2:1-2, 1 Timothy 6:8-10). We should be content with what God has given us and assist our neighbor in keeping what God has given to that person (Philippians 4:11, 1 Timothy 6:6, Hebrews 13:5). God created us to _____ people and _____ things. How does human nature often turn this around?
24. **Tenth Commandment** – *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.* This commandment also concerns the gift of contentment. God forbids every sinful desire to take another person's spouse or workers for ourselves (Luke 2:15, Colossians 3:5, 2 Samuel 11:2-4). Instead, we should be content with the helpers that God has given us and encourage others to be faithful to their calling (Philippians 2:4, Philemon 10-16). Remember: The grass is not always greener on the other side. How is it easy to let our inner appetites get the best of us?
25. The Law of God, which includes the Ten Commandments, has three purposes in the life of the every day Christian:
- A. _____ - the Law checks the coarse outbursts of sin (order is society).
 - B. _____ - the Law shows us our true condition apart from God.
 - C. _____ - the Law shows Christians which attitudes and life habits please God.
26. God wants us to keep His commandments perfectly in thoughts, desires, words, and deeds (Leviticus 19:2, James 2:10), but our sinful nature makes it impossible (Psalm 14:3, Ecclesiastes 7:20, Isaiah 64:6, 1 John 1:8). **Read Romans 7:15-20.** What do the struggles of the apostle Paul, the greatest missionary of the New Testament era, reveal about our hopes for rescue? Where alone does God offer the forgiveness of sins?
27. God offers the forgiveness of sins only in the Gospel, the _____ that we are freed from the guilt, the punishment, and the power of sin, and are saved eternally because of Christ's keeping the Law and His suffering and death for us (Romans 10:4, Galatians 3:13, Colossians 1:13-14). In faith, we trust in God's grace alone offered to all in the death and resurrection of Christ for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit's power, we seek to respond to God's gift of eternal life by living each day for His glory and making His good news known.