

SESSION EIGHT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS – I

1. To review: the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds are the Church's summaries of the Bible's essential teachings. They teach us what the Church believes.
2. But being Christian involves not only believing specific things, but also behaving in a specific way. In its catechesis (teaching), the Church uses the Ten Commandments as a summary of how Christians are expected to live or behave. (See the diagram on the next page.)
3. In the Book of Exodus, Moses leads the Children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the wilderness. They camp at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moses goes up on the mountain, and there God gives him the Law (Torah).
4. The Torah or Jewish Law contains three types of instructions and teachings:
Civic = how to organize government and courts of justice
Ceremonial = how to conduct worship
Moral = how to do what is right and avoid what is wrong
5. God gave the Law to the Jewish people to regulate their life together as a people freed from slavery. It was God's good gift to His Chosen People.
6. When the early Christian Church admitted Gentiles (non-Jews) to its membership, it discarded most of the Jewish Law's civic and ceremonial requirements. Those parts of the Law were meant for the Jews only.
7. But the Church did retain the Jewish Law's moral teaching. The Ten Commandments encapsulate that moral teaching.
8. Jesus summarized the Law as follows: "You shall love the Lord your God ... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (See Matthew 22:37-40)
9. According to traditional Christian teaching, Commandments 1-4 explain how we love God; Commandments 5-10 explain how we love our neighbor. In this session, we look at Commandments 1-4.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF CHRISTIAN TEACHING

WHAT WE BELIEVE THE APOSTLES' CREED	HOW WE BEHAVE / LIVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
HOW WE WORSHIP THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS	HOW WE PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not commit murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Commandments 1-4: Loving God

(Comments in Red)

1. You shall have no other gods but me.

According to monotheism, there is only one God. Nothing and no one else is to be worshiped or obeyed as God.

2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.

This commandment prohibits idolatry, the worship of created things as if they were divine.

3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.

This commandment prohibits blasphemy, which is the misuse of God's Name. (For example, Christians should never say "O God!" or "Jesus Christ!" in anger.)

4. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Sabbath means "seventh." The Jewish Sabbath is Saturday, the seventh day of the week. The Christian Church transferred this commandment to Sunday, known as the Lord's Day, because it is the day when Jesus rose from the dead.

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QUIZ

Fill in the blanks.

1. The Ten Commandments summarize how Christians should _____ or _____.
2. The three types of commandments in the Jewish Law are _____, _____, and _____.
3. God gave the Law to _____ on Mount _____.
4. Jesus' Summary of the Law is that we should love _____ and our _____.
5. Commandments 1 – 4 explain how to love _____; Commandments 5 – 10 explain how to love our _____.

Multiple Choice.

1. Commandment #1 is a fundamental affirmation of:
 - a. Monotheism
 - b. Idolatry
 - c. Blasphemy
2. Commandment #2 prohibits the worship of:
 - a. My bank account
 - b. My sports car
 - c. Both of the above
3. Commandment #4 prohibits:
 - a. Idolatry
 - b. Blasphemy
 - c. Polytheism

True or False

1. The Ten Commandments teach us primarily what the Church believes. T F
2. Idolatry is the worship of a created thing in place of God. T F
3. Sunday is the seventh day of the week. T F
4. Christians should keep Sunday holy. T F
5. Blasphemy is the misuse of God's Name. T F