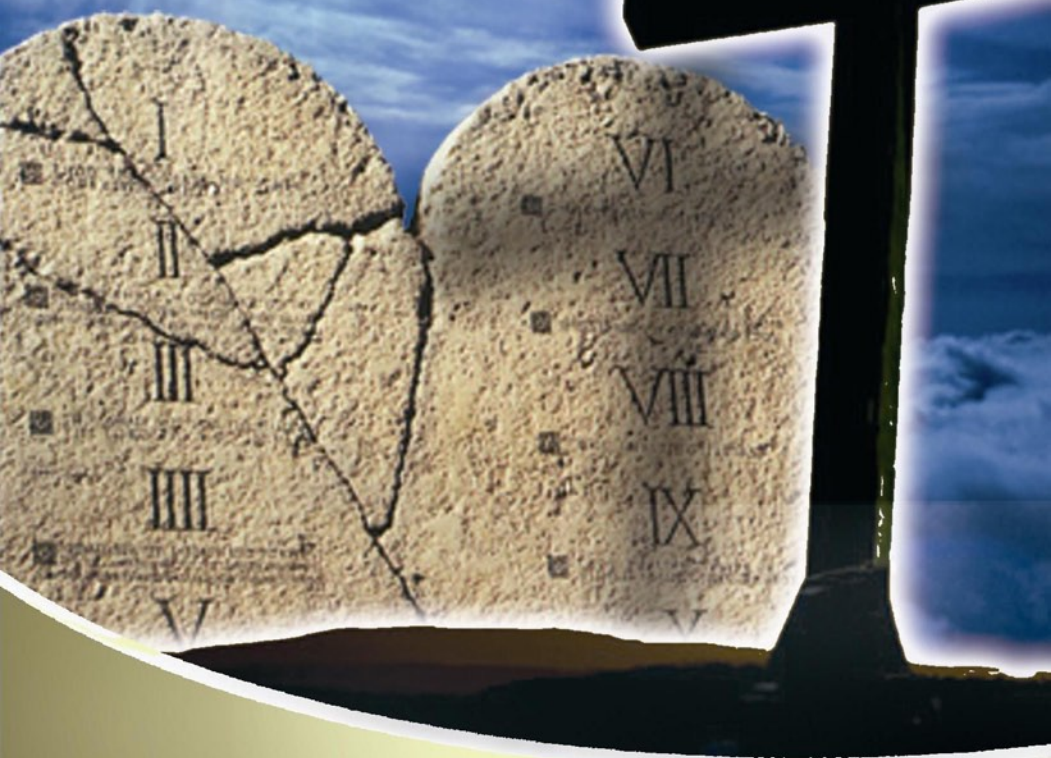


# THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE LAW AND GRACE



BERNIE SLINGERLAND

**The Collision Between  
The Law and Grace  
Do the Ten Commandments still work?**  
*Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 5-7:29*

By  
Bernie Slingerland

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Credits:  
Author: Dr. Bernie Slingerland  
Critiques By: Shauna Knox, MSW  
Pastor Will Mackey, Missionary Rhonda Slingerland

Slingerland Family  
Website: [www.slingerlandfamily.info](http://www.slingerlandfamily.info)

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## FORWARD

The Collision between the Law and Grace in the study of theology is not an explosive subject by any means. In fact, from a literary perspective it has a beautiful harmony and it is very complementary. However, in practice for human beings there is a collision that can upend the most sophisticated individual who walks the world. In other words, there seems to be an apparent tension between that which is physical and established verses that which is spiritual. When the two come together it can be difficult to know the profound impact one will have on the other in the human experience. It could be said that there is a collision between the law and grace, when the subject says, "my God I did not know that I would see You in this truth!" That moment, or that personal experience, is what this book calls to. This can occur when the person receives Jesus Christ as Savior, receives the fullness of God's Spirit, or at other points as he or she witnesses personal revelations from God. This is best seen when the subject discovers God's Grace is needed after reviewing the convicting nature of the law in the Old Testament, specifically, the Ten Commandments. Their impact can still deliver a colossal collision to show us who we are without His Grace. In the chapters that follow an attempt will be made to show the collision. If you care to experience the impact for God's glory read on to see how the law and grace may have a life changing collision for you?

In His Grace and Mercy,

*Bernie Slingerland*

## INTRODUCTION

This book was written to help the reader to understand with clarity the Ten Commandments as they are seen through the whole scope of Scripture (no compromise intended). Also, they are presented from both an Old and New Testament perspective to see how Jesus has fulfilled the Law, and the material is to be contextualized for today's student of the Bible. There will be a personal evaluation that the reader should complete to determine his or her current position concerning the Ten Commandments at the end of each chapter. In addition, it will be seen how the Law will actually lead us to Grace, through the first step of confession that we are law-breakers. This is the Collision Between the Law and Grace; the tension which leads people to see the need to accept the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross for the redemption of sins, and/or, seeking the need to be holy by being cleansed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In the end, it is hoped that the reader should have a greater knowledge of both the law and grace, to the point of identifying his or her personal need and moving toward a deeper walk with God.

Many have determined that the Ten Commandments are standards from the past, and that they no longer hold a position in New Testament Christianity. But this could not be farther from the truth.

In referring to the Law, Jesus said in Matthew 5:19: "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." (NIV)

In context, this is not to say that Jesus was only referring to the Ten Commandments, but it does appear that other commands of God spring from the "Ten". At any rate, let us take a look at the Ten Commandments in the Bible, and see their meaning in light of the New Testament context, or better yet a plenary view of all Scripture.

The idea is Jesus Christ has come to fulfill the Old Testament and thereby to make it the law of the heart (Matthew 5: 18-19), and thereby make us complete. Jesus was and is more than a prophet or a great biblical leader to usher in His Gospel. There is a difference between Moses and Jesus. Moses stood on the mount and viewed the Promised Land, Jesus sat on the mount and revealed the Promised Humanity; Moses viewed the Promised Land but did not enter; Jesus was the Promised Humanity, its illustration and its goal<sup>1</sup>.

Jesus takes the Ten Commandments and carefully shows how the same commandments from the past have a broader meaning in His Gospel, because the will of the individual must be in unison with the outward acts to obey the law of God (Matthew 5-7:29). It is here that we see the need to see a balance of two planes: the outward response of morality, or the outward expressions directed by the will; and then there is the inward response of morality, or the will itself. Jesus is demanding uniformity as it pertains to the laws of God, the whole person to respond to the will of God. He does not accept compromise, but yet He appears to leave us hanging, as to how can we be perfect as our Father who is heaven is perfect (Matt. 5:48)? Hey Jesus, you have thrown us what seems to be an impossible line to follow! You are not being fair, Jesus! Oh come on, Jesus get your head out of the clouds, we are earth-dwellers and there is no way we can live up to your heavenly expectations! Or is there?

Is it possible that Jesus never meant for us to interpret His Heavenly view of the Ten Commandments from a worldly view? He was and is trying do something new and fresh that requires humanity to lose itself to see the way. And once more, He has gone so far as to provide Godly power to come to the rescue of our human limitations.

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<sup>1</sup>E. Stanley Jones, *The Christ of The Mount* (Nashville: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press 1931), 119.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



This also sheds light on how God no longer uses tablets of stone to record the Ten Commandments, because now He is doing a new thing, "... declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts..." (Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Hebrews 8: 10). Yes the Lord is doing a new thing from the day of Pentecost on. He is making people Holy so they can have and keep His commandments. God is doing this by sanctifying (making holy, and setting apart for a holy purpose) people with His Holy Spirit and then filling them with His Holy Presence. It must be made clear we are not speaking of absolute perfection, when referring to Christian perfection. What is meant is knowing the perfect will of God; having a New Spiritual Heart; and the power to live above sin. Furthermore, it must be remembered that every commandment harks back to love,<sup>3</sup> which continues to speak of the loving relationship God wishes to have with His people. These important biblical teachings will be expanded upon later in this discourse.

Enough already, let's see what the Word of God says and what the possibilities are. Let us take a look at each of the Ten Commandments listed in Exodus 20:1-17, and with each we will see *The Collision Between the Law and Grace*, and how we can respond to His wondrous love.

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<sup>3</sup>Augustine, *Enchiridion-On Faith, Hope, And Love* (Albany, Oregon: Sage Library Software 1996), 98.

# 1

## Verses 2-3,

*I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.î*

This particular passage has inferences from the great story of Moses, after he had been used by God to lead His people who were being held in bondage in Egypt (Exodus 3). The question must be asked repeatedly; why would God permit His people to live in bondage to begin with? Well actually, we need to back peddle in time, when the older sons of Jacob did evil in the eyes of the Lord. They sold Joseph, the younger brother to merchants. From this point on, we see how the people of Israel began to stray from their first love. Of course the rest of the story is how Joseph became a powerful leader in Egypt, and later his family (which eventually grew into the Hebrew race or "children of Israel") joined him. This re-uniting was special, but it did have other ramifications that would effect the Israelites. For example, Egypt was full of other gods and practices that were contradictory to the ways of Yahweh, and over time the Israelites began to participate in serving other gods. So the bondage of God's people occurred both before Egypt and during their time there. There is a unique correlation between God's people living in bondage and the point at which they lost their allegiance to Him. It's as if the Lord permitted his people to consider this option, as He gave them the freedom of choice. In the case of the Israelites, once they realized that their freedom was in jeopardy in Egypt, they began to cry out to the Lord in prayer. Sometimes, it takes situations of bondage to awaken God's people to our greater need to be one with Him. This is never a pleasant situation, from the human perspective, but bondage helps us realize that we cannot serve anything but the Lord.

In the worst case scenario we need to be reduced to the bare minimum of our existence, and then we will seek the Lord and not depend on our resources, or strength of the flesh.

It is so sad to think that sometimes it is necessary for us to experience times of bondage so we can solely serve the One and only God. Of course, bondage is not necessary if we will look to the Lord and serve Him today. Furthermore, if we are living in a state of bondage, we can be assured that God has not forgotten us. In fact, through out biblical history we can see that God has always been on a rescue mission for His people. Whether it be: Adam and Eve after the fall in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3); Noah and his family in a world of corruption (Gen. 6-7); the Israelites working as slaves for the Egyptians (Exodus 1); Jesus Christ was saved from death permanently (John 20:10); and God the Father now offers salvation to all humanity through His Son (John 3:16). God wants to save us from our bondage, but He needs to know that we will serve Him. For the first of the Ten Commandments we see that, in context, Moses was used by God to rescue God's people from Egypt. With this rescue operation God's people had to be willing to leave the land of other gods and serve Yahweh alone. Now, the best example of God's rescue mission is when God the Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to the world to save it. He did this with His physical presence in this world, and when He died on the cross His active presence through the work of the Holy Spirit continues to work in this world. In every case, God is saving His people from bondage. Of course, many people in this world do not care to serve God, but God pursues them just the same.

In the Old Testament, rituals were necessary to serve God. Offering sacrifices and observing special days, just to mention a few, were a part of life for every devoted believer. By the time Jesus Christ came into this world many of the rituals were losing there meaning, because the followers of God had added human meaning to the rituals, performed the rituals with a vain emptiness, or blatantly

misused the system. So Jesus cut to the chase by demanding that complete service to the Lord must be given. For example, Jesus overturned the tables in the temple because the people had made it a business center rather than a place of prayer (Matthew 21:12). Then during His sermon on the Mount, Jesus made it very clear in every example that to serve God is more than just fulfilling a ritual (Matthew 5-7). In other words, there is a need for the heart of the servant to be engaged or the ritual has no value. God wants our complete devotion, and anything less than this represents serving other gods. This straying leads to a form of bondage. God's desire is to save us from this bondage<sup>4</sup>.

The tension between the law and grace is felt and seen right from the initial reading of this first Commandment. To serve God through the law does not satisfy a quality relationship unless the heart is engaged in service as well. Having a heart of this quality is no easy matter, because it cannot be earned by human effort. To say it bluntly we cannot serve God wholeheartedly until we have received His grace and we act in His grace (more on this below).

### Conclusion:

To bring this first commandment down to a practical level, let us see its parameters<sup>5</sup>. It is in reference to person, places, or things. No person should ever bow down before any god or idol that has been created, because all honor and glory is for the One and Only God<sup>6</sup>. There are no limitations as to what can constitute a god, past

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<sup>4</sup> Martin Luther, *The Larger Catechism*, (Albany, Oregon: Sage Library Software, 1996), 16. (i) The intent of this commandment is to require true faith and trust of the heart which settles upon the only true God and clings to Him alone. (i)

<sup>5</sup> Charles Spurgeon, *A Puritan Catechism*, (Albany, Oregon: Sage Library Software, 1996), Oct. 1855, 16. (i) Requires us to know (1 Chron. 28,9) and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God (Deut. 26:17) and to worship and glorify him accordingly (Matt. 4:10).

<sup>6</sup> Wesley Study Bible, Albert F. Harper, ed., (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990), 260. (i) It establishes God's exclusive claim on life, and may be understood as a caution against allowing even the pace of life to obscure our devotion to Him. God must have priority over all competing interests. (i)

or present. Whatever it is, if an individual adopts it as a god, this is a violation of God's Holy order. The acid test for this commandment, could be, if there is any hint or deviation from sound biblical principles, watch-out! Sound biblical principles are repeated more than a few times in the Christian Holy Bible. Also, we should not flirt with false gods, for example, just start attending a cultic meeting for the fun of it. Or here's another, doing things that appear to be in the gray areas of Scripture, but in our hearts we know something is not right. The bottomline is, we cannot play with fire because it is certain one day that we will have a blaze on our hands that can do some real damage to us and to our relationship with the Lord. Martin Luther summarized it this way: "How angry God is with those who trust in anything but Him, and again, how good and gracious He is to those who trust and believe in Him alone with the whole heart..."<sup>7</sup>

Tom, who was a Christian, bought a crystal sphere. Soon, he bought others and placed them all through his house. Because of his interest in them, he began to study New Age religions, and he began to believe that crystals did give him a spiritual lift. Before long, he was participating with groups that were considered New Age, and he no longer worshipped the God of the Christian Bible (Jesus Christ). Tom was now serving another god.

Alice, after suffering a divorce thought she could not attend her local Christian church, and some Jehovah Witnesses came to visit her. They seemed to minister right where she needed some help. Soon, she began to attend their meetings, read their bible, and accepted their doctrine. Alice no longer believed in the God of the Christian Bible, because she was now following a new god.

Mark, who once attended a Christian church, began to play music that elevated the devil, and soon his bedroom was filled with paraphernalia that did the same thing. He no longer thought about

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<sup>7</sup>Luther, *The Larger Catechism*, 20.

Jesus, because most of his thoughts revolved around getting more material on the occult. Devil worship had become Mark's god.

In these three cases, we can see how a person can begin to revere a new god usually through a casual interest that continues to escalate. But in all cases a shift in loyalty has taken place. A paraphrase of this First Commandment could be, **YOU WILL NOT SERVE OR TOLERATE ANY FALSE GODS, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO OTHERS.**

## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Morality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3*

*(1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- A (21)

- \_\_\_ 1. Is it easy for you to love God?
- \_\_\_ 2. Do you obey God's voice?
- \_\_\_ 3. Do you believe that the promises of the Bible are true?
- \_\_\_ 4. Do you think that the Spirit's witness in your heart is necessary?
- \_\_\_ 5. Do you serve the Lord with joy?
- \_\_\_ 6. Do you believe evangelization is very important?
- \_\_\_ 7. Is God number one in your life?
- \_\_\_ 8. Is a consciousness of God very important to you each day?
- \_\_\_ 9. Do you make sure God is a part of your plans?
- \_\_\_ 10. Does God have the authority to override your thoughts?
- \_\_\_ 11. Is God at the center of your heart?
- \_\_\_ 12. Do you deny that objects in your home have a special power or energy?
- \_\_\_ 13. Do you deny that the land, water, trees, or nature in general have a spiritual energy?
- \_\_\_ 14. Do you think it is ill-advised to trust in the Farmers' Almanac?
- \_\_\_ 15. Do you love God more than money?
- \_\_\_ 16. Do you think it is ill-advised to try to predict the future by reading palms?
- \_\_\_ 17. Do you love God more than you love your country?
- \_\_\_ 18. Do you love God more than sports or recreation?
- \_\_\_ 19. Do you love God more than any person?
- \_\_\_ 20. Do you think it is ill-advised to read and trust in your astrology report?
- \_\_\_ 21. Do you think it is ill-advised to try to become rich quickly?

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*TOTAL*

## 2

### Verses 4-6,

*ìYou shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.î*

Before continuing, there is a very critical difference between the First and Second Commandments. In the First Commandment the emphasis is on the worship of any other god before the True God, but here in the Second Commandment the emphasis is on the creation of any god to worship (including a form of the True God Himself in order to worship it). The result is still the same in either case, a heart straying from serving Yahweh.

Today, anyone can make an idol to worship<sup>8</sup>. For Israel this temptation was as much a reality as it is today. When we cannot control events in our lives, when our god cannot be tangibly seen (or controlled in our time frame), or when hardships come that we cannot foresee or control, the temptation to create a god that can be manipulated is great. When Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments from the Lord, the process took so long, and the people in the valley below couldn't see what was going on, that they forced Aaron to make a golden calf so they could bow-down and worship it (Exodus 32). When there is an absence of sensing God's presence there seems to be a greater need to fill that void with a new god. The age-old dilemma is 'God is not here, so I need to take matters in my own hands'. All humans have the need to worship. This need is not accidental, because every person has been born

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<sup>8</sup>Charles Finney, Lectures On Theology XXVII, Law of God (Albany, Oregon: Sage LibrarySoftware, 1996), 255. (ìGod is Spirit. ... Therefore, all such attempts to convey to our own minds, or the minds of others, any apprehensions of The true God, by any image, picture, resemblance, or sensible manifestations whatever, are inconsistent with the great and only law of benevolence, or good-willing.î)



with the nature to worship. But the question is what will we worship? Will we find a temporal form or will we fill the void with the One who alone is worthy of our worship<sup>9</sup>.

We see in the both the Old and New Testaments that this problem of making gods has been an on-going problem. In the Old Testament, there are references to numerous idols or forms of ìgodsî such as the golden calf, bulls, Baal figures and Asherah poles were all common in the formation of worship to other gods. In the New Testament, in the fourth chapter of John we find the Samaritan woman (John 4) commenting about worship to gods. Then thereís Paulís encounter with the craftsman of idols in Greece. The point is that the creation of idols is not a new concept. To push the matter even further, idol worship is not just in the realm of the physical as emphasized in the Old Testament. Jesus knew that anyone could make one in his or her heart. ìHe knew all men . . . for He knew what was in man.î (John 2:25, NIV) and was concerned about what gods we may create in our hearts. We can be free from false gods in the physical and spiritual realm only through the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit, and the result is a heart liberated by the power of God.

#### Conclusion:

It is very easy to make a god. All it takes is for a person to give his or her time, energy or devotion to a specific cause or thing more than to the True God. The determining factor here is whether or not something or someone else has taken the place of honor in any element of our lives. False gods can bloom in any field of our lives. There are no limitations to where we can find false gods. Any obsession to do something new, to the point where we cannot see any other thing in life – namely the Lord and God, and Kaboom! – a god is born! Obsessions are sneaky little things when they move in unchecked.

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<sup>9</sup>Wesley Study Bible, 113. (ìOne cannot create God, and thereby manipulate Him.î)

If we permit them in our lives then we have violated God's law.

Mike just took up golf to have an outlet from work. Mike attended the local community Christian church, was a typical family man, and served on his church board. Mike played golf only one day a week at first, but then he realized that he could improve his game by playing in local tournaments on the weekends. So now he was playing 2-3 days a week, and in golf tournaments on the weekends. Soon, Mike was spending less time with his family, missing board meetings regularly, and he did not attend church much on Sunday. Golf became Mike's new god.

Carla, who was a Christian, thought reading Romance novels and watching soap operas were harmless pastimes. Soon, she found herself reading every new romance novel that came out in the stores, and she could not wait to get home to watch her favorite soap operas. Her life was dictated around the hour when her soap opera aired and her spare time was spent reading Romance novels. These had become her reality. Whether a certain character received an operation, or whether there were cheating hearts in the latest chapter or episode dominated her thoughts and her conversation. She was more concerned about these fictional characters than she was about her own family or friends. Carla had made romance novels and soap operas her gods.

Then there is Jerry, a believer, who thought playing Lotto, or the lottery was harmless. At first, he began to play a few dollars a week, but then he won \$100. He then thought he could afford to buy more tickets at a cost of \$20-40 a week. Before Jerry realized it, he had gambled away half his paycheck. Instead of calling it quits Jerry thought he could get back what he lost, so he started to buy a \$100 supply of tickets each week in a frantic attempt to win. Jerry was hooked, and was no longer comfortable attending church anymore. A new god was born -- call it money, winning, gaming or just the lottery.

These people found themselves making choices in areas that seemed harmless to them, but they found out otherwise. A paraphrase of this Second Commandment could be, YOU WILL NOT MAKE ANY PERSON, PLACE, OR THING A GOD IN PLACE OF ME (Love, God).

## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Mbrality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3  
( 1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- B (25)

- 1. Is God in control of your life (or are you in control)?
- 2. Does God get more attention in your life than anything or anyone else?
- 3. Do relationships, and especially your relationship with God, have a priority over the asks in your life?
- 4. Do you trust that God has your future in His hands (or are you consumed with plans and concern)?
- 5. Are you able to maintain touch with reality and the day to day things of life?
- 6. Are you secure in who you are (or do you do things to impress others)?
- 7. Do you acknowledge your dependence on God (or are you proud of your self-sufficiency)?
- 8. Do you acknowledge that God created you?
- 9. Do you believe that nothing is impossible with God (or is it your own hard work and positive thinking that overcomes difficulties)?
- 10. Is your identity in being God's child (or in your title or position)?
- 11. Do you believe that titles are unimportant?
- 12. Do you believe that power and control are dangerous (or are they desirable)?
- 13. Are you the type of person who refuses to use your resources to control or manipulate others or circumstances?
- 14. Do you allow God to control your time?
- 15. Are you the type of person that does not allow your possessions to preoccupy you?
- 16. Do you believe that all of God's created nature is holy (or are

- there special places more holy than others)?
- \_\_\_ 17. Are you the type of person who denies that there is spiritual power in statues, pictures, weavings, etc.
  - \_\_\_ 18. Do you believe that God's truth is universal and exclusive (or is it okay to make new religions)?
  - \_\_\_ 19. Do you refuse to make symbols of astrology, mysticism or philosophies?
  - \_\_\_ 20. Are you the type of person that would break a family tradition if it was necessary?
  - \_\_\_ 21. Is your relationship with God more important than your ministry or public service?
  - \_\_\_ 22. Are you the type of person who will ask for God's help in overcoming a bad habit?
  - \_\_\_ 23. Do you believe that some days are holier than others (and you can expect a special blessing on the holiest of days)?
  - \_\_\_ 24. Are you the type of person who fasts for reasons of health, discipline or obedience to God (or do you fast to try to get things from God)?
  - \_\_\_ 25. Are you the type of person who gives a tithe or offering to the Lord out of love for Him (or do you give in order to receive a big payoff from God)?

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*TOTAL*

# 3

## Verse 7,

*You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.<sup>1</sup>*

So, does this mean that God is not able take a few rotten words from us? But on the other hand why should He? Words are powerful expressions of a person. In Hebrew thought, the name of a person summarized who that person was. Misuse of the name of God is not merely a misuse of words. It reduces God Himself to the ìcasual and insignificantî<sup>10</sup>. For example, when the Pharisees said directly to Jesus you are the ìking of Beelzebubî, or king of the flies (Matt. 10:25), they were defying the very identity of God. This account is one the harshest examples of defying the name of the Lord. Defiance in this context is a statement or words that suggest a divided allegiance, direct complaint against God, or expressing suppressed anger to God. To say such things to God in passing or in another form is absolutely contradictory. Defiance is exemplified when the Israelites complained countless times to Moses while they were in the desert. It was a direct slam against the Lord's character. Moses himself responded in anger against the Lord, and he was not permitted to enter the Promised Land as a result. In essence they were calling God a liar in His promises to care for them, merely because they did like the way He was going about it. This direct form of disobedience to the Lord resulted in all but two dying in the desert. That's kind of hard to swallow, just complaining being a transgression. However, somewhere at the tail of the complaint there may a heart demanding its rights, or worse yet, a denial of God's character to care for His

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<sup>10</sup>Wesley Study Bible, 261.

own. In serving God, we have no rights, just privileges and words are not alibis for obstinacy or lack of faith.

It is actually a violation of this Third Commandment to call upon the Lord in any way ìfor purpose of falsehood or wrong of any kindî.<sup>11</sup>

Another form of misrepresenting God is plain and simple ìdouble-mindednessî or saying one thing and doing another. Well God, does not like this type of deviation anymore than we do, and for one reason alone, He is God so he deserves our respect. He does not want to hear any excuses as to why we cannot inform Him properly. Take Adam and Eve in the garden after they sinned. God did not want to hear why the couple sinned as much as He wanted to hear that they were willing to confess that they had sinned. God wants us to cut to the chase and get to the confession of truth. Because truth is the cornerstone in which the foundation of every believer is built, and without it not one can stand. For this reason, to manifest a form of ìdoublemindednessî by using words that tell reverse tales of the heart is to defy or demean God Almighty much like an unfaithful spouse<sup>12</sup>.

We can all be thankful that God knows our heart so that when we might express anger to God with words, while in reality we do not hate Him, He knows the difference. However, this freedom does not give us a license to say things loosely without giving thought to our words, but it is comforting to know that God can read us when we cannot do it ourselves. Take Job in the Bible, the guy was suffering with incredible trauma and out of emotion he said things about God that were not particularly wise, like, claiming to be righteous in the sight of God(Job 17:9). God understood the situation, and he was not unreasonable with Job in the end. God knows the heart, and He

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<sup>11</sup>Luther, The Larger Catechism, 24.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid. (i In marriage affairs where two go and secretly betroth themselves to one another, and afterward abjure [their plighted troth].i)

hears our words, so we need not worry about the fairness of God. But it is needless to say we need to say what we mean at the best of our ability.

The real tension is when our words are used voluntarily with clear understanding derived from the heart but with the intent to misrepresent God. So clarity of words and heart do have the capability to defame the Lord. But, on the other hand they have the ability to bring honor to His wonderful Name<sup>13</sup>.

It is for certain, the Lord would rather that we be certain to live for Him or against Him, rather than say one thing and do another. For it is written, *ÌI wish you were either hot or cold, because you are lukewarm I will spew you out of my mouth.* (Rev. 3:16 )*î*.

#### Conclusion:

God commands that the people of this world represent Him for Who He is, and not in a manner that demeans His character. This includes misusing His name, and being angry with Him when we are being disciplined, or when disasters have occurred. Words are powerful, and they can open or close the door to eternal life, when the heart or will is engaged. The law may say that your words were sweetly spoken and honor the Lord, but grace cuts to the heart and asks if the heart truly is the wellspring of a vocabulary of sweetness. When there is disparity -- there is *ÌThe Collision Between The Law and Graceî*.

Terry was only seven years old and in a church going family, but his father used four letter words like water around the house and at work. Soon, Terry thought he needed to be like his dad so he started to swear using God's name. Terry is now 20 years old, he swears at home and at work. He has become just like his father, and he does

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<sup>13</sup>Wesley Study Bible, 261. (*îThe positive side of this commandment is that our talk of God should be characterized by awe and worship.î*)



not see a problem with a church goer swearing, and using the Lord's name in vain.

Mary was a model college student with 4.0 grades on the road to success. She found that her teachers seemed to like it when other students used vulgar terminology in their papers. So she began to do so, because she wanted to be sure to get an 'A' in her classes. She knew that most of her professors were non-believers so when she used God's name in the vulgarity this seemed to help her scores. Mary claims to be a believer yet she misuses God's name.

Mabel was the artistic type and she was into abstracts. She created a piece that had dog excrement on a cross. She thought it showed how Jesus had become our sin when He died on the cross, and she wasn't embarrassed about it. Without giving much thought to what she was doing, Mabel was harming God's reputation.

In all three examples we see how people can misrepresent God by following the world's mindset about God. In keeping with this we do not have the right downplay the name or reputation of the Lord. To do so is a violation of a law of God. A paraphrase of this Third Commandment is 'YOU WILL NOT MISREPRESENT MY (GOD) NAME OR REPUTATION IN ANY WAY'.

## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Mbrality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3  
(1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- C (10)

- \_\_\_ 1. Are you the type of person who only mentions God when you are talking with Him or about Him but never as an oath or an expression of emotion?
- \_\_\_ 2. Do you believe that God can make people holy?
- \_\_\_ 3. Do you believe that God is pure and holy and good (or do you think He has a dark side)?
- \_\_\_ 4. Do you believe that God has only good intended for your life?
- \_\_\_ 5. Are you the type of person who does not allow swearing or vulgarity to be a part of your life?
- \_\_\_ 6. Are you really concerned about maintaining the integrity of the Lord's reputation?
- \_\_\_ 7. When you get mad, do you refuse to curse Him?
- \_\_\_ 8. Can you trust God even when things are going wrong (or do you blame Him immediately)?
- \_\_\_ 9. Do you testify about God to others?
- \_\_\_ 10. Do you think that your life is a testimony for God?

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*TOTAL*

## 4

### Verses 8-11,

*Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.̄*

There are over 100 references in the Bible about having a Sabbath rest. In Hebrew, this term refers to a cessation of labor<sup>14</sup>. Nearly all the references with the exception of a few, directly state that a Sabbath day is mandatory for the people of God. It is more than a prohibition of certain activities; rather, its purpose is worship or a time to remember that He alone supplies all our needs<sup>15</sup>. In the New Testament there do seem to be certain exceptions for the Sabbath Law as understood by the Jewish scholars of that time. First, Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, so He can do what He wants with it. It is true that Jesus lives and dwells in every believer, but this does not mean that any believer can ignore the need for a Sabbath. Second, it has served as a much-needed opportunity for the community of Christ to come together out of a busy week and to focus on Him<sup>16</sup>. Third, tradition is important in establishing the need for a Sabbath, because it has been the tradition of the Christian church to celebrate the Sabbath on Sundays for at least a 1,000 years<sup>17</sup>. Fourth, a Sabbath is essential for having a day to let one's body rest, so it will function

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<sup>14</sup>Luther, The Larger Catechism, 29.

<sup>15</sup>Wesley Study Bible, 261.

<sup>16</sup>Luther, The Larger Catechism, 30.

in the week to come. This also, includes the land, business, and all the equipment for a business. Fifth, the Sabbath rest can be interpreted to mean that all God's people can have such a rest when they have been sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit, while the believer lives from moment to moment. The sixth, broader meaning is an eternal rest in Heaven after life in this world. Lastly, the broadest interpretation that encompasses all of the six, is a life of holiness. Holiness is required in every corner, in this life and the life thereafter.

From the Genesis account we see that the Lord rested on the Seventh Day from creation labors<sup>18</sup>. It is a day that is to be kept holy. From this we see the framework for a day of rest. All people were created with the need for a Sabbath<sup>19</sup>. A day that would be observed in the Old Testament on a Saturday, but later observed on Sunday by the New Testament Church. Of course the event that dramatically effected this is the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which occurred on Sunday (or first day of the week).

One cannot say that one of the seven interpretations is more important than the others. The rest of God cannot be isolated to only a moment or a day, because the strata of truth covers a wide spectrum of meaning in the Old and New Testament. To work on the Sabbath in the Old Testament was punishable by death, and it was observed by the cessation of labor on the Sabbath. The emphasis was on the outward expression of maintaining the Sabbath<sup>20</sup>. This is not to say that the inward person did not have to manifest a sense of harmony

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid. (iBut since from of old Sunday [the Lord's Day] has been appointed for the purpose, we also should continue the same, in order that everything be done in harmonious order, and no one create disorder by unnecessary innovation.i)

<sup>18</sup> Finney, Lectures On Theology, 261. (iIt was designed as a means of increasing holiness in holy beings. N.B. It was instituted before the fall.i).

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 259-60. (iMany ancient writers bear testimony to the existence and observance of the Sabbath in various nations...Homer, Porphyry, Philo, Josephus, Lampidius, Grotius, and Humphrey. These... show that the Sabbath was not a Jewish institution, but was known and acknowledged by various nations.i)

<sup>20</sup> Cf. Luther, The Larger Catechism, 29. (iThis commandment, therefore, according to its gross sense, does not concern us Christians; for it is altogether an external matter, like other ordinances of the Old Testament, which attached to particular customs, persons, times, and places, and now have been free through Christ.i)

with outward acts. However, as we near the movement of the New Testament, we begin to feel and see the tension of the law and grace. The New Testament demands that the inner person be true to his or her outward expressions. Jesus was not satisfied with outward sacrifice alone; He had to reveal the true person. Jesus knew and He knows what is in humanity (John 2:24-25).

Jesus pushed for true worship when He cleared out the temple in Jerusalem, because it had become a place of selling and bartering rather than a place of prayer. Also, there are only a few occurrences that show that Jesus did not observe the Sabbath in a sense that satisfied the Jewish law. Most of the time He lived in harmony with Jewish law. As for the exception, Jesus and His disciples were hungry. For this reason they picked wheat grain to eat. According to the current interpretation of the Jewish law, this was viewed as breaking the Sabbath rest. So, how could Jesus get away with it? He was and is, the Lord of the Sabbath and for this reason alone He could do whatever He wanted in accordance with His relationship to the Father. Let's test this a bit. For example, did He leave the presence of His Father, or have a willful ambition to breach a law of God? No, Jesus was acting out of necessity, because His disciples were hungry. From this, we can determine that necessity to eat, heal, or to offer assistance in a state of emergency seem to permit flexibility in this commandment. Jesus had the final say in what was an exception, and He seemed to base His exceptions on compassion and true human need. However, for us, human judgment about what is a necessity can be presumptuous business.

Ultimately in His new dispensation of His Holy Spirit we see this, every believer is to be the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19). For this reason alone worship is not to be a one day a week ritual<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> Luther, The Larger Catechism, 31. (For the Word of God is the sanctuary above all sanctuaries, yea, the only one which we Christians know and have.)

However, this does not lessen the purpose of celebrating worship publicly or in any other form. No matter what, worship, or the Sabbath rest must come from the heart. God never has been and never will be satisfied with worship that does not reflect the complete person. There seems to be a direct correlation between true worship with one's whole heart and soul and a true Sabbath rest.

### Conclusion:

In all cases, the Sabbath rest is required and it is violation of a law of God to not practice it (living in His Presence). It would be relevant to say that a believer needs to know that Jesus is the final authority about what and what should not be done on any day (holiness). Second, every believer needs to be involved with corporate worship, and the tradition of Christianity dictates that Sunday is the preferred day. Tradition is not to be taken lightly when it encompasses the truth of God. Third, God has designed our bodies, land, equipment, and all things to be in need of a rest. Lastly, the ultimate rest is in heaven, but a continual practice of living in His rest must precede it.

Jason saw no problem in working on Sunday. A month later, he never gave worshipping the Lord another thought. In fact, his job permitted him to have Sundays off but he rescheduled himself to work Sundays, anyway. To have a day of worship was no longer important to Jason.

Margaret, loved to work 50-80 hours a week. She even worked on Sundays after going to church. She could not figure out, why, when she got sick she would have to take a week or two weeks off work, regularly. It seemed like she just wasn't giving her body enough rest

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<sup>22</sup> Finney, Lectures on Theology, 264. (Holiness of heart and right intentions in all we do on the Sabbath. That love and not legal considerations actuate us.)

weekly and persisted to think her body was a machine. Margaret was not giving her body a Sabbath rest.

David, challenged people to find where in the Bible it says Christians should not smoke. So he would go to the door step of the church smoking and after church he would start smoking in the same spot after church. David did not know that his body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 5:19) and for this reason he is in church twenty four hours a day. David is not living God's Sabbath rest of Holiness.

Tina put a lot of energy into worshipping God on Sunday, but on the other six days she thought she could live differently. Tina was not living in God's Sabbath rest of Holiness.

Fred, accepted Jesus at 21, and he loved the Lord. But he constantly felt like he was going Hell, to the point it was bothersome. Fred was not living the Sabbath Rest of the Promise of heaven through Jesus Christ.

All five of these people have been facing issues revolving around worship, because they did not understand the vastness of the Sabbath rest. This Fourth Commandment could be paraphrased to read: **TAKE TIME TO WORSHIP ME (God) ON SUNDAY IN A CHURCH, GIVE MY TEMPLE (your body) A REST, AND LIVE A LIFE OF HOLINESS EVERY DAY UNTIL YOU ENTER MY HEAVEN (ultimate rest).**

## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Mbrality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3  
(1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- D (9)

- \_\_\_ 1. Do you have the Lord's rest, or His Presence in your heart through each day?
- \_\_\_ 2. Is community worship a priority for you?
- \_\_\_ 3. Do you take the time to give your body rest one full day a week?
- \_\_\_ 4. Do you maintain the tradition of the church to make Sunday a Day of rest?
- \_\_\_ 5. Do you refuse to do your secular work on Sundays?
- \_\_\_ 6. In your opinion is a worship service more than a mere formality?
- \_\_\_ 7. In your opinion, is it more important to worship than to make a little extra money on Sundays?
- \_\_\_ 8. Would you refuse to sell goods and services to people at church during worship times?
- \_\_\_ 9. Do you believe that Jesus would think that Sunday worship is an important thing to do?

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*TOTAL*



# 5

## Verse. 12,

*ÿHonor your father and your mother, so that you may live long  
in the land the Lord your God is giving you.ÿ*

In all forms of human relationships there should be mutual respect. Family stability is central to God's plan for society<sup>23</sup>. God requires that there be mutual respect between those who are in authority, and for those who must be under authority<sup>24</sup>. The family is the greatest model of networking of authority under the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Therefore, with this great importance attached to it, it is only with our fathers and mothers that God not only commands respect, but for us to honor them<sup>25</sup>.

From an Old Testament perspective, a child was to respect and honor his or her parents. There was no discussion about this point. In the case of Abraham and Isaac, Isaac needed to heed to the authority of his father even if it meant death on an altar (Genesis 22). Jesus was found in the temple talking with religious leaders, when his parents had discovered Him missing (Luke 2:41-51). Jesus even though He was doing His ÿFather's businessÿ yielded to His human parents by returning with them. It could be said for the fact that Jesus did not tell his parents that He wanted to stay in the temple was a demonstration of disobedience. However, Jesus in His pre-teens was discovering balance of being a human and being God. There was a sense of being the author of the commandment and

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<sup>23</sup>Wesley Study Bible, 261. (ÿRespect for parents reminds us that we do not live unto ourselves, but that all we have is a gift. Family stability is important to God's kingdom and indicates the health of society.ÿ)

<sup>24</sup>Luther, The Larger Catechism, 46. (ÿGod so fearfully punishes the world that there is no discipline, government, or peace, of which we all complain, but do not see that it is our fault; for as we train them, we have spoiled and disobedient children and subjects.ÿ)

<sup>25</sup>ibid., 34.

one who abides by it. Another notable moment, was when His mother Mary asked Him to turn the water into wine at a wedding (John 2). His mother knew who Jesus was, and had a sense that His time had come. Godly parents have intuition that comes from God. Thus, although being a grown man, Jesus honored her request and thereby honored her. It appears that His mother was encouraging Him to live up to His potential. God works through godly parents.

From a family perspective, a mother and father are to be the models that help their children learn about God. How a child sees the parents interact with one another, and how they treat others will help the child to see God's way, and see the Lord Himself. Of course, if the parents are poor models this can jeopardize this opportunity. Also, if parents are just doing good things and the love of God is not present in their hearts the child will never see an authentic picture of God in them. Parents have a responsibility that goes beyond just feeding and clothing their children, because they must be teachers as well. Parenting is not sitting back and seeing what will happen with kids. It means actively being responsible to raise them in the admonitions of the Lord. So in the end, this commandment is meant for parents as much as it is meant for their children. Parents need to model godly principles so their children will take great joy in obeying them and others will be blessed<sup>26</sup>.

God's grace is present even where a child is raised in an environment with ungodly parents. This is especially true where a child has accepted Jesus as Lord. There is certainly, confusion in the eyes of the child, but the child will see a disparity in how the parents are living and how they sense the Spirit of God leading them to live. When abuse is present, the child may have to make a bold

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<sup>26</sup> Luther, *The Larger Catechism*, 36. (i...a child properly taught, reared in true blessedness, and kept at home in obedience to his parents and in their service, so that men should have had blessing and joy from the spectacle.i)

stand against their parent or parents. This is never easy, but a child sometimes need to make a bold stand for Christ at a very young age. For the person who is now an adult and has suffered from abuse, they must learn to turn from those negative voices of the past and replace them with the voice of their Heavenly Father. Here again, this is not easy but can be done through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This model of obeying a godly father and mother continues in phases of life, as mentioned earlier. When a child has learned obedience then they can apply this principle to every element of life<sup>27</sup>. It will help in the classroom, future work, marriage, government structures, friendships, and others. In all cases, to heed to obedience is to comply with God's plan. Certainly, within these systems in our world there are times when one must obey God rather than the system. Thus, obeying God must be held central in every case.

#### Conclusion:

No person needs to accept authority that promotes sin. Children that are being raised by abusive parents do not need to accept this, any more than an employee who has been molested by his or her employer. Respect for authority is vital for maintaining human systems of God here on earth. Children must obey their parents, and together they must do "…all things, in such a way as to promote the highest well-being of the universe, and the glory of God"<sup>28</sup>. To violate this authority is contrary to this law of God for human systems.

Eric as a small child demanded everything that he wanted, and even contrary to his parents' wishes he received most all that he wanted. Eric went on to become a pastor, and regularly preaches that God wants you to have everything that you want, and he promotes

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<sup>27</sup> Finney, *The Lectures of Theology*, 275. (A cheerful and prompt obedience of heart and life which is consistent with the highest perfection of family order, love, and happiness.)

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 276.

prosperity doctrine.

Kerry wanted to buy a motorcycle, and he had the money to do so. He was now 18 years old, and his father and mother told him they thought buying a motorcycle was not a safe mode of transportation, and to save more money for a car. Kerry bought the bike, anyway. Kerry has had three accidents and has to ride his bicycle to college on rainy days.

Nikkei, 16 years old was told by her parents not to schedule activities on Sunday, because her parents wanted her to have a day of rest and worship. Recently, Nikkei wanted to be a cheerleader, and all her dear friends were doing the same. However, she found out that practice on Sundays was mandatory. Nikkei, told her parents she was going to do it anyway, and she did. Nikkei became a cheerleader, but she wonders why people tell her that she has become an abrasive young person.

Gary was doing the family's income tax, and he saw some loopholes in how the government would not know about some earned money. Gary pondered the idea for a moment, and soon he saw a reflection of his Dad in his mind saying, "God sees everything that we do even when Uncle Sam doesn't!" Gary decided that the money was more important, and he has found other ways to earn money (sometimes dishonestly) that no one else knows about.

These three examples show how dishonoring godly parents can continue the rest of our lives if obedience is not learned in childhood.

This Fifth Commandment could be paraphrased to say, "YOU WILL RESPECT GODLY STRUCTURES OF HUMAN AUTHORITY, AND THIS STARTS WITH OBEYING GODLY PARENTS".

## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Morality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3*

*(1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- E (17)

- \_\_\_ 1. Do you respect people in leadership as authorities over you (or are they all just on a power-trip)?
- \_\_\_ 2. Do you participate in the democratic process of voting for leaders?
- \_\_\_ 3. Do you believe that it is just as important to be a good parent to your own children as it is to respect your own parents?
- \_\_\_ 4. Are you the type of person who would care for (- take responsibility for) your parents in their old age?
- \_\_\_ 5. Do you believe that a wife should respect her husband?
- \_\_\_ 6. Do you respect authority in human relationships (parents, spouse, siblings, government, employer, pastor, and leaders)?
- \_\_\_ 7. When someone asks you to do things, will they know that you are the type of person who will do it if you say you will do it?
- \_\_\_ 8. Do you pray for your leaders?
- \_\_\_ 9. Do you serve others whole-heartedly?
- \_\_\_ 10. If married, do you listen to your spouse?
- \_\_\_ 11. Is it a good idea to listen to your kids?
- \_\_\_ 12. If you have a family, should they be important to you?
- \_\_\_ 13. If you have kids, do you treat your kids like they are valuable human beings?
- \_\_\_ 14. If your father or mother warned you about a decision, would you listen and consider what they had to say?
- \_\_\_ 15. Are you the type of person who believes that it is not acceptable to walk out on your spouse simply because you don't love them anymore?
- \_\_\_ 16. Do you think mutual respect is important between family members?

\_\_\_ 17. Do you think communication with leaders is important?

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*TOTAL*

# 6

## Verse 13,

*Thou shalt not murder.*

No person has the right to murder another human being. At the most fundamental level, this commandment posits the value of human life. It prohibits the killing (usually premeditated) of one individual by another, yet does not negate righteous warfare, capital punishment, or the use of animals for food<sup>29</sup>. An Old Testament exception was for personal retribution such as "an eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth" (Exodus 21:24). Yet even in this context, God showed the value He placed on human life by also providing cities of refuge to prevent needless bloodshed. (e.g. Numbers 35:6). In the New Testament context, the issue became the attitude of the heart. Jesus said that even being angry with one's neighbor was in violation of this commandment. (Matthew 5:22). Jesus' teachings seem to extend the application of this Commandment to include our unwillingness to forgive people, our anger or bad intentions, and the use of abusive language against a person<sup>30</sup>. If we possess an attitude to destroy another person in any way, this could be as murderous as the act itself<sup>31</sup>. The root of the violation of this Commandment is in the intentions or heart. We are held accountable for what we think, and how we engage our thinking.

On the other hand, through Jesus Christ, grace is extended to us who have violated this and other Commandments and therefore

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<sup>29</sup> Wesley Study Bible, 261.

<sup>30</sup> Luther, The Larger Catechism, 47. (Christ Himself explains and sums it up, namely, that we must not kill neither with hand, heart, mouth, signs, gestures, help, nor counsel.)

<sup>31</sup> Finney, The Lectures of Theology, 280.

deserve the death penalty. Most legal systems in this world are established under the law of the Old Testament perspective, and this grace offered through Jesus Christ is not a consideration. As a result, anger and hatred are not even illegal, and killing is justified in certain circumstances. This reminds us we are living under two world orders: the worldly and the spiritual. If every person would walk in a personal relationship with God there would be no need for human rulers (Samuel the prophet anointing Saul, 1 Sam. 8:6-9). Since, most of the world does not walk personally or consciously with God a worldly order is in place. Jesus ushered in the spiritual order (the kingdom of God, Matt. 19:14), which is to be above the world order. This is what we see in the sermon of the Mount (Matthew 5-7:29). So just because our attitudes are not illegal or a murder is considered justifiable under a human legal system, this does not mean it is tolerated by God. God's standard goes deeper, yet His grace deeper yet.

#### Conclusion:

Anger and hatred are as much a violation of this Commandment of God as intentional murder. God values human life and the issue is whether we do as well<sup>32</sup>. Our intentions to separate ourselves from God or another human being will not be tolerated because God promotes and demands loving relationships that function. We are to love our enemies and bless those who curse us. Only God can quench the strong human emotion of hatred and revenge with loving kindness and mercy<sup>33</sup>. The tension of two world orders is found here, the worldly and the spiritual. The world order approves of termination because a person has proven to be a burden. God's kingdom order demands the promotion of life and relationship. God wants all to be

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 280. (i[S]o it is their duty to regard and treat life, as an indispensable means of promoting individual and universal happiness.†)

<sup>33</sup> Luther, The Larger Catechism, 50.



saved. Murder is no graver a sin than hatred and anger. Sin is sin, and the wages of sin is death, if God's pardon through Christ Jesus is not sought. When Grace is received the fruit of relationship is in full force.

Daryl really wished his father were dead, because of the way he treated his mother. His father repented from abusing his wife, but Daryl, who became a Christian would not forgive his father. Deep in his heart there was still that murderous anger. Daryl can not figure out why he did not have joy in his life. Daryl has murdered his father in his heart, by hating him and refusing to forgive him.

Marsha, became pregnant by her boyfriend. She claimed to be a Christian, and she could not bare the shame she might endure. So she had an abortion. To this day, she cannot understand why she carries guilt from the situation. Marsha murdered her child.

John could not stand to see his wife suffer with cancer, so he made a house fire appear as an accident that killed his wife. Later, John found out later that his wife's condition was treatable by a new treatment. John committed murder.

These three people have one thing in common they are intentionally separating people from their lives by their own means. This Sixth Commandment could be paraphrased as follows: **YOU WILL NOT DISOWN ANY HUMAN BEING I HAVE CREATED.**

## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Morality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3*

*( 1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- F (19)

- \_\_\_ 1. Do you refuse to allow yourself to go to bed still angry at someone?
- \_\_\_ 2. Do you refuse to believe that suicide is an acceptable practice (or is it a personal choice)?
- \_\_\_ 3. Do you believe that mercy killing (to kill someone because they are in severe pain) is not acceptable?
- \_\_\_ 4. Do you refuse to entertain thoughts about wishing that someone would die or disappear?
- \_\_\_ 5. Do you refuse to think evil thoughts about people?
- \_\_\_ 6. Do you refuse to entertain thoughts of revenge for the wrong done to you?
- \_\_\_ 7. To the best of your knowledge, have you forgiven everyone who has hurt you or otherwise needs forgiveness?
- \_\_\_ 8. Do you refuse to manipulate people for your own benefit?
- \_\_\_ 9. Do you think abortion is murder?
- \_\_\_ 10. Do you refuse to use harsh words with hate in your heart?
- \_\_\_ 11. Do you stop when you are angry (or do you get so mad that you have come close to killing or hurting someone)?
- \_\_\_ 12. Do you refuse to listen to songs about killing and violence?
- \_\_\_ 13. Do you refuse to watch movies with a lot of violence (or are programs boring unless they have a lot of it)?
- \_\_\_ 14. Do you think all sin is equally sin (or is murder a worse sin than the others)?
- \_\_\_ 15. Do you believe that you should forgive someone who has hurt you even if they haven't apologized or asked for forgiveness?
- \_\_\_ 16. Do you refuse to ever hold a grudge?

- \_\_\_ 17. Do you believe that forgiveness of one another is always necessary?
- \_\_\_ 18. Do you refuse to write people off who have harmed you?
- \_\_\_ 19. Do you believe that God can forgive a murderer?

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*TOTAL*

# 7

## Verse 14,

*iYou shall not commit adultery.i*

Jesus said that this Commandment can be violated in the heart, irrespective of physically acting on it or not (Matthew 5:28)<sup>34</sup>. The Bible is clear that a standard has been set for sexual relations: it is to occur in the state of marriage; it is to be done in purity and honesty; it is to be done for pleasure with one's spouse and no other; and, it is done for procreation<sup>35</sup>. If it is done outside of marriage, with a person of the same sex, or through artificial forms these are direct violations against this law. Sex is to represent Christ's union with His Church<sup>36</sup>, and is to be an expression of a couple's union in the sight of God<sup>37</sup>. This is why when sex is misused in any form, each form symbolizes a covenant relationship of disunion rather than a union. God does not honor covenant relationships for sex outside of healthy Christian marriages. In a crude sense, there must be a joining of the hearts with God to make the union of organs a covenant with God. This could mean that people who are married as non-believers are in a vehicle of truth without asking the creator of the vehicle to guide them through this life.

In this day, when people are inundated with sexual perversion it

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<sup>34</sup> Finney, *The Lectures of Theology*, 282. (It prohibits all writing, conversation, pictures, modes of dress, and whatever has a natural tendency to beget in any degree a licentious state of mind; for he who provokes to lust is guilty of the crime of which he is the guilty cause.)

<sup>35</sup> Luther, *The Larger Catechism*, 52. (He ... wishes us to honor it, and to maintain and conduct it as a divine and blessed estate; because in the first place, He has instituted it before all others, and therefore created man and woman separately (as is evident), not for lewdness, but that they should [legitimately] live together, be fruitful, beget children, and nourish and train them to the honor of God.)

<sup>36</sup> Wesley Study Bible, 261. (Adultery: The sacredness of sexual expression is crucial to biblical faith; marital fidelity is of paramount importance. God intends that our relationship to the opposite sex be symbolic of the exclusive love He has for the world.)

<sup>37</sup> Finney, *The Lectures of Theology*, 281.

is easy to understand why people cannot see the value of biblically mandated sexual relations in the sight of God. Newspapers, the Internet, magazines, movies, advertisements and videos are bombarding people with perverse sex. This has been reduced to the point that science is devising methodologies that eliminate the need for sexual intercourse by husband and wife (in vitro fertilization). This has opened the door to homosexual groups to have children. It is making procreation just a system to have children and not be related to the union of a man and woman. Of course, it goes further than that, because when people are reduced to the point that they are only sex partners there are no parameters for commitment.

**Conclusion:**

If sex is not associated with marital commitment than it is just another vain act of sin. This is sad, because the sexual union is to be a celebration of a man and woman's union in the sight of God in marriage. It is not the only way, but it is a way the couple can celebrate that they are one flesh in the Lord<sup>38</sup>. So when sex is experienced in any other way it defies God's plan.

Dale started to watch movies that had a lot of sexual promiscuity. Then, he began to surf the Internet to visit pornographic sites. He reasoned that he wanted to use the images to improve his sexual performance with his wife. This is what he told her. He could not figure out why their sex life was not fulfilling. Dale was lusting over many nude woman regularly and for this Dale was committing adultery in his heart.

Trish was staying with some wealthy friends who had a virtual reality Sexual Stimulation Suit. Her friends encouraged her to put it

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<sup>38</sup> Luther, *The Larger Catechism*, 54. (i For where conjugal chastity is to be maintained, man and wife must obey all means live together in love and harmony, that one may cherish the other from the heart and with entire fidelity.i)

on and program it as if it were a man with whom she wanted to have a fantasy. Pretty soon Trish found herself using the suit regularly because she liked the way it made her feel. It was as if the man was touching her sexually, but it was only a machine. She was a believer, and thought she could do this without effecting her relationship with God. Trish was committing adultery in the heart.

Kurt told his wife that he believed God told him to leave her and marry another woman with whom he was infatuated. Kurt did it, and to this day believes it was God's will for this to happen. Kurt has committed adultery.

Linda believed God loves all people so she saw no problem in becoming bi-sexual. She had both a boyfriend and a girlfriend, and engaged in sexual activity with both. She did not see a problem with this. Linda committed adultery because she was having sex before marriage and with a person of the opposite sex.

Sex lives that appeal to this world, and sell air time on the talk shows, do not appeal to God. One way to paraphrase this Commandment is **YOU WILL ENGAGE IN SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH ONLY YOUR SPOUSE WHO IS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.** (marriage partners man and a woman).<sup>1</sup>

## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Morality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3*

*(1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- G (32)

- 1. Do you refuse to fantasize about having sex with someone not your spouse?
- 2. Do you refuse to look at pornographic material?
- 3. Do you avoid pursuing relationships with people who are already married, or are committed in a relationship to another person?
- 4. Do you believe that it is wrong to engage in a sexual relationship outside of marriage?
- 5. Do you believe that it is wrong to engage in sexual activity with a person of the same sex?
- 6. Do you believe that it is wrong to use artificial stimulation (and lustful fantasies) to masturbate?
- 7. Do you believe that a sexual relationship is wrong even if no one else knows about it?
- 8. Do you believe that it is wrong to touch someone you are dating in an intimately sexual way?
- 9. Do you believe that sex with someone other than your spouse is wrong, even if your spouse knows about it and gives consent?
- 10. Do you believe that all sexual activity outside of marriage is wrong (or is some activity like oral sex not considered a sexual activity)?
- 11. Do you believe that it is wrong to try to re-define "sexual activity" so as to come as close to the "permissible" line as possible?
- 12. Do you refuse to watch movies that have nudity or graphic sexual content?
- 13. Can you look at a person of the opposite sex with a wholesome

- perspective?
- \_\_\_ 14. Do you believe that seducing, manipulating or using force to have sexual relations is wrong?
  - \_\_\_ 15. Do you refuse to believe that sex should be done whenever it feels good?
  - \_\_\_ 16. Do you refuse to believe that sex exclusively in marriage is old-fashioned and outdated?
  - \_\_\_ 17. Do you refuse to believe that sex with someone outside of marriage is a natural thing?
  - \_\_\_ 18. Do you believe that God forgives sexual sin if we ask Him (or must a woman who becomes pregnant marry the man and then they can be forgiven)?
  - \_\_\_ 19. Do you see a problem with erotic dancing, where people assimilate sexual activity?
  - \_\_\_ 20. Do you see a problem with prostitution - even when a person is lonely?
  - \_\_\_ 21. Does God prefer to be referred to as one gender form or another?
  - \_\_\_ 22. Do you believe that there is a moral danger in certain forms of bio-genetic engineering such as cloning, use of fetal cells and tissue and artificial insemination?
  - \_\_\_ 23. Do you believe that having an abortion after a women is raped is wrong?
  - \_\_\_ 24. Do you believe that it is wrong for a person to change their gender?
  - \_\_\_ 25. Do you believe that God chose our sexuality (or that all people can select their own sexual orientation)?
  - \_\_\_ 26. Do you believe that sexual affairs harm marriage relationships?
  - \_\_\_ 27. Do you believe that abstinence from sex is possible before marriage?
  - \_\_\_ 28. Do you believe that living with your future spouse is wrong?
  - \_\_\_ 29. Do you believe that homosexuality is not an acceptable



lifestyle?

- \_\_\_ 30. Do you really believe God has created sex only in a marriage setting?
- \_\_\_ 31. In your opinion are multiple (serial) marriages wrong?
- \_\_\_ 32. Do you believe that sex in marriage is a symbol of Christ's union with His Church?

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*TOTAL*

## 8

### Verse. 15,

*i You shall not steal. i*

It does not matter what it is, or whose it is, we are not to steal. There must be permission to take persons, places, or things. This pertains to people who do not pay for the credit they owe; not paying tithes<sup>39</sup> and offerings; borrowing something for your own use without permission; this also includes the attitude of the heart to steal without anyone's knowledge. God considers the right of self-ownership and the private ownership of property important<sup>40</sup>. To steal disturbs the natural harmony that God has set as He allocates resources to people. It intends the harm or disadvantage of the other person<sup>41</sup>. It attacks the very core of civilization<sup>42</sup>

Humanity has been made steward of God's creation (Genesis 1), and God may choose whomever He wants to use His resources. Of course, this does not mean that people with abundance are necessarily blessed by God above those who have less. Whatever we have, we are required to exercise stewardship, because God is the owner of all things. We are to glorify God with our stewardship. Now, it can be said that people who do not share their resources with the needy in this world are also robbers. So in essence to hoard is to steal from

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<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, 387. (iAll refusal to bear your full proportion in building churches, supporting ministers, and sustaining all the institutions of religion. To receive these things gratuitously, is to make slaves of your neighbors, to receive their services for naught, and involves the very principle of theft.i)

<sup>40</sup> Finney, *The Lectures of Theology*, 283. (iThat the persons of human being are their own, or that every human being has a property in himself, and that he is, so far as his fellow-men are concerned, his own proprietor. This law plainly implies this; for if men do not own themselves, they certainly own nothing else, and of course nothing could be stolen from them. . . . It implies that self-ownership, and the right of property, are agreeable to the law of nature and of God.i).

<sup>41</sup> Luther, *The Larger Catechism*, 55. (iFor to steal is nothing else than to get possession of another's property wrongfully, which briefly comprehends all kinds of advantage in all sorts of trade to the disadvantage of our neighbor.i)

<sup>42</sup> Wesley Study Bible 261. (iSteal: No civilization can long survive without respect for personal property, which assumes the right to individual liberty.i)

those who are in need, and worse yet from the Lord. To steal a little or big thing has the same value in the eyes of God. Thus, it is a lie to say that God doesn't care about a little stealing, and to do so with that knowledge is a flagrant violation of this law of God.

The tension with this commandment is found in how we can disrupt God's allocation of resources when we take another's property. In actuality, we are saying to God that we need to be the steward of it and so we take control of it. The end result, is that God's natural flow for His resources stops with our selfishness.

In actuality, nothing is really ours, whether it is our lives, land, money, persons, place, or things, because we are only stewards. Claiming ownership without acknowledging the true owner is to steal. Consider the Israelites and how they spent 70 years in exile because they did not keep God's land fallow in the seventh year, and did not keep the Lord's Sabbaths. The Lord Himself said, "I will remove them from the promised land because they do not keep my laws" (Jeremiah 42). In addition, the stealing of personal property was punishable by retribution ranging from a payment of double value or more, to the removal of a thief's limbs. In the New Testament, we see Jesus calling the Pharisees on stealing, even though they taught others not to steal. Jesus will not accept a double standard. Zaccheus the tax collector, voluntarily returned money he had unlawfully received. In the Book of Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira withheld money from a land sale for the Lord's service. They were convicted and they died. With these New Testament passages we see a shift to an inward call to obedience. God sees the heart. When others may not know, God still does.

#### Conclusion:

The heart and the result are monitored in one's stewardship. Thus, ownership is to be seen through the eyes of stewardship, otherwise it can be distorted. Stewardship promotes community, and it

does not claim one person to be greater than the other. Also, it does not see a human being as the ultimate owner of anything.

Carman gave money to the church because she thought if she did so, God would give her more money. Extra money stopped coming in, so Carman stopped tithing. Carman is stealing from God.

Mark has been taking things from his office every now and then, because he believes these are some of the company's hidden benefits when he works hard. His office at home is now fully outfitted with equipment from work. Mark wonders why some of the people at work treat him differently and why he was passed over for a promotion. Mark is stealing from his employer.

Wilma writes checks for things when she knows that she does not have the money in her account. She says, "it is a way of buying time." Many business owners in her community do not honor her checks anymore. She worships at a local church and wonders why people don't believe her when she makes a promise. Wilma is stealing from God.

Dawson always tells people the land he recently bought is his, and that he worked hard to own it. He considers himself a "self-made" man and really got a bargain, purchasing the land for a pittance of its value from a widow in distress. He never once thought that the land is God's and he is only the steward. Dawson is a steward on his church board. Dawson is stealing from God at the heart.

In all these cases, all these people have failed to see that God is the ultimate owner of all things. This Commandment can be paraphrased to say, "YOU WILL NOT TAKE OR CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF MY RESOURCES THAT I HAVE ENTRUSTED TO ANOTHER PERSON."

## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Morality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3*

*( 1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- H (12)

- \_\_\_ 1. Do you believe that using something for a temporary period of time without the owner's knowledge is wrong - even if you return it?
- \_\_\_ 2. Are you the type of person who refuses to use money or things without getting permission first?
- \_\_\_ 3. Do you pay your taxes?
- \_\_\_ 4. Do you pay a tithe of your income to your church?
- \_\_\_ 5. Do you refuse to pay bribes to gain certain privileges or rights?
- \_\_\_ 6. Do you believe that no one has a right to take things that aren't theirs, even when no one else knows about it ?
- \_\_\_ 7. Do you refuse to claim bankruptcy to get out of your obligations?
- \_\_\_ 8. Do you pay your debts on time?
- \_\_\_ 9. Do you refuse to gamble?
- \_\_\_ 10. Do you refuse to play the lottery to try to get a little extra spending money?
- \_\_\_ 11. Do you refuse to take advantage of someone else's financial loss?
- \_\_\_ 12. If you can get a bargain on something do you believe it is important to know how it was bought by the person before you?

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*TOTAL*

# 9

## Verse 16,

*‘You shall not give false testimony  
against your neighbor.’*

In the context of the Scriptures, all human beings are to be considered our neighbors<sup>43</sup>. To say something that is harmful about a person<sup>44</sup> or that may falsely color the reputation or character of another person is violating this Commandment<sup>45</sup>. To harm another person in this way is contrary to God’s character and is tantamount to doing the same to God Himself. All people were made to be in the image of God, whether they accept that truth or not. There is no justification then for falsely harming another’s reputation. This has negative ramifications to the Creator God. God takes offense to what we say, because we are speaking about Him as we speak of His creation. In a fallen world, people have a tendency to see the dark side of others rather than the glow, or the potential of God’s imagery in every person.

In the Old Testament context, some taught that you only had to keep your promises if they were backed up with an oath to God, but not if you had just sworn by heaven or earth. Jesus clarifies the heart of this Commandment when he says that you shouldn’t swear by anything at all, but your yes should be yes and your no should be no. (Matthew 5:33-37). Your word should be your bond. Our integrity should be plain for all to see and trust.

James says that we should not think that with our tongues we

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<sup>43</sup> Finney, *The Lectures of Theology*, 286.

<sup>44</sup> Wesley Study Bible, 261. (‘The Lord is a God of truth, especially concerning relationships. The right to enjoy a good reputation untarnished by the lies of others is essential to the kind of society called for by Him.’)

<sup>45</sup> Finney, *The Lectures of Theology*, 287.

can both praise God and curse our neighbor made in the image of God. A spring that brings forth fresh water cannot bring forth salt water too. (James 3:9-12). The Psalmist says it well when he prays: *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.* (Psalm 19:14 NIV).

The way we use words is very important to God. Careless, harmful language is not permissible by God's people. Certainly, as humans, when we are tired we have a greater tendency to be impatient with others, but God understands our weaknesses. However, a negative attitude or actions intended to harm another is a violation of this law.

#### Conclusion:

At the root of this matter, God hates sin, therefore, He will not tolerate lying or any form of verbal abuse.<sup>46</sup> The harshness of this issue reaches to the realm of standing before God and telling Him some lie, as we speak to our neighbor. This is what happens when we lie to people who have been made in His image. There is no difference whether the person is a Christian or non-Christian. The non-Christian is a person who has not realized that God has made them in His image. So when we speak we must remember who we represent and what our neighbor represents as well.

Turk had habit of talking negatively about his employer to other people about things of which he did not have any personal knowledge. He never once confronted his boss about any of his concerns. He wondered why he never advanced in his job, and he complained about that too. Turk went to the same church as his boss. Turk misrepresented his boss.

Lucy liked to tell friends at church the latest news about people

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<sup>46</sup> Luther, *The Lectures of Theology*, 66.

at church. She would pass on stories even when she wasn't sure about the facts. People at her church started to avoid her, and she did not understand this. Lucy had misrepresented many people.

Clark had a habit of telling, what he called, "little white lies". At one point, he wanted to be on the church council, so he kind of made up a few stories about two of the candidates in fun. Clark is now on the council, but he has misrepresented God's people.

These people have one thing in common and that is they say things about people that are unfounded, and they do not talk directly with the people.

This commandment could be paraphrased to say, "YOU WILL NOT MISREPRESENT ANY PERSON, BECAUSE WHAT YOU SAY TO YOUR NEIGHBOR YOU SAY TO ME (GOD)."



## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Mbrality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3*

*( 1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- I (8)

- \_\_\_ 1. Do you believe that "white lies" are no better than any other lies?
- \_\_\_ 2. Do you refuse to believe that lying is acceptable, even at certain times?
- \_\_\_ 3. Do you believe that the truth is important, even if someone doesn't like to hear it?
- \_\_\_ 4. Do you refuse to do business with practices that are questionable?
- \_\_\_ 5. Do you think it is wrong to cheat, even if you do not get caught?
- \_\_\_ 6. If your reputation was at risk, would you refuse to lie, even if it made you look bad?
- \_\_\_ 7. Is it wrong to exaggerate about details?
- \_\_\_ 8. Do you refuse to tell lofty stories to impress others?

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*TOTAL*

# 10

## Verse 17,

*You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*<sup>1</sup>

Greed seems to be at the heart of this Commandment.<sup>47</sup> There is a sense in which this commandment sums up all of the others. The human lust for what belongs to someone else is frequently at the heart of the world's problems. God calls us to surrender that lust to Him-- to trust Him to supply our needs, and to view others as brothers and sisters rather than as rivals or competitors.<sup>48</sup> What seems to be obvious here is the need to have something without paying the cost, obtaining permission, or seeking God's direction. At any rate, this law requires that when we desire a person, place, or thing we stay within limits God has set for stewardship.<sup>49</sup>

For some, these limits may be difficult to determine, because the emphasis is on the result rather than the effects. For example, if A tells B he wants to buy his car but does not have the money to buy the car at full price, A makes up a story that there is a problem with the transmission so he can get the price down to what he can afford. This is a violation of this law.

From another view, if a person wants something from his or her neighbor and begins to think and dream about it until participating in one's normal life is not possible, this also violates this law. To be obsessed about anything other than God is always dangerous and

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<sup>47</sup>Luther, The Larger Catechism, 71.

<sup>48</sup>Wesley Study Bible, 261.

<sup>49</sup>Finney, The Lectures of Theology, 288.

puts a person in position for a violation of this law. From another angle, if a person with resources is aware of a person in need, and the Lord has prompted this, and the donor does not respond because he or she covets to keep the resources the Lord wants to use, this is a violation of this law. The combinations can be endless, but in principle, if God moves one to receive, give, or not to give, it is critical to follow the voice of the God. In the end, to desire to the point of obsession is a violation of a law of God.

In the beginning, Adam and Eve ate the fruit because having it became an obsession. It looked harmless, tasted so sweet, and to be like God sounded so good (Gen. 3). Another example is King David's case, when he saw Bathsheba it was just a glance, then a stare, and ultimately an obsession. He left the balance in His life to pursue his obsession -- his neighbor's wife. Jesus warned against the love of money in that we can only serve one master. (Matthew 6:24) When He gave the parable of the sower planting seeds on the different types of soil, Jesus referred to the seeds that take root but are later choked off by the cares of the world. (Luke 8:7, 14) In both situations He is speaking about obsessions. Also, in Matthew 6), Jesus says "do not worry about tomorrow", or what to wear" Jesus is referring to worries or obsessions in life. Obsessions can easily pave the way in comparing ourselves to others, which leads to a competition and "keeping up with the Joneses".

#### Conclusion:

To really believe that we need something to the point that we leave the presence of God or believing that God is not sufficient to sustain us without that one thing is an obsession or lust that violated this Commandment. God is what we need, and this is always the case.<sup>50</sup> Until we realize our sufficiency is in the Lord we will always

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<sup>50</sup>Luther, The Larger Catechism, 71.

be playing games. To be obsessed is to give our attention to something else other than to the King of Kings.

Marta was a gifted administrator and everyone on her team knew it, but Tom wanted her position. It was announced that Marta would become Administrative Manager and Tom could not believe it. For the months to come Tom did everything he could to make others believe that the wrong decision was made. Tom was counting on the extra income. Whenever Marta did anything he could criticize he made a big deal about it. Soon Marta, told him this needed to stop and Tom meekly told her everything was okay, because he was dreaming up a new plan to derail Marta. Tom was obsessed to the point of violating the Tenth (and the Ninth) Commandment.

Dominic listened to his young friend sing a solo in his local church many times, and there was no question Lance had a beautiful voice. Dominic tried to sing, but he just didn't have it. It was to the point that Dominic no longer wanted to socialize with Lance, because he was jealous. In fact, during one youth meeting Dominic voted against having another youth concert just because he didn't want to hear Lance sing again. Dominic violated the Tenth commandment by coveting talent that Lance possessed.

A new family came to a church - the Barbaton family. Emily soon got to know them and she could not believe how perfect their family seemed to be. They had a nice house, new cars, went on trips, their kids were orderly, and the husband and wife were kind to one another. Emily, compared the Barbaton's family with her family and there was no comparison. Her husband and she were going through a divorce, the kids were a mess, the house was a heap, cars barely running, and vacations were non-existent. Soon Emily began to detest this new family and began doing things to make them feel unwelcome at the church. Before long, the Barbatons stopped coming to the church. Emily violated the Tenth Commandment.

All these people were obsessed to the point they could not

maintain a balanced judgment in the sight of God in public. A paraphrase of this Commandment could read: ìYOU WILL NOT BE OBSESSED WITH ANYTHING BUT ME (God).î

## **Ten Commandment Evaluation of Mbrality.**

*Answer the questions below by using the numbers 1,2,3*

*( 1= No, 2= Unsure, 3= Yes):*

### SECTION- J (6)

- \_\_\_ 1. Do you have a budget so that you can see what you can afford and what you cannot afford to buy?
- \_\_\_ 2. Are you the type of person who stops their desire for something when it goes beyond just wanting, to the point you HAVE to have it?
- \_\_\_ 3. Do you refuse to allow your wants to become obsessions?
- \_\_\_ 4. Do you refuse to believe that you deserve to have what other people have?
- \_\_\_ 5. Do you refuse to lie, manipulate or trick others to get what you want?
- \_\_\_ 6. Do you believe that old phrase "It is not whether you win or lose but how you play the game that matters"?

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*TOTAL*

## THE BOTTOMLINE

Through His prophet Ezekiel, the Lord spoke and said that there would come a day when he would write His law on our hearts, we would no longer have a heart of stone; rather a heart of flesh, and we would be His people, and He our God. (Ezekiel 36). Now, after reading and evaluating the Ten Commandments as they pertain to our modern lives, how do we know whether or not they are written on our hearts? To help us get closer to that point Jesus reduced the Ten Commandments down to two.<sup>51</sup> Let's see what He said...

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. And Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Using these two commands as a guide, let us evaluate our scores on the Ten Commandment Evaluation of Morality. First, put the totals from each individual chapter test below.

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. (Commandment One):   | _____                             |
| B. (Commandment Two):   | _____                             |
| C. (Commandment Three): | _____                             |
| D. (Commandment Four):  | _____                             |
| E. (Commandment Five):  | _____                             |
| F. (Commandment Six):   | _____                             |
| G. (Commandment Seven): | _____                             |
| H. (Commandment Eight): | _____                             |
| I. (Commandment Nine):  | _____                             |
| J. (Commandment Ten):   | _____                             |
| TOTAL                   | _____ <i>(Add up your totals)</i> |

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<sup>51</sup> Finney, The Lectures of Theology, 290. These two precepts are at once a condensation and of the whole duty of man to God and to his neighbor.

Now compare your total with the ratings below.

- 0- 99 I never Try To Maintain The Ten Commandments.
- 100- 199 Sometimes I follow the Ten Commandments.
- 200- 299 I want to follow the Ten Commandments but can't.
- 300- 399 I follow the Ten Commandments most of the time.
- 400- 474 I can follow the Ten Commandments all the time.

*(The results from this evaluation are not conclusive, but can be helpful to guide people in their spiritual lives).*

Now let's see how we can use the two commands of Jesus that summarize all of the Law of God (*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. And Love your neighbor as yourself.*) to guide us in evaluating our scores in this "Ten Commandment Evaluation of Morality".

I. If your score was under 200, consider that:

More than likely, you have discovered that you can't do what Jesus is asking. The Commandments are impossible to fulfill with human strength and ambition alone. You may feel like saying "thanks a lot Jesus, we are back where we started"! But wait a minute! Jesus knew before He said these words that we would need His help, and He has the solution. First, we must admit to him that we are lawbreakers, "because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Until we accept that Jesus died on the cross at Calvary two thousands years ago, we are labeled a lawbreaker condemned to Hell. So for this reason, we must accept Jesus as our Savior and the only One Who can forgive us for our acts and omissions of sin. In addition, we must believe that Jesus offers the only way to Heaven. There is no other way ("I am the way the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6). If



we want to escape the death sentence of the law (îFor the wages of sin is death . . . î Romans 6:23a NIV), we must believe in Him (î. . . but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.î Romans 6:23b NIV). î[I]f you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. . . . For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.î Romans 10:9, 13 NIV). God's Grace is found through Jesus Christ. It is only through Him and what He does within us that we can even consider îloving the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.î Thus the collision between the law and grace can occur. Here are some questions to consider:

Questions:

Is Jesus Christ your Savior? Do you know that you have been forgiven for breaking God's laws? Have you made a commitment to receive Jesus in your heart and be His disciple? Do you know that you would go to heaven if you died tonight? Are you at peace with God? If you would like to answer îyesî to these questions, but aren't able to with confidence, then God's Grace through Jesus Christ is available to you today.

Please repeat these Biblical principles in your heart and with your lips, by praying and believing:

1. Jesus You are my personal Savior (Acts 2:38) and the Savior of this world.
2. Jesus You can forgive me for all my sins (John 3:16), because you died on a cross for my sins. You rose from the dead and in the same way I can be raised from my sinful condition. Forgive me of my sins. (Confess any sin that the Spirit of Jesus shows you. Pray in confession until you are sure that all is settled on this point and until your heart yearns to turn away from former way of living that led you into sin.)

3. Jesus You are the only way I can go to heaven (John 14:6), and I want to claim the place that you have prepared for me. In Jesus Name, Amen!

II. If your score was between 200 and 300, consider that:

It would be good to review the section I. above for scores under 200. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior for the first time, it may be better for you to stop at this point to give yourself a chance to understand more completely what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ with a new life in Him. You may want to begin reading the Gospel of John in the New Testament to learn more about Jesus the Savior.

For those who have accepted Jesus as Savior before reading this paper, but feel defeated in their walk with Jesus Christ or have days walking with Him and days when it is not certain, be assured that Jesus knows what you need and He wants you to walk in complete victory with His love and power. So you will need about how Jesus has prayed for us to be made holy (John 17:17).

So this is the second important step a believer can take in order to be free from the inclinations of the law and to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus was and is victorious over the devil, not in just pardoning us from the acts and omissions in violation of God's law (sin), but the very root, or bent nature, that permits the devil to control the will of every individual (original sin). After Jesus' final ascension to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to cleanse (Acts 2:1-4) His disciples of original sin, and to fill them with His Presence (Acts 2:1-4). So they would become temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19). The Holy Spirit is known as the helper. The Holy Spirit's role is a continuation of Jesus' ministry as high priest in this world, who continues to intercede for us so we can have the right relationship with God. He does this by convicting us of our desire to be boss (original sin),

showing us the truth, sanctifying our hearts, filling our hearts with His presence, and most all enabling us to love God with our entire being, and our neighbor as ourselves. In other words, He wants to empower us to live the way He wants us to. Humanity was ousted from the Garden of Eden because of sin, and it is this sin that keeps believers from worshipping God with their whole heart. What is impossible for people is possible for God. He can give us a new holy, spiritual, heart if we will confess our condition of original sin and the need to be filled. Jesus through His Grace would like to make you His creation. Keep in mind that this is a moment by moment relationship that we maintain with Him. It takes listening to Him through prayer, reading His Word, and applying in obedience what He says. Thus, another collision between the law and grace. Consider the following questions:

**More Questions:**

Have you confessed after your conversion that your will is not God's? Do you realize that you try to "call the shots" or be in control of your life? Have you confessed that Satan is still manipulating your thinking through His control of original sin? Have you asked the Holy Spirit to cleanse you from this condition, and fill you with His Presence? Do you desire to be Holy as Your Heavenly Father is Holy? Are you struggling to do the will of God, and for some reason you cannot do it? Are you plagued with sinning after receiving Jesus as Lord? Do you have doubts believing that God can make you holy? If you have answered "yes" to any of these questions you should consider the following prayer.

You must believe that God our Creator can do anything and that includes making you into a holy usable vessel for His glory. Make sure that you are willing to consecrate your life totally to God. In other words, you can hold back nothing.

Do this by praying and believing:

1. Holy Spirit You are God. (Matthew 28:19)
2. Holy Spirit, I confess that I have the condition of original sin, or I continue to be boss of my life. (Gen. 3, Gal. 2:20) (Now confess areas of your life over which you have kept control. Give each area to the Lord, one by one until you have given Him everything in complete surrender.)
3. Holy Spirit You can cleanse my heart from the condition of original sin. (Ezekiel 36:24-28, Acts 2: 1-4). Cleanse me Lord.
4. Holy Spirit You can fill my heart with Your Presence so I can Love You and my neighbor as myself. (John 7:38). Fill me Lord. So come my God and make me Holy as you are Holy (Lev. 19:2). In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen!

III. If your score was 300 or more, consider that:

It may be beneficial to review sections I and II above right now. Now if you are a believer who has been there done it all before, and you are still struggling with some areas in your life, then consider praying the prayer below, and insert the area of defeat in your life.

*I confess that I have permitted the lie of (insert the lie here) to enter my life. I give this lie to YOU my Lord, and I ask that you remove Satan's control through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. Then fill this void in my life with your life-giving Presence. I believe this and I will walk boldly with You in your Power Lord Jesus. Praise Your Name. Amen!*

Remember, the old devil likes to deceive us to think that we cannot be victorious in Christ Jesus. So we must constantly be on our guard and not buy into the lie again. Day by day, we must trust in the Lord Jesus' power and ability to guide us as we trust in Him. It may be important for you to find a trusted Christian friend of the same gender and enter into an agreement of accountability. A Bible

study group may also be a helpful support for you. There is no such thing as "lone ranger Christians". Ask other Christians to pray for you. Above all, believe that God is here and apply His truth today!

Now believe you are God's child, and know that He loves you more than you will ever know. Turn that corner of belief by rejoicing in the good and the bad things that happen in this life. Don't back down, and if you feel weak "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16 NIV). He will give you strength to continue. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in this world". Your God is not just behind you, He is in You. "He is closer than a brother". He is a mighty and victorious God that we serve, and He knows all about you. He knew you before you were born. He has plans for you, and His Kingdom is in motion. So go on to maturity in Christ Jesus, so one day you can say, "Here I am send me!" You say for what? God's only response is "for whatever purpose I need you". Are you ready to begin the most exciting experience in the world, that is, walking in a loving God's presence day by day for His glory? He is here to give you freedom from the bondage of the law, so you will always experience His Sweet Grace. Now you understand what it means to experience the "Collision Between the Law and Grace"!

IV. Regardless of your score, consider that:

People can indeed live for the glory of God and love Him with their entire being so that it spills over and they are able to love their neighbor as much as they love themselves. In each of the ten chapters, there were examples given of violations of each of the Commandments. Let's see how those individuals could live in God's victory by accepting His grace.

## transformation Chapter One

Tom, who was a Christian, bought a crystal sphere. Soon, he was thinking about buying more, and asked the Lord to show him how to best spend his time and money. Soon, he realized how crazy buying crystals seemed and confessed his feelings to God. "I have Jesus Christ, and He will guide me. I don't need these crystals and I will not have any other gods in my life!" He got rid of the crystal.

Alice, after suffering a divorce thought she could not attend her local Christian church, and some Jehovah Witnesses came to visit her. They seemed to minister right where she needed some help. But she prayed that the Lord would guide her choices in churches and fellowships, and the next time they came to her house, she knew there was something wrong with the message that they were sharing. When she asked them if they believed Jesus Christ was God, the Savior of the World they did not answer her. So, she asked them to leave. The next day, she called her pastor and set up some counseling appointments and planned to attend her church. During this time, Alice confessed her sin to Jesus for considering other gods. Alice, is back and she knows who her God is.

Mark, who once attended a Christian church, began to play music that elevated the devil, and soon his bedroom was filled with paraphernalia of the same sort. Mark caught himself thinking how wrong this seemed. He cried out to Jesus to help him see the truth. After confessing his sin and asking Jesus to enter his heart, he realized that he did not need or really want that stuff anymore. As a Christian, he wanted to serve only Jesus Christ. Mark cleared his room and Jesus cleared his heart of guilt.

In these three cases, we can see how a person can revere a new god, but confess their sin and get back on track. Loving Him with our whole being will cause us to call upon the Lord to clarify, guide and direct us and prevent us from violating this law of God: **YOU WILL**

NOT SERVE OR TOLERATE ANY FALSE GODS, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO OTHERS.

## transformation Chapter Two

Mike just took up golf to have an outlet from work. Mike attended the local community Christian church, typical family man, and was on the board. Mike played golf only once in awhile until it escalated into an obsession. He realized one day that he missed being with the Lord and asked Him to overcome this obsession. He threw his clubs in a closet, and He confessed before the Lord that he had made golf his god. Also, he told the Lord he would not play golf until he could do so in moderation. In addition, Mike confessed to his pastor and his church board. Mike was back on with God.

Carla, who was a Christian, thought reading Romance novels and watching soap operas were harmless until her entire life was dictated by them. She had made them her gods. Carla confessed before the Lord that she had sinned. She then trashed her novels, and started buying Christian reading material. She stopped watching the soap operas and volunteered her free time at her church.

Then there is Jerry, who even though a believer, thought playing Lotto, or the lottery was harmless. At first, he began to play a few dollars a week, but then it became an obsession with him. When he sensed himself losing control, he turned to God and asked Him to take control over this area of his life. He confessed his sin to the Lord and to his wife. He told his wife, they needed to give a tithe to their church, so they started. The Lord guided him to be a better steward of the Lord's resources.

These people found themselves making choices in areas that seemed harmless to them, but they found out otherwise. It was not too late to turn the thing around with God's help. They were loving other things more than they loved God. Once their hearts were back

with Him they could see what was true and what was bondage. YOU WILL NOT MAKE ANY PERSON, PLACE, OR THING A GOD IN PLACE OF ME (God).

## transformation Chapter Three

Terry grew up in a home full of swearing. He grew up to do it too, and doesn't see a problem with a "church-goer" swearing. In a men's Bible study, Tom started studying the book of James in the Bible. Something clicked about "taming the tongue". All of a sudden, he realized that he could not control his tongue. He confessed this to the Lord, and he decided he would have to make a public confession. He did this in front of his Dad a couple of times, and pretty soon his Dad fell under conviction. He also confessed to his coworkers, his wife and children and to his church. Most importantly, he confessed his sin before the Lord. Also, his Dad even asked his son forgiveness for being such a poor example in earlier years.

Mary was a model college student who used vulgarity in her papers to curry favor with her non-Christian professors. Mary claimed to be a believer and still used God's name in vain. Mary was told by one of her Christian friends that what she was doing was off the wall. After thinking about it Mary realized she was wrong. She confessed her sin to the Lord. Afterwards, she wrote papers without using that type of language and even though on some her grades were lower, she did not mind. She knew Whose reputations was more important.

Lisa was the artistic type and was into abstracts. She created a piece that had dog excrement on a cross. She thought it showed how Jesus had become our sin when He died on the cross, and she wasn't embarrassed about it. Without giving much thought to what she was doing, Lisa was harming God's reputation. Lisa told her youth pastor about her project, and soon discovered that he didn't see her project in the same light. He told her to read the crucifixion



accounts in the Bible. Later, Lisa agreed she had missed the mark. She confessed this to the Lord, and created a new beautiful work that was hung in the church foyer.

In all three examples God's grace helped these people to see their way back to Him. **YOU WILL NOT MISREPRESENT MY (GOD'S) NAME OR REPUTATION IN ANY WAY.**

## transformation Chapter Four

Jason saw no problem in working on Sunday. To have a day of worship was no longer important to Jason. This changed when his Christian girlfriend said that she had noticed how he had changed and that she wasn't sure that she wanted to date him anymore. Jason realized that God was probably speaking through her. He confessed his sin before the Lord, and asked for his schedule to be changed so he could have a day of worship.

Margaret, loved to work 50-80 hours a week. She even worked on Sundays after going to church. Margaret was not giving her body a Sabbath rest. Margaret read a book by a Christian author about the Sabbath rest, and it hit home. Margaret confessed her sin. She no longer works on Sundays, and after worship she takes time to rest and do other things than work.

David challenged people to find where in the Bible it says that Christians should not smoke. He would go to the door step of the church smoking and after church he would start smoking in the same spot after church. David did not know that his body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 5:19) and for this reason he was in church 24 hours a day. David was not living God's Sabbath rest of Holiness. David meet an older saint at church that confronted him on this issue. David, was under conviction so he confessed his sin, and tries to fill his moments of temptation with Christian music.

Tina put a lot of energy in worshipping God on Sunday, but on the

other six days she thought she could live differently. Tina was not living in God's Sabbath rest of Holiness. Tina heard a message on Christian Holiness and she decided she needed a personal Pentecost, so she confessed her double standard lifestyle to the Lord, and asked Him to cleanse her of selfishness and to fill her with His Spirit.

Fred accepted Jesus and he loved the Lord. But he constantly felt like he was going Hell, to the point it was bothersome. Fred was not living the Sabbath Rest of the Promise of heaven through Jesus Christ. Fred told his pastor about this. So his pastor helped him to see that the he really just doubted that Jesus could really save people in general. The pastor said, until you believe you will have no peace. Fred, thought about it and confessed his doubt to the Lord. His cloud lifted. Also, he started to memorize scripture that encourages his faith.

All five of these people have been facing issues revolving around worship, because they did not understand the vastness of the Sabbath rest. Each one confessed their error and returned to God's plan for worship. TAKE TIME TO WORSHIP ME (God) ON SUNDAY IN A CHURCH, GIVE MY TEMPLE (your body) A REST, AND LIVE A LIFE OF HOLINESS EVERY DAY UNTIL YOU ENTER MY HEAVEN (ultimate rest).

## **transformation Chapter Five**

Eric as a child who was not given everything that he wanted and taught to pray about all things, because his parents wanted to teach him moderation, discipline, and about trusting God. Eric went on to become a wonderful pastor, and regularly shares how he learned God's faithfulness as a small child. Parenting in the ways of the Lord pays big dividends.

Kerry wanted to buy a motorcycle, and he had the money to do so. He was now 18 years old, and his father and mother told him that they thought buying a motorcycle was not a safe mode of

transportation, and that they thought he should save more money for a car. Kerry respected his parents so he did not buy the bike, and this was contrary to his emotions. Kerry was honoring his parents.

Nikkei at 16 years of age was told by her parents not to schedule activities on Sunday, because her parents wanted her to have a day of rest and worship. Recently, Nikkei wanted to be a cheerleader, and all her dear friends were doing the same. However, she found out that practice on Sundays was mandatory. Nikkei, against her desire did not pursue becoming a cheerleader because she knew the position of her parents. Nikkei showed her love for her parents.

Gary was doing the family's income tax, and he saw some loopholes in how the government would not know about some earned money he had. Gary pondered the idea for a moment, and soon he saw a reflection of his Dad in his mind saying, "God sees everything that we do even when Uncle Sam doesn't!" For that reason, Gary reported the extra money.

These three examples show how honoring godly parents can continue the rest of our lives if obedience is learned through parents. **YOU WILL RESPECT GODLY STRUCTURES OF HUMAN AUTHORITY, AND THIS STARTS WITH OBEYING GODLY PARENTS.**

## **transformation Chapter Six**

Daryl really wished his father were dead, because of the way he treated his mother. His father repented from abusing his wife, some time later, but Daryl, who became a Christian would not forgive his father. Deep in his heart there was still that murderous anger. Daryl can not figure out why he did not have joy in his life. Daryl had murdered his father in his heart, by refusing to forgive him. Daryl heard a message on a Christian radio station about forgiveness. So he confessed his sin before God, and personally told his father that he forgave him. He had a deep peace in his spirit that he had never

had before. His Dad now regularly goes to church with him.

Marsha became pregnant by her boyfriend. She claimed to be a Christian, and she could not bare the shame she might endure. So she had an abortion. She carried a great deal of guilt. Marsha was visiting a friend and there on the coffee table was a book a child's development from a Christian perspective. She just started to thumb through it, and there was a chapter on abortion. She winced, but she read on. Soon, conviction came upon her and she confessed her sin before God. While doing so her friend walked in the room. So Marsha told her story, and her friend encouraged her that she had been forgiven, and no longer needed to live with her guilt.

John could not stand to see his wife suffer with cancer, so he made their house fire appear as an accident that killed his wife. Later, John found out that his wife's condition was treatable by a new treatment. John committed murder. John called His brother and told him what he did. The brother counseled to confess this before God and he would know what to do afterwards. He realized that he needed to report himself to the police, which he did do. His sentence was drastically reduced, considering the circumstances and he lived in victory over the guilt he had felt inside.

These three people have one thing in common they were intentionally separating people from their lives by their own means. God can free a heart full of anger if God can have the anger first. YOU WILL NOT DISOWN ANY HUMAN BEING I HAVE CREATED.

## transformation Chapter Seven

Dale started to watch movies that had a lot of sexual promiscuity. Then, he began to surf the Internet to visit pornographic sites. Dale was lusting over many nude woman regularly and for this Dale was committing adultery in his heart. Dale's good male friend told him that this behavior was sinful and not part of the Christian's life. Dale

did not receive it well. Dale went to Promise Keepers, and he realized that he had sinned. He confessed to God and to his wife. He stopped his obsession and made himself accountable to his male friend.

Trish was staying with some wealthy friends who had a virtual reality Sexual Stimulation Suit. She used it regularly and even though she was a Christian, she didn't see anything wrong with it since it did not involve a real person. Trish was committing adultery in the heart. Trish read some material that came from Focus On the Family about High Tech Sex. It said that virtual sex games were dangerous. She became convicted and she confessed her sin to the Lord. She took up roller blading and listening to Christian music when she feels tempted.

Kurt believed God told him to leave his wife and marry another woman with whom he was infatuated. Kurt did it, and thereby committed adultery. Kurt read Matthew 5-7 in the Bible about adultery. He tried to skip over it. But he knew something was wrong. Then it hit him, he had been deceived, he bought the lie that the devil offered him. He confessed his sin to God. Then he confessed his sin to his former wife, and he told his current wife that they had committed sin. His new wife would have nothing to do with Christianity, and told him she would leave him. She said it was either Jesus or me! Kurt chose Jesus so she divorced him. He is now seeking God's will on a daily basis.

Lina became bi-sexual and engaged in sexual activity with both her boyfriend and her girlfriend. Lina committed adultery because she was having sex before marriage and w/o a person of the opposite sex. A homosexual friend of Lina's became a Christian, and told her that his past life style was not of God. Lina was under conviction and she began to study her Bible with an open mind. Soon, she realized that she had sinned before God, and sought His forgiveness. She confessed to her former sex partners as well. Most of them thought she was nuts. Two of them came to know the Lord. She became a

powerful campus minister for the Gospel at her university.

God can forgive and make us new creatures in Him. YOU WILL ENGAGE IN SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH YOUR SPOUSE WHO IS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX, ONLY. (marriage partners man and a woman).

## transformation Chapter Eight

Carma gave money to the church because she thought if she did God would give her more money. Extra money stopped coming in, so Carma stopped tithing. Carma is stealing from God. Carma, heard her pastor speak on tithing and it finally hit her that she was tithing for the wrong motives, so she confessed to God. She started to tithe as an expression of her love for God, and she gave liberally to other things as she was led.

Mark was taking things from his office every now and then. Mark was stealing from his employer. Mark was confronted by a Christian colleague, and Mark argued with him. Later that day, it continued to bother him. He returned to his home office and stared at the stuff he had taken. His head fell on his desk and in cried *ìI have sinnedî*. He told his boss the next day what he had done. His boss told him he could buy all the equipment at a discounted price if he wanted to keep it. Mark did that. But later gave the stuff to the church, because he thought it was needed there more.

Welma wrote checks for things when she knew that she did not have the money in her account. Welma was stealing from God. Welma's friend at church told she was in the wrong. Welma did not listen and she was arrested the next time she wrote a bad check. Welma was beside herself, but she knew she had gone too far. She confessed her sin, and she only uses cash to buy things.

Dawson used to wheel and deal to make a profit off of land. A choice piece of his real estate was condemned by the state for a new highway. Dawson was devastated. He fought it all the way, but

it didn't stop it. Finally, when he was at his wits end the Lord seem to whisper in his ear that the land is mine. From that moment, Dawson dropped to his knees and said, "I have sinned". Two weeks later Dawson inherited some property unexpectedly from a relative. He sold it to pay back all the people whom he had cheated. He knew Whose property it was.

These people all realized that God is the ultimate owner of all things. At times, people are quick to see where they have erred and other times they must take the dive to hit bottom to see the light. YOU WILL NOT TAKE OR CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF MY RESOURCES THAT I HAVE ENTRUSTED TO ANOTHER PERSON.

## transformation Chapter Nine

Turk had habit of talking negatively about his employer without ever confronting him directly. Turk misrepresented his boss. One day, Turk was talking stuff like always, but little did he know his boss was standing in the doorway listening to the whole thing. His boss had a good sense of humor, so he yelled out to him, "can't you tell any juicer stories than that"? The boss laughed and so did everyone in the room. Turk went to the boss and confessed his conduct before him and the Lord. Also, Turk stopped talking like he use to, and wouldn't you know he advanced in the company.

Lucy liked to tell friends at church the latest news about people at church. She would pass on stories even when she wasn't sure about the facts. She had misrepresented many people. Her pastor had to her that people were uncomfortable with gossip and it was hurting people. Lucy realized that she had sinned and she confessed to the Lord, and later to the people she had hurt.

Clark had a habit of telling lies. At one point, he wanted to be on the church council, so he kind of made up a few stories about two of the candidates in fun. One of the slandered candidates called for

a meeting with Clark, and it did not do any good. Then, Clark was called in by both candidates. Still no difference in his attitude. Lastly, the president of the council called a meeting along with the former candidates. This time Clark got double barrels, and he broke down and cried. He confessed it to God and the people he had injured. He resigned from his position from the council.

YOU WILL NOT MISREPRESENT ANY PERSON, BECAUSE WHAT YOU SAY TO YOUR NEIGHBOR YOU SAY TO ME (GOD).

## **transformation Chapter Ten**

Marta was a gifted administrator and everyone on her team knew it, but Tom wanted her position. He sabotaged her. Marta told him that this needed to stop but Tom was not responsive to her. Tom's wife told him that something was really different about him and as he told her his story, he began to see how foolish and selfish he had been. He confessed to God, and later apologized to Marta, working with God's help to submit to her as his authority.

Dominic listened to his young friend sing and was jealous. He coveted the talent that this friend had. The youth group had a devotional about jealousy and this cut to his heart. He confessed to the Lord and to Lance. Also, he knew he needed to confess to his youth group. He was willing to serve God with whatever talents he was given.

When a new family came to a church, Emily soon became envious of all that this family had. She spoke badly about them and they finally left the church. By the second week of the Barbaton family's absence, Emily knew something was out of place in her life. The Sunday School message that morning seemed to speak to her attitude. She confessed to the Lord, and later made a visit the Barbaton family and apologized. They did not come back to church because they found another church but they thanked Emily for her courage.



All these people were obsessed to the point they could not maintain balance judgment in the sight of God in public. But God showed them how to bring obsession back to a balance point. YOU WILL NOT BE OBSESSED WITH ANYTHING BUT ME (God).

## **Final Words**

We can live the way God desires us to, when we apply His Truth. To do this we must experience THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE LAW AND GRACE, before we can glorify His Name. May we all know His Law and Grace, today. Amen!

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