

The Ten Commitments, Part 4

The Lord gave the Ten Commandments to a people that He had just RESCUED out of slavery! The nation of Israel had **NO HISTORY BUT SLAVERY!** They were a family when they went into Egypt and now they were a nation, but they had never been FREE. They had no laws up until this point, because **YOU DON'T NEED LAW WHEN YOU ARE A SLAVE, YOU ONLY NEED LAW WHEN YOU ARE A FREE PEOPLE.**

The Ten Commandments were not given to see if Israel could establish a relationship with God – they already had one! They were not given to see if God would be their God – He already was!

GOD'S RULES ARE NOT A CONDITION OF RELATIONSHIP, THEY ARE CONFIRMATION OF RELATIONSHIP!

RULES WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP ALWAYS RESULT IN REBELLION!

IF GOD EVER COMPLIMENTS YOU WITH A RULE, IT'S JUST EVIDENCE THAT YOU'RE ALREADY HIS CHILD.

You will hardly ever meet a Christian who made a major lifestyle change because of guilt, but you will meet thousands of them who would tell you their own personal "Exodus story." They were in bondage and couldn't get out ... but then God delivered them ... and they have made all of their lifestyle changes not out of GUILT, but out of GRATITUDE!

Commandment 1 – "Don't go to multiple gods for multiple needs; come to me for all of your needs!" (Make God the center of your everyday life.)

Commandment 2 – "Don't form anything with your hands that replaces me!" (Don't make God a "location" or make Him a "manageable size.")

Commandment 3 – "Don't misuse my name!" (Don't use the name of God to accomplish something God has nothing to do with!)

These aren't really COMMANDMENTS, they are COMMITMENTS! (They answer "What is going to function as the God of your life?")

Exodus 20:8-11 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Commandment 4 – Remember to take a day off every seven days and set it apart unto the Lord. (Trust my provision, not your own!)

This is a commandment that you've never felt guilty about breaking; in fact, many people today think that this rule couldn't possibly relate to us in modern times, since we live in a world that operates 24/7. However, the ancient Israelites also lived in a 24/7 world – in fact, they were traveling through the wilderness for 40 years and if they didn't work every day there was a good chance they could starve to death!

Fortunately, the Israelites had just had an experience that showed them they could TRUST GOD FOR THEIR DAILY BREAD ... MANNA.

Exodus 16:26-30 Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none. And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, **therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days**; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day.

Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

God said, "I'm going to give you seven days of provision in SIX DAYS." This is a visual illustration from God to the entire nation so they will realize that GOD WANTS US TO BE DEPENDENT ON HIM!

One day Israel will be a powerful nation, and God doesn't ever want them to become self-sufficient and forget that they exist only because of GOD.

God built into their schedule a DAY OF REMEMBRANCE so they would know "all of my success is not because of ME, it is because of GOD." Remember – **I AM NOT MY SOURCE, GOD IS MY SOURCE!**

THE "DAY OF REST" IS A "DAY OF REMEMBRANCE" – remember that God created you and gave you the ability to do everything you do!

Keeping a Sabbath answers the question, "Is providing for myself, my family and my future more important, or is trusting God more important?"

God created a structure that sets us up feel like we are falling behind, so we will be forced to trust him! And then when we do, **He gives us seven days of provision based on only six days of our work.**

BY THE WAY, GOD'S PLAN WORKS THE SAME WITH TITHING TOO!

When Israel became a nation they had to compete against other nations that worked seven days a week, and they began to look for loopholes to get around this commandment (that's why God was so specific about it in Exodus 20:10 – this is the longest and most detailed commandment!).
AND WE ARE JUST LIKE THEM IN LOOKING FOR LOOPHOLES!

Since this law is not repeated in the New Testament, it is very important to realize that we are not locked in to a certain day of the week. In fact, the New Testament says that EVERY DAY is holy unto the Lord!

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

Hebrews 4:9-10 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

THIS COMMANDMENT IS ABOUT “SHUTTING DOWN,” BUT IT IS EVEN MORE ABOUT “TAKING YOUR HANDS OFF” AND RELAXING!

Think about this – the thing that will make or break you on your job has very little to do with how many hours you work every week. The things that make or break you have to do with factors outside your control – the economy, your health, the events that happen “by chance,” etc, etc ...
REMEMBER THAT GOD CONTROLS THOSE FACTORS ANYWAY!

This commandment will stretch your faith like nothing else. People who put God first in their TIME and their FINANCES grow faster than others in their Christian life, because they are trusting God in PRACTICAL WAYS.

GOD, EVERY WEEK OF MY LIFE I WILL TRUST YOU FOR SEVEN DAYS OF WORK BASED ON MY SIX DAYS OF WORK!

GOD, EVERY PAYCHECK OF MY LIFE I WILL TRUST YOU FOR 100% OF YOUR PROVISION BASED ON 90% OF MY EARNINGS!

Our culture does not support us in obeying this commandment, BUT ...
every week, I am going to DECLARE MY DEPENDENCE on God!

If you are really trusting God like this ... THEN, “thou shalt not” ...!