

# The Ten Commandments, Part 1

15 November, 2009

By Rev. Lonny R. Bower

Scripture Reference – Deuteronomy 5:1-15; Matthew 5:33-37; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 10:14-22; Hebrews 4:6-11

**Unit Theme:** “The Gospel Fulfills the Law”

**Central Truth:** We are commanded to honor God above all things.

**Focus:** Examine the commandments that address our relationship with God and live to honor Him.

**Key Verse:** Deuteronomy 5:1

## **Introduction:**

Many view Christianity as nothing more than rules and useless commandments. However, in all actuality Christianity is freedom, not bondage to rules or commandments. Genuine Christianity is about the freedom to live in a covenant relationship with the Almighty God. It is this relationship that one must focus on, for without it one is left bound by the rules, commandments and traditions that will never provide freedom and will never lead to eternal life. Christianity is about knowing God intimately and as in any relationship, those who are intimately loved are also honored, usually above all else. Those who view the commands of God as burdensome really don't know Him. That is, they have not entered into an intimate relationship with Him. One cannot ignore God's commands and be free. It is what I like to refer to as divine irony; it is by obeying God's commands that one attains freedom. One would be hard pressed to find someone who would not want to live forever, free from pain, sickness, sorrow and death. Yet the only way to attain such bliss is by accepting God's offer of a covenant relationship and by subsequently obeying His commands. The choice is plain and surprisingly uncomplicated.

## **I. Prologue: Our Covenant Making God – Deuteronomy 5:1-6**

It was God's desire then to commune with His people, and it is still His desire today. He has not changed His mind (**Numbers 23:19**), He still longs to speak and demonstrate His power to us. However, He can only do this if we are willing to enter into a covenant relationship with Him. Since God is Holy, there must be a way to provide for the purification of those who would desire to enter into a relationship with Him. Therefore, God instituted the law in order to reveal man's complete need for a continual (not just on occasion), living relationship. We must recognize however that He is our God; the One who saved us from our sins (brought the children of Israel out of Egypt).

### ➤ **Think about it:**

Define your relationship (if you have one) with God, is it casual, intimate, or is He just an acquaintance?

--

# The Ten Commandments, Part 1

15 November, 2009

By Rev. Lonny R. Bower


*“Abandon yourself utterly for the love of God, and in this way you will truly become happy.” – Henry Suso*

## II. Worship God Only – Deuteronomy 5:7; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

The Lord is extremely passionate and jealous over His people, He does not want any competition. Entering into a covenant relationship with God will bring a revelation of His unlimited love. But we will never fully know His love if we don't make Him the one and only – there must be no other gods. It is love that compels us to naturally obey His commands (**John 14:15, 1 John 5:3**), and in this way we worship Him, not through obligation or tradition, but because we love Him. Love is the essence of this covenant relationship, remove love and we'd be left with a worthless religion, a form of godliness that has no power to save!

➤ **Think about it:**

Does your love for God compel you to worship Him and only Him?


*“It makes the heart of God jealous when we make gods of anything but Him” – Woodrow Kroll*

## III. Idolatry Forbidden – Deuteronomy 5:8-10; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Idolatry is not just limited to the forming and worshiping of objects, it is also deep devotion to something or someone. More specifically, a devotion that runs deeper than our desire and love for God is idolatry. God will not tolerate idolatry, it was the sin of idolatry that caused God's judgment to fall on Israel and I believe it will be the same end for His people today. We cannot presume to love God while we are more devoted to the things of this life. The Lord didn't ever promise us an easy road to travel, that which is free is not always easy. To love and worship Him can be difficult as it requires us to crucify the flesh and become living sacrifices unto Him (**Galatians 5:24; Romans 12:1, 2**). Doing so, however, far outweighs the temporal benefit of

## The Ten Commandments, Part 1

15 November, 2009

By Rev. Lonny R. Bower

living in the flesh – God’s way is life (**Romans 6:23**), but the way of the flesh is death (**Romans 8:5-8**).

➤ **Think about it:**

What or who has your undying devotion?


*“Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God” – Martin Luther*

### IV. Honor God’s Name – Deuteronomy 5:11; Matthew 5:33-37

To honor God’s name is to live a life unto Him, when we do this, it becomes impossible to use His name in vain. Using God’s name in vain is far reaching, that is, it goes beyond simple profanity, but instead touches us where and how we live. We cannot proclaim to love God, take His name and use to our advantage and then ignore His commands (Moral Law). If we do, we become guilty of using His name in vain. Furthermore, we are not to swear, but to let our word be our word. This glorifies God and further establishes Him as Lord of our lives.

➤ **Think about it:**

In what ways can you honor God?


*“Always tell the truth. Then you won’t have to worry about what you said last” – Robert Cook*

### V. Keep the Sabbath – Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Hebrews 4:6-11

This has arguably been one of the most controversial of all the commandments – keep the Sabbath. Again, we have been set free from the bondage of the law in that we are required to hold one day over another. I believe it is God’s desire that we hold all days the same and that we worship Him every day. However, it is vitally important that we do have a time that we all come together and that we do not forsake this assembling (**Hebrews 10:25**). What God does not want us to do is to become so consumed by our lives, our vocations and hobbies etc. that we do not

## The Ten Commandments, Part 1

15 November, 2009  
By Rev. Lonny R. Bower

willfully and intently set time aside for Him. The truth is we need rest, and our greatest rest can only be found in His presence. Therefore, if we do not set this time aside we will never enter that rest as God so desires for us. When we enter into a covenant relationship with God, we finally find rest (**Matthew 11:28**), and this is what the Sabbath was all about, rest and worship.

➤ **Think about it:**

Have you truly found rest?


*“What we believe is evident in how we live our lives.” – Lonny R. Bower*

### **Conclusion:**

The Lord expects holiness from His people; He has given everyone regardless of ethnicity, social or economic status equal opportunity to enter into a covenant relationship with Him. It is only through this relationship that one can attain the holiness He demands. Without this holiness, one will never see God (**Hebrews 12:14**).

*Title and outline taken from the Evangelical Sunday School Lesson Commentary ©2009 Pathway Press Cleveland TN*

*To order go to [pathwaybookstore.com](http://pathwaybookstore.com) under products look for Evangelical Sunday School Lesson Commentary 2009-2010.*

*Except where I have paraphrased all scripture is taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.*

This study and others can be found at [www.fullmessage.org](http://www.fullmessage.org)

### **Next Week’s Lesson – The Ten Commandments, Part 2**

- I. Honor Your Parents – Deuteronomy 5:16; Matthew 15:3-6**
- II. Honor Life – Deuteronomy 5:17; Matthew 5:21, 22**
- III. Honor Marriage – Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27-30**
- IV. Do Not Steal – Deuteronomy 5:19; Ephesians 4:28**
- V. Be a Truthful Witness – Deuteronomy 5:20; Ephesians 4:25**
- VI. Do Not Covet – Deuteronomy 5:21; James 4:1-3**
- VII. Epilogue: The Life That God Blesses – Deuteronomy 5:22-33**