

"The BIG TEN ~ 8th & 10th commandments"
May 30, 2010

The '**10 commandments**' ~ God's '**BIG TEN**'
are kind of a safety manual for life written by God some 3,500 yrs ago.

These '**LAWS**' were never intended to be a fence to hem us in;
but instead were intended to be a **guardrail** to protect us.

Within the commandments God has gave us instructions on how too:
HONOR HIM with our words & attitudes.

He also gave us detailed instructions how too:
HONOR parents + marriage vows + promises & the personal rights of others.

MOST IMPORTANTLY
These protective guardrails
are primarily intended to protect us from harming ourselves **sin nature**

As strong & simple as these O.T. LAWS are;
The 10 COMMANDMENTS are **unable to accomplish** certain things:

- I. Limitations of the O.T. LAW
 - A. The Law was unable to **make anyone perfect.**
(R) Hebrews 10: 1 – 2 or p. 925 in pew Bible
 - B. The Law was unable **to justify us from sin.**
(R) Acts 13: 38 – 39 or p. 842 in pew Bible
 - C. The Law was unable to **cleanse our consciences.**
(R) Hebrews 9: 9 – 10 or p. 924 in pew Bible
 - D. The Law was unable to **set us free from our sins.**
(R) Galatians 3: 21 – 22 or p. 892 in pew Bible

The '**10 commandments**' are merely guardrails that *possess no saving power.*

This is where the **GOOD NEWS** [*comes in*] = Jesus ransomed us from the Law!

(R) Galatians 3: 23 – 25 or p. 892 in pew Bible

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(R) Galatians 4: 4 – 7

The ***real value of the O.T. Law*** summarized in the 'BIG TEN' is simple:
We would *never fully appreciate* the *GIFT of GOD'S GRACE*
UNLESS we 1st lived under the curse of the law. **(R) Galatians 3: 13 - 14**

NOW w/that necessary perspective lets finish up the 'BIG TEN'
with the **8th & 10th** commandments:

II. **8th commandment** = "*You must not steal.*"

A. (R) Exodus 20: 15 or p. 59 in pew Bible

B. **At 1st glance** this commandment may seem **trite & elementary**;
however as we examine it closer, we will find its applications run
deep!

1. **The 1st meaning of stealing** is rather obvious =
it is seizing something you do not own.

a. God uses many *sobering examples* from the pages of Scripture
to warn us about the seriousness of stealing.

b. **i.e. Joshua 7** = *Sin of Achan* stealing after Battle of Jericho

Ever notice how we quietly think there are *different degrees to stealing*:

Like God grades on a curve from **1 to 10**:

Where **a 1** is *taking a grape* from the produce section & **a 10** *is a bank robbery*.
In God's view = stealing is stealing!

Let's dive a little deeper into this commandment:

2. **The 2nd meaning of stealing** is...

withholding something from someone that is rightfully theirs.

a. We develop **sly ways of stealing** from our employers:

i. By calling in sick ~ thinking we deserve a sick day

they are ours anyway... *we steal* a full day's pay from
our employer.

ii. We steal from our employer *by coming in late & leaving*
early + making inappropriate phone calls + padding our

expense accounts, **adding miles** we haven't driven + surfing the net .

- b. **More subtlety violations** of this 8th commandment are:
 - i. **All forms of dishonesty & cheating** + tax evasion
 - ii. US News & World Report
 - iii. Overcharging customers & underpaying your employees
- c. **Ever notice** the excuses we make for stealing?
 - i. They don't pay me what I'm worth, anyway.
 - ii. I'm not the only one playing on the internet during work hrs.
 - iii. I was just borrowing it.

3. **The 3rd meaning of stealing** is...

deceiving someone into believing a falsehood for personal gain.

- a. This is *sophisticated stealing*, but God is not fooled by sophistication.
- b. **Proverbs 20: 23** says,

"The Lord detests double standards; He is not pleased by dishonest scales."

- c. Dishonest scales are abundant today:
 - i. *Taking advantage* of unwitting customers who just don't know.
 - ii. Selling homes w/ faulty foundations *claiming* they're rock solid.
 - iii. *Cheating* on exams ~ attempting to plagiarize essays.

The 10th commandment deals with another form of stealing.

III. **The 10th commandment** = "*You must not covet.*"

A. **(R) Exodus 20: 17** or **2nd book in the O.T.**

B. God word *clearly defines how we violate* the 10th command:

'You must not covet your neighbors' house.' **Coveting their property**
'You must not covet your neighbors' wife.' **Coveting their passion**
'You must not covet...your neighbor's male or female servants, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.' **Coveting their possessions**

- C. The 10th command is particularly important b-c it transforms for the **1st time** the 'BIG TEN' from a civil code **into** a moral law.

We cannot be persecuted in court for covetousness, since coveting **is not** an action but an ATTITUDE of the heart.

Define: Covetousness is desiring something so much that you lose your contentment in God so that you begin to seek it elsewhere.

- D. Multiple pitfalls to '**Covetousness**'
1st = Covetousness Never Brings Satisfaction

Jesus says in Luke 12: 15,

"Beware, guard against every kind of greed; life isn't measured by how much you own."

2nd = Covetousness Chokes Off Spiritual Life

Jesus says in Mark 4: 18 – 19 Parable of the Sower

"The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced."

3rd = In the End Covetousness Devastates Ones' Heart

(R) I Timothy 6: 9 – 12 or p. 912 in pew Bible

Disobeying this commandment is dangerous business:

In fact coveting is to **Stealing**;

What **Anger** is to murder & **Lust** is to adultery!

The Bible indicates THAT THERE IS a cure for covetousness:

IV. The Cure for Covetousness = CONTENTMENT

A. (R) I Timothy 6: 6 – 8 God's answer

B. 2 questions that will help you assess heart in relation to coveting:

1st question = *What do you think about most of the time?*

What we think about is what we desire & what we desire is what we become:

INSERT story of preacher's visit ☺
Gain your significance from God, not stuff.

INSERT *US NEW & World Report*

G.K. Chesterton put it this way,
"There are two ways to get enough. (1) is to continue to accumulate more & more. The other is to desire less & less!"

A subjective question

2nd question = *How happy are you for others when they are somehow blessed?*

Do you realize this is a command & not like a personal preference option?

Romans 12: 15 commands,
"Be happy with those who are happy and weep with those who weep."

Self – Test:

Singles, how happy are you when another single man or woman gets married?

+

Middle aged, how happy are you for someone who successfully loses weight?

+

Parents, how happy are you for other families that their child accomplishes something that you would have given anything for your child to do?

+

Sports Fan, how happy are you when your team loses & your opponent scores a big victory?

My next step is too:

Go home & make a list of everything & everybody God has given you.

ASK GOD to make you CONTENT with what & who He has given you!