

## Priority and Sovereignty

### I. Introduction to The Ten Commandments

#### A. A Word from God – *Exodus 20:1*

1. The Ten Words – **deka logos** – *Deuteronomy 10:4*
2. The Testimony – to the will of God – *Exodus 25:16*
3. The Covenant – responsibilities – *Deuteronomy 4:13*

#### B. A Covenant for a Redeemed Community – *Exodus 20:2*

1. God brought Israel out of slavery in Egypt.
2. God delivered Israel from the armies of Pharaoh.

#### C. A Foundation for Spiritual and Social Conduct

1. A right relationship with God – *Exodus 20:3-7*
2. A right relationship at home – *Exodus 20:8-12*
3. A right relationship with others – *Exodus 20:13-17*

### II. The First Word: Priority

#### **Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before me.”**

##### A. One God

1. Polytheism – belief in many gods or spirits – new age religion
2. Henotheism – accepting one god but believing in others – territorial – India
3. Monotheism – one God over the whole creation: *Jewish, Muslim, Christian*

##### B. One Belief

1. People will value what they worship.
2. People will become like the gods they worship.

##### C. One Priority

1. Individualism – America’s Religion – self first
2. Nationalism – Ethnic Religions – groups first
3. Intellectualism – Science’s Religion – mind first
4. Materialism – Middle Class’s Religion – things first

### II. The Second Word: Sovereignty

**Exodus 20:4-6 “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above 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, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”**

#### A. Idolatry

1. Idolatry is making means into ends – object becomes sacred.
2. Idolatry substitutes the thing for the person – relationship is lost

#### B. Church Idols

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|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Music             | 6. Buildings  |
| 2. Preaching         | 7. Doctrine   |
| 3. Crosses           | 8. Experience |
| 4. Icons             | 9. Saints     |
| 5. Pastors/ Teachers | 10. Works     |

#### C. Covenant of Grace, Love and Obedience

# **THE TEN WORDS**

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Midwest City Free Methodist Church

## **Sincerity and Sanctity**

### I. The Third Word: Sincerity

**Exodus 20:7 “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”**

- A. The Name of God – Above All Things – *Psalm 138:2*
  - 1. The Name of the Lord is revelation – *Exodus 3:13*
  - 2. The Name of the Lord is power – *Proverbs 18:10*
  - 3. The Name of the Lord is presence – *Deuteronomy 26:15*
  - 4. The Name of the Lord is salvation – *Psalm 43:11*
- B. The Definition of Vanity \* Empty Speech
  - 1. A False Report – empty, idle, insincere, frivolous
  - 2. An Unfilled Pledge – hollow, vacant, unstable, purposeless
- C. The Place for Promises
  - 1. Ordinary and Everyday Promise – a person of his/ her word.
  - 2. Contracts of Work – fair compensation.
  - 3. To Tell the Truth – everywhere and at all times.
  - 4. Religious Vows – baptism, marriage, membership.
- D. A Life of Rightness
  - 1. Our Speech – what we say matters to God.
  - 2. Our Living – how we live matters to God.
  - 3. Our Commitment – what we believe matters to God.

### II. The Fourth: Sanctity

**Exodus 20:8-11 “Remember the Sabbath day and 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.”**

- A. Holiness unto the Lord
  - 1. A day dedicated to the Lord for rest and reflection.
  - 2. A rhythm of life including faith, work, and grace.
- B. Worship unto the Lord
  - 1. An everyday event – private and public devotions.
  - 2. An act that is physical, mental, emotional and spiritual – all to God.
- C. Work unto the Lord
  - 1. Every day and every activity belong to God.
  - 2. God is honored in work, rest and recreation.

### III. Holy Living

- 1. Study
- 2. Prayer
- 3. Fellowship
- 4. Family Devotions
- 5. Praise and Worship
- 6. Recreation

## Unity and Responsibility

### I. The Fifth Word: Unity

**Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”**

#### A. The Importance of Community

1. Home – The pivotal point for a society and a community.
2. Covenant – The foundation for a home.
  - a. A place of learning – about relationship, life, nature, etc.
  - b. A place of growing – time to eat, sleep, play, rest, work.
  - c. A place of training – authority, responsibility, character, honor.

#### B. The Importance of Unity

1. The Connection Between Generations – family
2. The Act of Obedience – honoring parents, honors God.
3. The Command of Responsibility – loving, caring, supporting.

#### C. Houston Police Department – *How To Make A Child into a Delinquent*

1. Give the child everything they want.
2. Never give the child any spiritual training – let them decide for themselves.
3. Avoid using the word “wrong”.
4. Pick up everything they leave lying around.
5. Let the child read anything they want.
6. Give the child all the money they want.
7. Satisfy the child’s every want.

### II. The Sixth Word: Responsibility

**Exodus 20:13 “You shall not murder.”**

#### A. Life is Sacred

1. Humanity is created in the image of God – *Genesis 1:27*
2. Life has elements of mystery and holiness – *Leviticus 17:11*
3. Community needs the bonds of trust – *Psalms 133*

#### B. The Difference between Punishment and Murder

1. Murder is wrong – including mental murder – *Matthew 5:21-26*
2. Punishment is necessary – for the conservation of the law.
  - a. War and capital punishment not prohibited by the Sixth Commandment.
  - b. Prevention is always better than cure.

#### C. The Power of Love

- a. Loving our enemies is commanded – *Matthew 5:43-48*
- b. Love is supreme – *1 Corinthians 13*
- c. Love is greater than fear – *1 John 4:18*

## Fidelity and Honesty

### I. The Seventh Word: Fidelity

#### **Exodus 20:14 “You shall not commit adultery.”**

##### A. Jewish Marriage Traditions – *Genesis 2:24 & page 103 green book*

1. Jewish Engagement – made by the parents or professional matchmakers – arranged relationships.
2. Jewish Betrothal – bride and groom consecrated to each other – binding as marriage.
  - a. Symbolic sale – an article of value (i.e. ring).
  - b. Written agreement – included a sum of money.
  - c. Cohabitation – legal, but considered disgraceful.
3. Jewish Wedding – a great celebration for the whole community. **P 319 blue book**
4. Jewish Marriage (Ideal)–
  - a. Purity
  - b. Honor
  - c. Considerateness
  - d. Love

##### B. Jewish Divorce Traditions – *Deuteronomy 24:1-4*

1. Women had no legal rights – divorce always started from the man.
2. Divorce was easy – a written bill with two witnesses.
3. Any money or article had to be returned to the father of the woman.

##### C. Adultery – *Proverbs 6:32* – breaking the marital union

Fornication – broader term, *Deuteronomy 22:22*

##### D. Fidelity

1. The sanctity of marriage is a basic biblical revelation – holy matrimony.
2. The unity of the family is a primary concern – godly home.
3. The fidelity to marital bonds is commanded – faithful living. *Proverbs 5:18*

### II. The Eighth Word: Honesty

#### **Exodus 20:15 “You shall not steal.”**

##### A. Property Rights

1. Divine Ownership – God is the sole owner of the land – *Psalm 85:1*
2. Holy Relationship – property (possessions) were to be used for the glory of God – *Deuteronomy 30:1-10*
3. Penalty – Achan took some of the devoted plunder from God *Joshua 7*

##### B. Modern Theft

1. The stealing of time – not being honest with our schedules.
2. The stealing of innocence – seducing others into sin. *Matthew 18:6*
3. The stealing of character – producing gossip or backbiting. *1 Thessalonians 5:11*
4. The stealing of common good – living a self-centered, selfish life. *Lost gospel of the Hebrews p 180*
5. Loaning with interest – taking advantage of your brother’s misfortune
6. Use just scales of balances – do not have double standards

## **THE TEN WORDS**

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### C. Covenant Living

1. The Wholeness of Life – everything comes from God.
2. The Holiness of Stewardship – care for the things of God.
  - a. Creation – all nature was created by God. *Genesis 1:26* man to rule all creatures
  - b. People – all humanity was made in the image of God. “created in our likeness”
  - c. Kingdom – all authority was given to Jesus Christ.
  - d. Possessions – all gifts are given to us by God,
3. The Blessing of God – God continues to give and give. *Deuteronomy 28*