



**Ten Commandment Series**  
**Placing God First**  
**Exodus 20:1-3**  
**Westport Christian Church**  
**July 18, 2010**

For the next few weeks we will take a look at the “Ten Commandments.”

Let me share with you the Redneck Ten Commandments. Ten Commandments Some people have trouble with all those 'shall's' and 'shall not's' in the Ten Commandments. Folks just aren't used to talking in those terms. So, in middle Tennessee they translated the 'King James' into ' Jackson County ' language....no joke (posted on the wall at Cross Trails Church in Gainesboro , TN).

- (1) Just one God
- (2) Put nothin' before God
- (3) Watch yer mouth
- (4) Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
- (5) Honor yer Ma & Pa
- (6) No killin'
- (7) No foolin' around with another fellow's gal
- (8) Don't take what ain't yers
- (9) No tellin' tales or gossipin'
- (10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff

Now that's plain an' simple. Y'all have a nice day now ya hear! The issues of these ten commandments have made the news a lot in the last few years, so, I feel that it is important that we take a look at them to discover for ourselves, what they mean to us today. In the early 1990's, several university professors passed out copies of the 10 Commandments to

students and asked them to arrange the commandments in order of importance. More than 90% of the students rearranged the commandments and placed the commandments dealing with man's relationship with his fellow man above the commandments dealing with man's relationship with his God.

When the 10 Commandments were removed from the Alabama State Supreme Court, Judge Roy Moore said, "It is a sad day in our country when the moral foundation of our law and the acknowledgment of God has to be hidden from public view to appease a federal judge." The CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll found 77% of the 1,009 Americans interviewed disapproved of U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson's order to remove the monument in Alabama.

How important are these "Ten Commandments? How important are they to you? Did you know that the majority of the people when ask to name the 'Ten Commandments' could only come up with three out of the ten! If I were to ask you to name them, could you? And if you named them, could you do it in order?

I feel that we should study them and find out what God would have us to know about these commandments. Before I go any farther, we must all come to the understanding that these are commandments, not suggestion. So, today we will start with the first in this list of commandments. Ex 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."

In order for us to understand I would like for us to ask ourselves three questions. So here is the first one...

#### I WHY SHOULD WE PUT GOD FIRST?

I think the most obvious is because God established His authority from the very beginning. When God first called Moses to the burning bush, Moses asked the question who are you? The answer was, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." At the beginning of this chapter we read, 1-2 "Then God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

God reminded them of what He has done for them. He delivered them from a life of slavery. Not only that, when Moses was talking to God at the beginning, God told Moses what He wanted him to do. Moses asks a question, "Who do I tell them sent me." God's reply, tell them, "I am." When God used the term "I am that I am", He is informing us that He always was and always will be! God is omnipresent. Which means He is everywhere.

God is with us now the same as He is with those worshiping all around the world. Jer 23:24 "Can a man hide himself in hiding places. So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD. God is not limited by time or space. God is omniscient. That means He knows everything. Now, this should not be of surprise if you understand that God created everything. His knowledge, His understanding is unlimited. God never created something He didn't know what it was. God never created anything that He didn't have a plan for. Most of the time we don't understand, but God does. He even knows what you are thinking this very moment!

God is omnipotent, which means all powerful. Throughout the Scriptures we read that God

is called the "Almighty." This is in reference to His power which is unlimited. Ps 19:1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Jer 32:17 "Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You."

Who better to state you shall have no other god before Me, than the one Who created it all in the beginning. God established His authority by stating who He is and has expressed that fact in the things He has done. Which bring me to the second question...

## II WHO IS SUPPOSE TO OBEY THESE DIRECTIVES?

It is the redeemed that is obligated to obey the guidelines that God established. Look at verse 2 of our text. Ex 20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is those whom God has delivered out of sin and bondage that must follow.

There are some today that think they do not have to follow these commandments. After all, Jesus is all I need and besides I didn't cross any Red Sea. I wasn't held as a slave. Well, the fact that a person today never crossed over the Red Sea while God had it parted has nothing to do with the fact that God has delivered you from sin and bondage. Every person that professes to be a Christian has been set free from a life of slavery. Paul says in Romans chapter 6 that if you have been redeemed, you have been set free from the bondage of sin. If you have been redeemed then you have been bought with a price. Jesus paid the price for you while He was on the cross. Therefore, you are obligated to follow the command that God has laid down.

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." (John 15:10NASU) We have an obligation. God rightfully expects our obedience! You expect your spouse to be faithful. You expect your children to be obedient. You expect your friends to be loyal. So why is it so difficult to see that GOD has expectations for us? He expects us to be faithful. He expects us to be obedient. He expects us to be loyal. He expects us to make Him number one in our lives and keep Him there!

So the third question that I must ask is...

## III HOW DO I PUT GOD FIRST?

The editor of a small weekly newspaper in a town in the West was hard put to it one week for copy to fill his columns. So he had his compositor set up the Ten Commandments, and ran them without making any editorial comment. Three days after the paper was published he received a letter saying: "Please cancel my subscription. You're getting too personal." — Pastor's Manual

We begin putting God first when we take it personal. To begin with you must be in God's Word. You must form some type of reading God's Word every day. I know from personal experience that if I do not start my day in God's Word then I am not going to have a good day. Next, spend time in God's presence. Work on your prayer life. Don't just tell God thanks for the food and that's it, spend some time with Him, talk with Him and listen to Him.

Get involved in God's service. Get active and participate in Kingdom work. Despite what some people think an active church life is a must! But let us not stop here, we must continue on.

You must put God first in your home. Now, I know this will be hard for some to grasp, but you should treat your spouse like a queen or a king. You should do everything in your power to provide for their well-being. Do you grasp the concept here? If each person would do what they could for the other person then think of the peace and harmony that would be in that home. Parents, treat your children as a child. You should try to be their friend until after you have been their parent. Love them, encourage them, guide them, and instruct them. Treat them the way they should treat you, with respect. Don't hit on them. Don't call them names.

Every home that I have been in where the children are out of control, in some manner so is the parents. There is a lack of communication and a lack of respect. I understand that each parent wants to provide for his or her child what he or she didn't have when they were a child, but look at what has happen. I know that children don't want to hear this, but there is nothing wrong with them doing without the newest and greatest thing on the market. Give them what they need, love, respect, rules and guidelines! Put God first in your relationship to others.

Listen, I am all for reaching out to those outside of Christ, but if we are going to show them Christ then we must act like Christ. As Christians we MUST be different from the world. You can have friends that are not Christians, but you must not behave like them while you are with them. I think it is very sad if you have company over and the preacher stops by and you have to behave different because he is there. If you are with someone and you are behaving and doing the same things

they are what does that tell them and what kind of influence are you having? Remember, if it walks like a duck, and sounds like a duck, it must be...?

Put God first in your finances. This is the only area in all of Scripture where God says test me. "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. (Mal 3:10) Now, I am not preaching a gospel of prosperity, I am preaching on the area of trust. Jesus said in Matthew six, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Who's in your wallet? I pray you are putting God first in your finances.

Put God first in your personal trust, in your heart. In Romans 10:9-10 we read, if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame." We generally do not want to trust God with our finances, with our children, with our relationships, or with our issues of daily life. We do not want to do that because trusting God requires giving up control! For most of us that is very difficult But, God has promised in his Word that if we do, we will never be put to shame! "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him." (Jeremiah

17:7)

Conclusion; If we will honor God as the only God in our lives, it won't matter whether the Ten Commandments are posted in courtrooms and school hallways or not. They will be posted everywhere a Christian goes. And the testimony of our lives will be impossible to silence. Is the God of the Bible your God? Some may say yes but I must ask, is the God of the Bible your God exclusively. You see He MUST be first in all areas of your life. Those whom He has redeemed must obey. In a

certain Sunday school the superintendent of the Junior Department was surprised to find that the offering which was placed outside the door of the department room had not been reaching the treasurer. A little checking revealed that one member of the department had been slipping out of the door and pocketing the offerings.

The same boy just a few months before had won the award for learning the greatest number of Bible verses, including the Ten Commandments. When confronted with his wrongdoing, he saw no relationship between taking the offerings and the Commandments he had memorized. He had not really learned them. (Moody Monthly)

God must be first all areas, our homes, our family, our finances, our relationships, and in our total trust. It is still true today for God said, "you shall have no other god before Me." Is He?