

“You shall not murder...”

Positively, “*Am I my brother’s keeper?*” (Gen 4:9). Apparently, Cain, you are! We are to preserve life. (Gen 9:5-6)

Negatively, Any act or thought, designed to harm, whether it be the ruin of a reputation or the destroying of life is “murder”.

“You shall not commit adultery”

Positively, “*...and they shall become one flesh.*” (Gen 2:24) Jesus concludes, from this statement, the exclusion of all others.

Negatively, Adultery is a rebellious distortion of the divine image

“You shall not steal...”

Positively, “*...I have gotten a man from the Lord...*” (Gen 4:1) All that we have is given by God and comes from God (Gen 19:14).

Negatively, Paul implies that this command remains unfulfilled until the offender begins to help others. (cf. Eph 4:28)

“You shall not bear false witness”

Positively, We are to defend others against injustice (Prov 31:8-9)

Negatively, “*You have done...what ought not be done.*” (Gen 20:9) This command condemns all lying and slander.

“You shall not covet”

Positively, “*When the woman saw...that the tree was to be desired [coveted]...*” (Gen 3:6, Jos 7:21). A dissatisfaction with our lot.

Negatively, When fully exercised, this sin causes a breach off all the others (cf Col 3:5)



**THIS, THE SCRIPTURES
TEACH AND THIS WE
BELIEVE ABOUT...**

THE LAW OF GOD



PART II

“Men are only truly free when they want to do what they ought to do.” D. Edmond Hiebert.

THE LAW OF GOD - PART II

Exodus 20:1-17:

MAN'S KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S LAW

The 10 Commandments are a comprehensive summary of the moral law. They reflect the nature of God (and increasingly, the new nature given to the believer) and guide us in our duty to God and to each other .

The Confession states that God made mankind with, *"knowledge...having the Law of God written on his heart."* (4:2) This Law was given, *"as a covenant of works binding him and all his posterity to entire, exact and perpetual obedience."* (19:1, cf. Rom 2:12-16) After the fall it continued to be the, *"perfect rule of righteousness, and as such was delivered to God's people...[in the form of] Ten Commandments."* (19:2)

These were further expounded by Jesus Christ (Matt 5:17-48) and find their ultimate summation and authority in Matt 22:37-40.

True or False:

The absence of an explicit command negates a moral prohibition.

EVIDENCE & APPLICATION

This section will now summarise some of the evidence for the perpetual existence of the Law and some thoughts on *how* we can apply it.

"I am the Lord your God...you shall have no other..."

Positively, *"In the beginning, God..."* (Gen 1:1) implies that there is one Supreme Being and by necessary consequence, all that He creates is subject to Him and owes its allegiance (thoughts and affections) to Him."

Negatively, You don't have to worship Sun, Moon or Stars, or images made from Gold or wood to break this command. The pursuit of anything that does not terminate in the satisfaction of God can become idolatry.

"You shall not make...bow down or serve..."

Positively, Acceptable service to God is instituted by Himself.

Negatively, *"For Cain and his offering, He (The Lord) had no regard."* (Gen 4:5). An attempt to worship God by means instituted by ourselves, regardless of the apparent sincerity, is an affront to the Almighty.

"You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain..."

Positively, Those who say Jesus is Lord our bound to follow (and enjoy) His commands. Those who call upon God as their Father, are bound to honour (and enjoy) the rules of His house.

Negatively, *"Since you listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you..."* (cf Lk 3:38).

For this, God will find you guilty.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it Holy."

Positively, *"So God blessed the seventh day and made it Holy..."* (Gen 2:3). What are we to remember about the Sabbath? That it is Holy. It is to be enjoyed as a day, distinguished from the affairs of this world, by reflection and service to God.

Negatively, the day of rest requires us to leave off the pursuit of our own (otherwise acceptable) pleasures and pursue our pleasure in God. (cf. Isa 58:13-14)

"Honour your Father and Mother..."

Positively, God is represented in the home by people of His own choosing. To honour them is to honour God.

Negatively, *"Cursed be Canaan..."* (cf Gen 9:18-27). To disregard the authority of parents (our first carers under God) is to place yourself under the curse of the law.