

Old Testament ...

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somewhat sticks in the mind of most people; and they think, along with their other misunderstandings of God's Old Testament commandments, that they are only responsible for some of those that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Here are several truths about the Ten Commandments:

Obedience to these ten commandments is necessary in order for all men to live together in unity. They are the moral laws that God has given man. If they are not followed, there will be problems in society.

If the sixth commandment is not honored, then anyone can kill anyone for any reason. When the seventh commandment is ignored, then families will be destroyed by rampant adultery. If the eighth is not enforced or taught, then there will be no inhibitions preventing anyone from stealing what they want. On and on society will degrade, as it has today, because the basic moral commandments are not universally followed in society.

Following these commandments will not guarantee anyone heaven. So many, when asked if they are bound for heaven, declare they are because they obey the ten commandments. Surprisingly, few even know what they are and are shocked

"The Law detects. Grace corrects."

that there are actually over 300 of them.

We are in a different time; a different dispensation. We are not under God's law, we are under God's grace. The way to heaven is trusting in Christ's payment for our sins; not anything we can do. The law was only intended to give Old Testament believer's a glimpse (a shadow) of how the perfect worship would one day be.

"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect." Hebrews 10:1

These commandments give us an idea of what God likes and does not like. The desire of all Christians should be to please God. The commandments clearly show us the preferences and wisdom of the Creator.

Some say there are over 600 Old Testament commandments. It is nearly impossible to know all of them, let alone keep them all. *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."*

James 2:10

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"Keep My Commandments"

Bill Brinkworth

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15

In John Chapter 14, Jesus has made it very clear that those who have believed in God must also believe and obey Jesus' commands. At least three times in that chapter alone God's Son urged his followers, that if they really loved Him, they would obey what he commanded. Elsewhere in the Bible, it is commanded at least twenty times to honor and obey what He asks us to do. Obeying God's commands is one of the most important teachings found in His Word.

Obeying God's directives is the main purpose God has preserved His written Word for us. The Word does tell us about Moses, the law, Jesus, and quite a bit more, but its main purpose is to provide us a way to know the mind of God. Someone once described the main teaching of the Bible in one word — government! They used 'government', because it all boils down to who

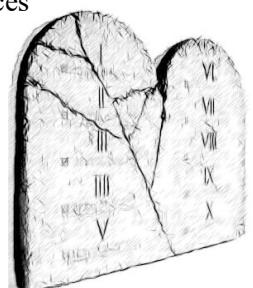
is going to govern our lives; the flesh, the things of this world, or God!

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Old Testament Commandments

Bill Brinkworth

There are many commandments in the Old Testament. Some sources



declare there are 613. I have found, after my own attempt in counting them, that it depends on the counter and his criteria for what actually is considered to be a commandment from God.

Although, my count is only in the 300's, and others have counted 603 and 613, we all have to agree that there are more than ten commandments that God has given men. Yet, the number ten

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"Keep My..."

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It is important to God that you heed his commands; so your life will be successful. God knows that not obeying His commands usually leads one to sin; and that all suffer when paying the consequences for their iniquities. Obeying Him will keep us from being hampered by our transgressions. When we are clean from unrighteousness, He can use us the way He desires. God is not just trying to "keep us from having fun", as more than one young person has told me. Father knows best, and He wants the best for His own. He knows that often the world's "fun" can lead to suffering in our lives.

People can have much biblical knowledge in their head, but if it just stays there and never alters their life or directs them to follow God's path, they are on the wrong road. His desire is for us to read, heed, and follow. Too many nod their head in acknowledgment of what the preacher says from the pulpit, but they never make the application from their intellect to their spiritual

A Sunday school teacher once asked her class 'How is the will of God done in heaven?'

One child answered,
"Cheerfully."

Another, "By everybody."
A third, "All the time."

The best answer was, "It is done without asking any questions."

—D. L. Moody

heart. They leave the church service the same way they came with no changes.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:22

That is one of the exciting blessings with working with children. They usually do not have the excuses and laziness of those that are older. When someone shows them what the Bible says, without hesitation, worrying about what others will think, or what they learned in school that contradicts what the Bible says, they come forward and obey. We all need to have the same attitude toward obedience.

Most, without hesitation, agree they should obey what God desires them to do as recorded within the Bible's pages. Then what keeps them from obeying it? Usually their reasons for disobedience include:

They are unsaved. The unsaved have a different master and do not have a desire to obey the true God. Even many that claim to be religious are uninterested or do not have a clue as to what His commands even mean.
"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 7:21

They are ignorant of His commands. If people do not read and study the Bible for themselves, they will never have

God's personal message spoken to their heart. Going to church is important, but it is not the pastor's job to spoon-feed all our knowledge of God's commands to us. We do have a responsibility in that area to read and study God's Word.

They are rebellious. Although, certainly harsh, the truth is if we ignore what God's Word says about something we are doing or not doing, we are rebelling against God's commands! Gulp! That certainly seems more vile than our excuses of "I just don't feel like doing it", or "Let someone else do it. I'm busy!"
"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46

None of us can have any good reason for not obeying God's Word. He has kept it for us to have just as He did for our forefathers. We have the same roadmap that they had to guide them through life. From it, we can know what God wants us to do in areas of salvation, baptism, service, giving, ministering to Him, selecting friends and spouses, and other godly advice we need to

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." — Galatians 2:16

live a godly life. It is all up to us. Will we obey or not? It is that simple!

The Ten Commandments

- i. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3
- ii. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." Ex. 20:4
- iii. "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Ex. 20:7
- iv. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Ex. 20:8
- v. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." Ex. 20:12
- vi. "Thou shalt not kill." Ex. 20:13
- vii. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Ex. 20:14
- viii. "Thou shalt not steal." Ex. 20:15
- ix. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Ex. 20:16
- x. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." Ex. 20:17