

Words to the Free

Exodus 20:1-17

Pastor Tony Traback

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Ten Commandments of the Northwest

- 1) You should have no other teams before the Seahawks.
- 2) You should never use an umbrella.
- 3) You should feel free to complain if the weather is below 50 or above 70.
- 4) You should tolerate moss/mold growing everywhere!
- 5) You should own a Subaru.
- 6) You should like coffee (seriously you are weird if you don't).
- 7) You should share what you did on every sunny day.
- 8) You should wear flannel.
- 9) You should think other drivers cannot drive in the rain, but that you are exceptional.
- 10) You should understand that the #12 does not refer to the disciples or the tribes of Israel, but rather to Seahawks fans.

The Big Idea: God directs those He liberates.

Two Pitfalls

- #1: The Ten Commandments don't apply to me because they are a part of **the law** and I am under **grace**.
- #2: Old Testament laws/rules/commands are about **earning salvation** and I have **Jesus** so they are not helpful to me.

J.A. Motyer, in *The Message of Exodus*, writes, "the grace that saves preceded the law that demands. The people were given the law not in order that they might become the redeemed, rather it was because their lives had already been redeemed that they were given the law. The law of God is the way of life he sets before those whom he has saved."

Two Key Points

- #1: The commands God gives are not a collection of petty, narrow rules. They are God's holistic **directives** for the spiritual life.

Structure of the Ten Words

Commands 1-4 focus on God

- 1-2 focus on thoughts
- 3 focuses on words
- 4 focuses on actions

Command 5 focuses on family

Commands 6-10 focus on our relationships in community

- 6-8 focus on actions
- 9 focuses on words
- 10 focuses on thoughts

God's First Word: *You shall have no other gods before me.*
Exodus 20:3 (English Standard Version)

God's Second Word:

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."
Exodus 20:4-6 (English Standard Version)

God's Third Word:

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." Exodus 20:7 (ESV)

God's Fourth Word:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." Exodus 20:8-11 (ESV)

God's Fifth Word:

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you." Exodus 20:8-11 (ESV)

God's Sixth Word:

"You shall not murder." Exodus 20:13 (ESV)

God's Seventh Word:

"You shall not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14 (ESV)

God's Eighth Word:

"You shall not steal." Exodus 20:15 (ESV)

God's Ninth Word:

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Exodus 20:16 (ESV)

God's Tenth Word:

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's." Exodus 20:17 (ESV)

#2: God gives the Ten Commandments to **ensure** freedom, not **restrict** it.

"I will walk about in freedom for I have sought out your precepts."

Psalms 119:45 (New International Version)

"The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple." Psalm 19:7 (NIV)

I Would Strongly Suggest You Take Some Time in the Ten Words If . . .

- Prayer/Scripture seem crowded out of your life
- Life feels hectic or busy
- You feel stuck or trapped
- You long for something more in your family

Tips

#1: Take some time to reflect (check out the bookmark)!

#2: Have a family meeting.

#3: Get honest feedback from friends.