

# END-TIMES ISSUES



**#90** Commandment #5 – The commands are interrelated.

GOD DOESN'T TELL US TO KNOW ALL THE END-TIME DETAILS. HE TELLS US TO BE READY.

**A N D B E Y O N D I**

1

## OUR GOAL ...

- So far, we've looked at the "GOD commands," which define what "love for God" is.
- Next, we plan to look at the "PEOPLE commands," which define what "love for neighbor" is.

## THE ISSUE FOR TODAY ...

- When examining the Fifth Commandment ("Honor your father and your mother."), we'll be pointing out that it has a *strong connection* to the Fourth Commandment ("Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.")
- Many people have never thought about any such connection, so their immediate reaction might be to question this assertion.
- So, to make it easier to accept, we're going to *first* see that ALL the commandments have connections of various kinds with other commandments.

We will start with this consideration ... ➡

2

### We often view the TEN COMMANDMENTS this way:

LOVE FOR GOD	LOVE FOR PEOPLE
Do not worship any other gods Do not make any idols Do not misuse God's name Keep the sabbath holy	Honor your father & mother Do not murder Do not commit adultery Do not steal Do not lie Do not covet
Impacts my relationship with <b>GOD</b> .	Impacts my relationship with <b>PEOPLE</b> .

3

### Actually, it's *this* way:

LOVE FOR GOD	LOVE FOR PEOPLE
Do not worship any other gods Do not make any idols Do not misuse God's name Keep the sabbath holy	Honor your father & mother Do not murder Do not commit adultery Do not steal Do not lie Do not covet
Impacts my relationship with <b>GOD</b> .	Impacts my relationship with <b>PEOPLE</b> .

4

Even though the two groups of commands may have different focuses, the impact of our obedience (or disobedience) may be much greater than we think.

- Our view of who/what God is will affect the way we treat ① people (who are made in God's image), as well as ② the rest of creation.
- Our attitude toward people (and the rest of creation) will reflect our attitude toward God.

### THE WAY WE TREAT PEOPLE REFLECTS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD.

- When we violate the "people" commandments:
  - ✓ We are violating commands that came from God.
  - ✓ We are sinning against people who have been made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27).
- Also, God uses some of the "people" commandments to describe ① our relationship to *him*, and/or ② the sins we commit against *him*.

5

Our attitude toward other people shows whether or not:

① God *really* lives in us, and

② His love has been made complete in us.

No one has seen God at any time. **If we love one another**, God resides in us, and **his love is perfected in us**.

... **the one who does not love** his fellow Christian whom he has seen **cannot love** God whom he has not seen.

1 John 4:12, 20b (NET)

- The above passage focuses on love for fellow-Christians. But love also needs to characterize our attitude toward *unbelievers*; for they also are our "neighbors." Otherwise, we're no better off than the unsaved.
  - ✓ We must love our enemies, following *God's example* – Matthew 5:44-48. We need to consider *the way God loved us*, while we were still *his* enemies – Romans 5:8.
  - ✓ The parable of the Good Samaritan is an example of love in action – Luke 10:25-37.

6

## The "PEOPLE" commands and GOD.

### ⇒ The FIFTH Commandment...

- God designed the family structure to be the first exposure we have, as children, to the relationship that he intends to exist between him and people. This is why God tells us he is our "Father" and we are his "sons" or "children." [This is also why the world is *attacking* all aspects of the family structure.]
- Many things that occur (or should occur) within a family are pictures of what occurs between us and God. An example is discipline – Hebrews 12:4-11.
- Yet because of sin – both our own and our parent's – *we cannot fully understand the nature of this relationship without Scripture.*
- Physically, we are totally dependent on God for our existence. He *made* us. Therefore, we are called his "offspring." (This does not deny the *difference* between the *uncreated* God and *created* people).

5. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.

"For in Him we live and move and have our being." ...  
"We are His **offspring**."

Acts 17:28 (BSB)

- We are also totally dependent on God for our salvation – which brings us into an even greater "family" relationship:

Behold what manner of love the **Father** has given to us, that we should be called **children** of God.

1 John 3:1 (BSB)

- Our attitude toward our parents will influence how we respond to God, as our "Father." Just as we are obligated to *honor* our parents, so we are also obligated to *honor* God, our Father.

"A son **honors** his father, and a servant his master. But if I am a father, where is My **honor**? And if I am a master, where is your **fear**\* of Me?"

Malachi 1:6a (BSB)

\* (This word "fear" is related to the word used in Leviticus 19:3, which is applied to our attitude toward our parents.)

### ⇒ The SIXTH Commandment...

- We cannot murder God; but as sinners, we would if we could.
- Since Jesus is fully God and fully man, his death on the cross proved that people, if given the opportunity, *would* kill God, if they could. They might even do it under the guise of "obeying God's law" (John 16:7)! [Sin blinds us to reality.]
- Though we cannot kill the *uncreated* God *physically*, we do the closest things we can.
- ✓ One way to "attack" God is to murder *people*, who are made "in the image of God." (This is one of the reasons that God requires the murderer to be put to death.)

6. DO NOT MURDER.

Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man his blood will be shed; for in His own image God has made mankind.

Genesis 9:6 (BSB)

- ✓ Another way we can express our murderous attitude toward God is to express anger or hatred toward him. This is because these are actions that belong in the same *category* of sins as does murder.

You have heard that it was said to the ancients, 'Do not **murder**' and 'Anyone who **murders** will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is **angry** with his brother will be subject to judgment.

Matthew 5:21-22a (BSB)

Everyone who **hates** his brother is a **murderer**, and you know that eternal life does not reside in a **murderer**.

1 John 3:15 (BSB)

- ✓ When King David committed murder and adultery (violating the Sixth and Seventh Commandments), he recognized it as being against God – Psalm 51:4.
- ✓ We can also express our hatred toward God by deliberately violating his commandments, or even by denying his existence.

### ⇒ The SEVENTH Commandment...

- Just as God uses the parent-child relationship to teach us about his relationship to us, so also he uses the husband-wife relationship. This is one of the reasons why God so strongly *hates* all sexual sins.
- Just like the other commandments, this one represents a *category* of actions. And just as people tend to violate this command through physical or mental acts against *people*, they also violate it through spiritual acts against *God*.
- Both Old and New Testaments describe us (who *claim* to be God's people) as being in a "marriage relationship" with him. What we do with that relationship may be an act of obedience to this commandment, or a violation of it. When we sin against God, it's like committing "spiritual *adultery*." When Israel rejected God, it was like a *divorce*. Ultimately, we who *are* saved (not just *claiming* to be saved) will be called the "*Bride of Christ*" (Revelation 19:7; 21:2, 9).

7. DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

For **your husband** is your Maker—the LORD of Hosts is His name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth.

Isaiah 54:5 (BSB)

You **adulterous wife**! You receive strangers instead of your own **husband**!

Ezekiel 16:32 (BSB)

You **adulteresses**! Do you not know that friendship with the world is **hostility toward God**? Therefore, whoever chooses to be a friend of the world renders himself **an enemy of God**.

James 4:4 (BSB)

... I promised you to one **husband**, to present you as a **pure virgin** to Christ. I am afraid, however, that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may be led astray from your simple and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2b-3 (BSB)

### ⇒ The EIGHTH Commandment...

- How much do we owe God? The Eighth Commandment represents a *category* of obligations, and it forbids *taking* what is not ours, as well as *keeping* what we owe to others. This involves much more than money issues (though it includes them). It includes gifts and abilities that God gave us for building each other up.
- Robbing God *can* involve money. Under the New Covenant, the following passage won't apply to us in quite the same way that it applied to Israel; but it is still a reminder. After all, we owe God *everything*!

8.  
DO NOT STEAL.

Will a man rob God? Yet **you are robbing Me!**  
But you ask, 'How do we rob You?'  
In tithes and offerings.  
Malachi 3:8 (BSB)

13

- Do we give God what we owe him? If not, we are *thieves*!

Then Jesus told them, "**Give** to Caesar what is Caesar's,  
and **to God what is God's.**"

Mark 12:17a (BSB)

Who should not fear you,  
King of the nations?  
**This is your due.**

Jeremiah 10:7 (NIV)

**You are not your own; you were bought at a price.**  
Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20 (BSB)

And he died for all, that those who live should **no longer live for themselves but for him** who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:15 (NIV)

14

### ⇒ The NINTH Commandment...

- When God originally spoke this command, he focused on the issue of false testimony against one's neighbor (Exodus 20:16). His restatement of this command, in Leviticus 19:11b, is more general in scope: "Do not lie."
- Any time we make a promise to God, and don't fulfil it, we are lying. This is why we must be *cautious* when making a vow to God!

9.  
DO NOT LIE.

When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it,  
because He takes no pleasure in fools. Fulfill your vow.

**It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.**

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 (BSB)

- When Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostles, Peter told them:

"You have not **lied** to men, but **to God!**"

Acts 5:4b (BSB); also v. 3.

15

- Lying doesn't always refer to a verbal utterance of something false. It can be *secretly* done within the heart. For instance, hypocrisy is a form of lying... and we can easily commit this sin against God.

Jesus answered them, "Isaiah prophesied correctly about you **hypocrites**, as it is written:

"These people **honor Me with their lips**,  
but their **hearts are far from Me.** ..."

Mark 7:6 (BSB)

- Lying *about* God is a slightly different issue; but it angers God just as much, as though it were directed toward him. (It also violates the Second Commandment.)

Indeed, **I am against those who prophesy false dreams,**" declares the Lord. "They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet **I did not send or appoint them.** They do not benefit these people in the least," declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:32 (NIV)

16

### ⇒ The TENTH Commandment...

- Do not covet. Do not crave for something that does not belong to you. Do not be filled with greed. This is a sin of the heart; and no matter how you say it, it is *idolatry*.
- The fact that you can't "see" this sin doesn't make it any less serious. *God* still sees it.

10.  
DO NOT COVET.

... **greed**, which is **idolatry**.  
Colossians 3:5b (BSB)

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or **greedy person** (that is, an **idolater**), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things **the wrath of God is coming** on the sons of disobedience.

Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Ephesians 5:5-7 (BSB)

17

- Basically, desiring *anything* more than we desire God makes us an *enemy* of God. We have to choose one or the other.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world—the **desires** of the flesh, the **desires** of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not from the Father but from the world.

The world is passing away, along with its **desires**; but whoever does the will of God remains forever.

1 John 2:15-17 (BSB)

- Coveting/lust/desire in the heart can give birth to the "visible" sins covered by the other commandments. The fact that people don't see it doesn't make it less dangerous. *If we don't kill it... it will kill us.*

Then after **desire** has conceived, it gives birth to **sin**; and **sin**, when it is full-grown, gives birth to **death**.

James 1:15 (BSB)

18

### What about the "GOD" commands... do they imply sins against PEOPLE?

⇒ There is a connection; but in a somewhat different way (compared to the "PEOPLE" commands).

- ✓ These commands do not seem to be used to *describe* sins against *people* – although they are often *connected* to sins against people.



#### 1 "NO OTHER GODS."

- ✓ Exalting *anything* (whether genuine or fake) above the *true* God is idolatry. This includes desiring *anything* that falls under the prohibitions of the Tenth Commandment ("Do not covet").
- ✓ When a person pursues a "replacement god" (whatever it may be), it can easily result in *many* kinds of sins against *people*.

19

#### 2 "NO FALSE IMAGES OF THE TRUE GOD."

- ✓ This refers to anything we say or do that *misrepresents* who the true God is. When we do this, we are *lying* about God.
- ✓ The commandment itself warns us about the judgment that will occur when people do this. It is definitely a sin against *people*, because those doing it are snatching God's blessings from future generations, and causing those blessings to be replaced with judgment.

#### 3 "NO MISUSE OF GOD'S NAME."

- ✓ God's name represents who he is and what he does. Misusing it involves not only treating it lightly (using it in a meaningless way), but also using it in manipulative or selfish ways. Many consider this command to include a prohibition against the hypocrisy of praising God, yet mistreating people who are made in his image.
- ✓ When others see us committing this sin, we tempt them to do the same. The commandment itself warns us that God will *not* leave the person *unpunished* who does this.

20

#### 4 "SETTING ASIDE TIME FOR REST AND FOR A FOCUS ON GOD."

- ✓ This commandment focuses on the "sabbath" concept. It involves *resting* from our daily activities, and taking time to *focus* on God.
  - ① God did not create us for being slaves to our daily activities, and
  - ② we *need* to take time to recognize our need for God.
- ✓ When we violate this command, we not only sin against God, but also against those we force (or encourage) to work unceasingly – thus discouraging them from taking the needed time to build-up their God-focus.
- ✓ There is a connection between this "sabbath" commandment and the commandment to "honor one's parents." If we are unwilling to take time to have a God-focus *ourselves*, we won't be willing to take time to teach our children to have this focus. In doing this, we are in danger of destroying them – *now* and in *eternity*.
- ✓ Both Fourth and Fifth Commandments center around our attitude toward *authority*: The one focuses on *God*, the ultimate authority; the other focuses on *parents* (who represent – as a pattern – all human authorities).

21

### What can we conclude?

- The various commands may have different focuses; but they are so interrelated that *none* can be isolated from others.
- We *cannot* take one command and treat it as though it were a *less serious* matter to violate, than the other commands. *This includes the Fifth Commandment* (which we will look at next time).

#### James says...

Whoever keeps the whole law but **stumbles at just one point** is guilty of **breaking all of it**.

James 2:10 (BSB)



⇒ In this passage, James focuses on the law as a *unit*.

⇒ But even when we look at the commands *separately*...

- ✦ When we consider how interrelated the commands are, we can see that it's almost *impossible* to violate *one* command without violating *others*!

22

## OUR MISSION:

### REALIZE that ALL SIN is serious!

- If our lives are characterized by *sin against God* (and we don't repent), we will someday be cast out of God's presence *forever*.
- Yet we cannot treat *sins against people* as less-serious than sins against God; for they *also* are sins against God.

### REALIZE that GOD'S GRACE is also serious!

- God enables us, through repentance and trust in him, to resist sin and to do the "positive" things that are implied by the "negative" commandments (as well as to do the things mentioned in the "positive" commandments)!

23

## Credits

### SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (www.biblica.com )
- Scriptures marked "NET" - The Scriptures quoted are from the NET Bible® https://netbible.com copyright ©1996, 2019 used with permission from Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "BSB" - Taken from The Holy Bible, Berean Standard Bible, BSB; Public Domain (CC BY NC ND). https://bereanbible.com/

### PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Brick wall - GDJ / CC0; via opencolipart.org: https://opencolipart.org/detail/227630/brick-texture
- Globe with lit fuse - GDJ / CC0; via opencolipart.org: https://opencolipart.org/detail/219655/political-map-earth-globe-bomb
- Ten Commandments - J4p4n / CC0; via opencolipart.org: https://opencolipart.org/detail/274042/ten-commandments

Presentation - Dennis Hinks © 2025.

24