

AMBASSADORS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

EXODUS 20:1-17 Ten Commandments

September 28, 2025

The Context

Ten Commandments. These commandments encapsulated the entire law and teach us today, just as they did for the Israelites, what it means to follow God's moral law. The actual Law (moral, ceremonial, civil) that God gave to Moses was far more detailed.

Introduction

Vs. 1 God Himself is speaking these words (Deut 5:4,5 "The LORD spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, while I was standing between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain)

Vs. 2 The word translated LORD in the Old Testament (often printed in small capitals, as in the *New American Standard version*) is translated *Jehovah*, meaning "the existing one." The name is also sometimes spelled Yahweh as in the *Legacy Standard Bible*, the personal name for God. The same person who brought them out of Egypt.

Vss. 20:3-17 The Ten Commandments are formed as a precept or direct command given in the second person (addresses the reader directly, speaking to them).

1st Commandment Vs. 3 God's people are to worship and serve Him alone, and they are to take care not to allow anything else become a false god in their lives.

2nd Commandment Vss. 4-6 It is in our sinful human nature to desire a god that can be seen and managed, but God calls His people to walk by faith rather than by sight (see 2 Corinthians 5:7).

We risk making anything an idol when we give it authority in our lives, or allowing something to determine our daily schedule, or making something a top financial priority. A man who worships something besides the one true God will pass on that idolatry to his children, and God's judgment will also last for several generations. Anyone who allows an idol to take precedence in his life hates God (Matthew 6:24).

This underscores that God's mercy is far greater and far more frequent than His wrath.

3rd Commandment Vs. 7 We are permitted to know His name, but we are equally forbidden to abuse that name. In the NT (Matt 5:37; James 5:12)

4th Commandment Vss. 8-11 Each seventh day belonged to the Lord and would not be a workday, but one set apart (i.e., holy) for rest and for time devoted to the worship of Yahweh.

Jesus would later warn against legalistic observation of the Law, including this Sabbath law (Mark 2:27). Christians transitioned from sabbath observance on Saturday to observance of the Lord's day on Sunday. The principle remains. It is the same existing principle as in the fourth commandment that was always there. Set aside time for worship of God which is now on the first day of the week.

5th Commandment Vs. 12 The key to societal stability is reverence and respect for parents and their authority. In the New Testament, Paul echoed this teaching of the Law, quoting from the book of Deuteronomy in Ephesians 6:1–3.

6th Commandment Vs. 13 Jesus would remind people of this law and teach them undue anger is no better Matthew 5:21–22. By this command, people would be reminded and exhorted to strive after carefulness in the affairs of life so that, on the person-to-person level, no one would die by their hand.

7th Commandment Vs. 14 This command, which was applicable to both men and women, protected the sacredness of the marriage relationship. Jesus took this commandment seriously and taught that lust in the heart was equal to adultery in the body (in terms of its culpability before God) Matthew 5:27–28.

8th Commandment Vs. 15 Stealing seriously questions God’s unquestionable ability to properly provide for His people. Paul wrote, Ephesians 4:28

9th Commandment Vs. 16 Justice is never served by untruthful testimony. Jesus taught the penchant to lie against one’s neighbor comes straight from man’s heart and defiles him (Matthew 15:18–19).

10th Commandment Vs. 17 The thoughts and desires of the heart do not escape God’s attention. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. (James 4:1–3).

Conclusion: The Ten Commandments still present principles of godliness that the Lord expects of His people today (Matt 5:17ff).

Personal Response

1. Which of the Ten Commandments convicts you of sin? How might the Lord be leading you to change this week?
2. Are you living by the two greatest commandments (Matthew 22:36-40)? How can you deepen your love of God? How can you deepen your love for others?

Next Week: Ex 20:18-26