

Are All Ten Commandments Also in the New Testament?

There are all kinds of arguments which people use to try to excuse themselves from obeying God's Ten Commandments. One such *false* argument goes like this: "The Ten Commandments are not found in the New Testament, and therefore Christians are not required to obey them."

First of all, such an argument *wrongly* attempts to dismiss *all guidance* given **by** the Old Testament. Furthermore ---as will be demonstrated in this article---all ten of the Ten Commandments can, indeed, *be found in the New Testament!*

(The listing of the Ten Commandments in the *Old Testament* can be found in Exodus chapter 20 and in Deuteronomy chapter 5. As for the *numbering* of the Ten Commandments, this article will employ the numbering system found in *most* [non-Catholic] Bible versions.)

Let's now consider the various locations within the *New Testament*, where each of the Ten Commandments can be found. (And, incidentally, the following is *not* an exhaustive record of *all* the locations in the New Testament where the individual Commandments can be found.)

Notice Matthew chapter 19. A young man asked Christ what "shall I do that I may have eternal life?" Christ replied, "if you want to *enter* into life, *keep the commandments*" (verses 16-17). Christ then proceeded (in verses 18-19) to show that He was referring to the *Ten Commandments*, by stating *five* of them: "**You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother.**" So, we see here that Christ Himself, not only *refers* to five of the Ten Commandments, but also declares the vital necessity of **keeping** those Commandments!

The five Commandments stated above are all concerned with our relationship to our fellowman. Yet, there is *one more* of the Ten Commandments which deals with showing love to fellowman: "You shall not **covet**"--- which is the *tenth* Commandment. Once again, Christ Himself fully *endorses that* Commandment: "And He said to them, 'Take heed and **beware of covetousness...**'" (Luke 12:15).

The New Testament scriptures above are all spoken by Christ. Yet, some *erroneously* believe that the Ten Commandments were "nailed to the cross" when Christ was crucified. However, we will now see that *years after* the crucifixion, these same Commandments were also preached by **Paul** ---who wasn't even converted until *after* Christ's crucifixion!

Notice Paul's statement in Romans 13: "For the commandments, 'You shall not commit *adultery*,' 'You shall not *murder*,' 'You shall not *steal*,' 'You shall not *bear false witness*,' 'You shall not *covet*,' and if there is any other commandment, are all **summed up** in this saying, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (verse 9). Paul is **not** saying that "love" *replaces* the Ten Commandments. Rather, he is saying that **IF you are showing** true, godly love, then you will *not be engaging in* adultery, murdering, stealing, bearing false witness, or coveting!

So, we've now seen that the *last 6* of the Ten Commandments are stated in the *New Testament*. For *additional* places in the New Testament where these Commandments can be found, notice the following: **#5** in Eph. 6:1-2; **#6** in Matt. 5:21-22; Rev. 21:8; **#7** in I Cor. 6:9-10; **#8** in Eph. 4:28; I Cor. 6:9-10; **#9** in Eph. 4:25; Rev. 21:8; **#10** in Heb. 13:5; I Tim. 6:6-10.

The First Four Commandments

If it is a sin to violate any of the *last six* of the Ten Commandments (which show the basics of how to love *fellowman*), then it is *certainly* a sin to violate any of the *first four* (which show the basics of how to love *God*)! Christ stated that the Commandment to love God is even “*greater*” than the Commandment to love fellowman (Matt. 22: 35-40).

The *first* Commandment stated: “**You shall have no other gods before Me**” (Ex. 20:3). Now, notice Christ’s words in Luke 4: “And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, “**You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve**”” (verse 8).

The *second* Commandment is as follows: “**You shall not make for yourself any 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; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them ...**” (Ex. 20: 4-5). Now, notice this *New Testament* passage: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and **changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.** Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, **and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator...**” (Rom. 1: 18-25).

Other scriptures in the *New Testament* related to these first two Commandments: “And do not become **idolaters** as were some of them...” (I Cor. 10:7). “...Neither fornicators, nor **idolaters**, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” (I Cor. 6: 9-10). “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, **idolaters**, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).

Now let’s look at the *third* Commandment: “You shall not take the **name** of the LORD your God in vain...” (Ex. 20:7). This Commandment is often referred to as the sin of “blasphemy.” Notice these *New Testament* scriptures: “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, **blasphemy**, filthy language out of your mouth” (Col. 3:8). “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, **blasphemies**” (Matt. 15:19).

In conclusion, we have seen that *nine* of the Ten Commandments can, indeed, be found in the *New Testament*. What about the *fourth* Commandment--to keep the Sabbath Day holy? For the answer to that, see “Is the SABBATH-Command in the *New Testament*?”